

# Syllabus for *Light* 2012/13

*Scripture Union has created this Bible-based syllabus with the help of Bible scholars, education experts, and children's and youth leaders.*

## Syllabus and cycle

The *Light* syllabus is on a rolling cycle. If group members keep on learning with *Light* for four years, they will gain a good grasp of all the key events and teachings of the Bible. This is a syllabus outline for the part of the cycle that *Light* will be following from October 2012.

You can learn more about the whole syllabus at [www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light).

## Aim of the syllabus

*Light* is very clearly Bible-focused. It enables children, young people and adults to develop a personal relationship with Christ as well as helping them to understand the Bible and the Christian faith, and to live for God as light in a dark world.

It also addresses contemporary issues from a strong biblical perspective so young people can see the Bible's relevance in today's world. It also enables churches of all denominations and traditions to integrate the programme with teaching of their own emphases, practices, history and mission.

## Selection of Bible passages

The Bible passages offer a balanced view of who God is, what he is like, what he has done, is doing and will do. Everyone will be able to follow the story of salvation that runs through the Bible with its focus clearly on Jesus.

At the beginning of each cycle *Light* begins with Genesis and starts going through the Old Testament. The New Testament, running concurrently, follows the church year, with Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost sessions coming at the appropriate times. Between Pentecost and October there are stories about the young church, and various gospel series are interspersed throughout the year. Each quarter has a balance of Old and New Testament passages.

## Series

Each series lasts between four and five weeks, and will usually start on the first Sunday of the month. Each series explores a big theme about God, so leaders are able to drop some sessions from a series if they need to, and group members will still grasp the Bible's message. Scripture Union also recognises that attendance at groups or services may be sporadic, so this approach also helps with this kind of situation.

## Syllabus for different age groups

*Splash!* and *Xstream* follow the core *Light* syllabus. Children aged 5 and under usually follow the same syllabus, but diverge from it occasionally to use a Bible passage more appropriate to the age group or when they need to spend more time on a particular subject, such as Christmas.

The syllabus for *theGRID* (11 to 14s) relates to the core *Light* syllabus, but has a strong link with young people's issues.

To help you plan ahead, this detailed syllabus shows the similarities and variations between the age groups.

For small groups of children with a wide age range, the online resource *Mosaic* on *LightLive* supplies a session for each week, preselecting material suitable for 3-14s. *Mosaic* is also available in printed form, with sessions to be used on any date.

## All-age and Lectionary resources

*Light* provides resources for all-age worship, with an all-age service linked to each series in the *Light* syllabus and short 'service starters' for every week. There are all-age services for festivals and special days too such as Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Good Friday. Even though these events are not celebrated at the same time around the world, churches can use the services whenever appropriate.

*Light for the Lectionary* also provides all-age worship material for churches using the *Revised Common* (or *Common Worship*) Lectionary. This is available in separate volumes for Years A, B and C. *LectionaryLive* also provides corresponding children's sessions online, wherever they match with the *Light* syllabus.

## Bible versions

*Bubbles*, *Splash!*, *Xstream* and *theGRID* work with any Bible version. However, the writers have in mind the Contemporary English Version (CEV) and Good News Bible (GNB) as they write for *Bubbles*, *Splash!* and *Xstream*, the New Century Version (Youth Bible) for *theGRID*, and Today's New International Version (TNIV) for the *All-Age Service Annual*. *Bubbles* recommends using *The Big Bible Storybook* (published by SU) which has been created especially for use with *Bubbles*.

## Bubbles (5s and under)

October–December 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 7	<b>What does Jesus do?</b> A series from Matthew's Gospel, exploring Jesus' power to heal, to help and to provide	<b>Matthew 8:1-4</b> Jesus heals a man
2 October 14		<b>Matthew 8:5-13</b> Jesus helps a soldier
3 October 21		<b>Matthew 8:23-27</b> Jesus stops a storm
4 October 28		<b>Matthew 15:32-39</b> Jesus feeds people
5 November 4	<b>God is good</b> God has made a good world for us to live in and he helps us to know how he wants us to live	<b>Genesis 2:5-25</b> The first people
6 November 11		<b>Genesis 6:9-22</b> Noah and the boat
7 November 18		<b>Genesis 7:1 - 8:12</b> Noah and the flood
8 November 25		<b>Genesis 8:13 - 9:17</b> Noah and the rainbow
9 December 2 (Advent 1)	<b>Christmas people</b> Meet the people who were there at the very first Christmas and discover how God came to them as a baby, Jesus	<b>Luke 1:26-56</b> Mary
10 December 9		<b>Luke 2:1-7</b> Joseph
11 December 16		<b>Luke 2:8-21</b> The shepherds
12 December 23		<b>Luke 2:22-38</b> Simeon and Anna
13 December 30		<b>Matthew 2:1-12</b> The wise men

January–March 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 6	<b>Talking with God</b> Follow Jesus' example as we talk and listen to God	<b>Luke 11:1-4;</b> <b>Matthew 6:5-15</b> Jesus talks with God
2 January 13		<b>Luke 11:5-13</b> We can talk with God
3 January 20		<b>Luke 18:1-8</b> Keep on praying
4 January 27		<b>Luke 18:9-14</b> Ways to pray
5 February 3	<b>God's promise</b> Join Abram and his family as they trust God to keep his promise to them	<b>Genesis 12:1-9</b> Abram obeys God
6 February 10		<b>Genesis 13</b> Abram and Lot
7 February 17		<b>Genesis 15:1-5</b> God's promise to Abram
8 February 24		<b>Genesis 17</b> Abram's new name
9 March 3	<b>Jesus the healer</b> Discover that Jesus can do things that no one else can do	<b>Mark 7:31-37</b> Jesus heals a man
10 March 10		<b>Luke 13:10-17</b> Jesus heals a woman
11 March 17		<b>Luke 17:11-19</b> Jesus heals ten men
12 March 24 (Palm Sunday)	<b>Easter</b> Join together to welcome Jesus!	<b>Mark 11:1-11</b> Jesus rides a donkey
13 March 31 (Easter Sunday)		<b>Mark 16:1-8</b> Easter Sunday

April–June 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 7	<b>Isaac and his family</b> We see how faithful God is through the experiences of Isaac and how God lives with his people	<b>Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-8</b> Isaac is born
2 April 14		<b>Genesis 24</b> Isaac and Rebekah
3 April 21		<b>Genesis 25:19-34</b> Jacob and Esau
4 April 28		<b>Genesis 28:10-22</b> God speaks to Jacob
5 May 5		<b>Genesis 29:1-35</b> Jacob's family
6 May 12		<b>Genesis 32,33</b> Jacob goes home
7 May 19	<b>The Holy Spirit</b> The disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit and equipped for God's service	<b>Acts 2:1-13,43-47</b> Peter speaks out
8 May 26		<b>Acts 3:1-10</b> Walking, leaping and praising
9 June 2		<b>Acts 4:1-4,23-31</b> Talking about Jesus
10 June 9	<b>Jesus starts work</b> We discover how God prepares his people as we look at the life of John the Baptist and his interaction with Jesus	<b>Luke 2:41-51</b> Jesus the boy
11 June 16		<b>Matthew 3:1-17</b> John baptises Jesus
12 June 23		<b>Matthew 4:1-11</b> Jesus in the desert
13 June 30		<b>Matthew 11:1-6</b> Who is Jesus?

July–September 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 7	<b>Joseph</b> Come with Joseph through many adventures, dangers, good and bad times, and see how God always knew what to do to keep him safe	<b>Genesis 37:1-11</b> Joseph and his brothers
2 July 14		<b>Genesis 37:12-36</b> Joseph goes to Egypt
3 July 21		<b>Genesis 41</b> Joseph's clever plan
4 July 28		<b>Genesis 42:1-13</b> Joseph helps his family
5 August 4	<b>Stories of Jesus</b> Jesus takes time to teach and train his followers and friends, through stories and by his example	<b>Matthew 13:1-23</b> The story of the seeds
6 August 11		<b>Matthew 13:24-30,36-43</b> The story of the weeds
7 August 18		<b>Matthew 13:31-33</b> A tiny seed
8 August 25		<b>Matthew 19:13-15</b> Jesus and the children
9 September 1	<b>Moses in Egypt</b> Moses and God's people discover that God loves them and will keep them safe, in many different situations	<b>Exodus 2:1-10</b> Baby in a basket
10 September 8		<b>Exodus 3:1 - 4:20</b> God talks to Moses
11 September 15		<b>Exodus 11:1 - 12:30</b> A meal to remember
12 September 22		<b>Exodus 14:1-31</b> Crossing the Red Sea
13 September 29	<b>Wonderful God!</b> Spend time together thanking God for his wonderful love	<b>Psalms 136:1-9</b> God's love goes on and on and on

## Splash! (5-8s), Xstream (8-11s)

October-December 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 7	<b>Jesus in command</b> By performing great miracles, Jesus shows God's power	<b>Matthew 8:1-4</b> Power to heal
2 October 14		<b>Matthew 8:5-13</b> Officer's orders
3 October 21		<b>Matthew 8:23-27</b> Storm stopper
4 October 28		<b>Matthew 15:32-39</b> 4,000 for lunch
5 November 4	<b>God sets the standard</b> God responds with justice and grace when people sin	<b>Genesis 2,3</b> Bad fruit
6 November 11		<b>Genesis 4:1-16</b> Our choice
7 November 18		<b>Genesis 6:1 - 8:19</b> Flood warning
8 November 25		<b>Genesis 8:20 - 9:17</b> Rainbow promise
9 December 2 (Advent 1)	<b>God comes to his people</b> We explore the different people God came to in the first Christmas	<b>Luke 1:26-56</b> God comes to Mary
10 December 9		<b>Luke 2:1-7</b> God comes to Bethlehem
11 December 16		<b>Luke 2:8-21</b> God comes to the shepherds
12 December 23		<b>Luke 2:22-38</b> God comes to Simeon and Anna
13 December 30		<b>Matthew 2:1-23</b> God comes to the wise men

January-March 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 6	<b>How should we pray?</b> God speaks and listens to us	<b>Matthew 6:5-15</b> Pray like Jesus
2 January 13		<b>Luke 11:5-13</b> Ask, search and knock
3 January 20		<b>Luke 18:1-8</b> Never give up
4 January 27		<b>Luke 18:9-14</b> Smug or sorry?
5 February 3	<b>God's call and promise</b> Through the life of Abraham, we discover God calls his people and keeps his promise to them	<b>Genesis 12:1-9</b> Abram's call
6 February 10		<b>Genesis 13</b> Lot's choice
7 February 17		<b>Genesis 16</b> Hagar's promise
8 February 24		<b>Genesis 17</b> Abram's name change
9 March 3	<b>Jesus heals</b> We explore people's responses to Jesus healing people	<b>Mark 7:31-37</b> Eyes and ears
10 March 10		<b>Luke 13:10-17</b> Back healer
11 March 17		<b>Luke 17:11-19</b> Ten healed
12 March 24 (Palm Sunday)	<b>Easter</b> Join together to welcome Jesus!	<b>Mark 11:1-11</b> Into Jerusalem
13 March 31 (Easter Sunday)		<b>Mark 16:1-8</b> It is finished!

April-June 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 7	<b>Isaac and our faithful God</b> We see how faithful God is through the experiences of Isaac	<b>Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-8</b> Isaac is born
2 April 14		<b>Genesis 22</b> Abraham passes the test
3 April 21		<b>Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-45</b> Isaac's children
4 April 28	<b>God is with Jacob</b> A series about our God who lives with his people	<b>Genesis 28:10-22</b> God's promises to Jacob
5 May 5		<b>Genesis 29-31</b> Jacob gets married
6 May 12		<b>Genesis 32,33</b> Jacob goes home
7 May 19	<b>Power in the Spirit</b> The disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit and equipped for God's service	<b>Acts 2:1-13,43-47</b> Promise delivered
8 May 26		<b>Acts 3</b> Beautiful miracle
9 June 2		<b>Acts 4</b> God-talk
10 June 9	<b>Jesus and John</b> We discover how God prepares his people as we look at the life of John the Baptist and his interaction with Jesus	<b>Luke 2:41-52</b> Jesus in the Temple
11 June 16		<b>Matthew 3:1-17</b> John in the desert
12 June 23		<b>Matthew 4:1-11</b> Jesus in the desert
13 June 30		<b>Matthew 11:1-19</b> John in prison

July-September 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 7	<b>God's plan for Joseph</b> Come with Joseph through many adventures, dangers, good and bad times, and see how his life was part of God's plan	<b>Genesis 37</b> Joseph dreams
2 July 14		<b>Genesis 39</b> Do what's right
3 July 21		<b>Genesis 41</b> Pharaoh's dreams
4 July 28		<b>Genesis 42-44</b> Brothers buy grain
5 August 4	<b>Story seeds</b> We look at a series of parables Jesus told and discover how God teaches and trains his people	<b>Matthew 13:1-23</b> The story of the farmer
6 August 11		<b>Matthew 13:24-30,36-43</b> The wheat and weeds story
7 August 18		<b>Matthew 13:31-33</b> The mustard seed and yeast stories
8 August 25		<b>Matthew 19:13-15</b> Jesus blesses the children
9 September 1	<b>Birth of a nation</b> God rescues his people from slavery in Egypt	<b>Exodus 2:1-15</b> Rescue and run
10 September 8		<b>Exodus 3:1 - 4:20</b> Holy ground
11 September 15		<b>Exodus 11:1 - 12:30</b> Sacrificial lamb
12 September 22		<b>Exodus 14:1-31</b> The great escape
13 September 29	<b>Thanksgiving</b> Giving thanks to our creator God!	<b>Psalms 136:1-9</b> Everlasting love

## theGRID (11-14s)

October-December 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 7	<b>Power in action</b> Through Jesus' use of his power, we find out more about who he is	<b>Matthew 8:1-4</b> Unclean!
2 October 14		<b>Matthew 8:5-13</b> Sick!
3 October 21		<b>Matthew 8:23-27</b> In danger!
4 October 28		<b>Matthew 15:29-39</b> Hungry!
5 November 4	<b>Not rough justice</b> God is just and demands a response from us	<b>Genesis 3</b> Apple disaster
6 November 11		<b>Genesis 4:1-16; 6:1-8</b> Fugitive from justice?
7 November 18	<b>God's grace?</b> The story of Noah and of God's grace in saving him	<b>Genesis 6:9 - 8:19</b> Saving grace
8 November 25		<b>Genesis 8:20 - 9:17</b> Gracious promise
9 December 2 (Advent 1)	<b>Belonging</b> Paul's advice on how to be the people that God wants us to be	<b>Philippians 1</b> Only the lonely
10 December 9		<b>Philippians 2</b> Humility
11 December 16		<b>Philippians 3,4</b> Friends and peer pressure
12 December 23	<b>God comes to his people</b> The birth of Jesus Christ	<b>Luke 2:1-21</b> God in the flesh
13 December 30		<b>Matthew 2</b> Stars in their eyes

January-March 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 6	<b>Carry on praying</b> Listening and talking to God, in the way the Bible tells us to	<b>Luke 11:1-4</b> Teach me to pray
2 January 13		<b>Luke 11:5-13</b> Knock on the door
3 January 20		<b>Luke 18:1-8</b> Never give up
4 January 27		<b>Luke 18:9-14</b> Right with God
5 February 3	<b>God's call and promise</b> God calls Abram and promises to make him the father of many nations	<b>Genesis 12:1-9</b> The promise
6 February 10		<b>Genesis 13</b> Deal or no deal?
7 February 17		<b>Genesis 16</b> The substitute
8 February 24		<b>Genesis 17</b> New names
9 March 3	<b>The healer</b> Jesus heals chronically ill people, who are isolated by their sickness, and thus demonstrates his power and compassion	<b>Mark 7:31-37</b> Spitting image
10 March 10		<b>Luke 13:10-17</b> Back trouble
11 March 17		<b>Luke 17:11-19</b> One out of ten
12 March 24 (Palm Sunday)	<b>God's rescue plan</b> This Easter explore and be amazed at God's rescue plan for humankind	<b>Matthew 21:1-17</b> What an entrance!
13 March 31 (Easter Sunday)		<b>Matthew 28:1-10</b> What a comeback!

April-June 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 7	<b>Faithful</b> To discover that through the ups and downs of Abraham's family life God remains faithful to his promises	<b>Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-8</b> At long last
2 April 14		<b>Genesis 22</b> Are you sure, God?
3 April 21		<b>Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-45</b> Family rivalries
4 April 28	<b>Jacob</b> Jacob's life was far from straightforward, but God was always with him, working in him and through him and continuing to keep his promises	<b>Genesis 28:10-22</b> Jacob's ladder
5 May 5		<b>Genesis 29-31</b> Chat-show Jacob
6 May 12		<b>Genesis 32,33</b> Brothers reunited
7 May 19	<b>Transformer</b> As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit comes and transforms the lives and attitudes of Jesus' followers	<b>Acts 2</b> Before the crowd
8 May 26		<b>Acts 3</b> Before the people
9 June 2		<b>Acts 4</b> Before the council
10 June 9	<b>Ready for action?</b> Through exploring Jesus' childhood and his interactions with John the Baptist discover how God equips people to serve him. We are not alone - God prepares and equips	<b>Luke 2:41-52</b> Routine surprises
11 June 16		<b>Matthew 3:1-17</b> Earmarked
12 June 23		<b>Matthew 4:1-11</b> Be prepared
13 June 30		<b>Matthew 11:1-19</b> Have you heard?

July-September 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 7	<b>The highs and lows of life</b> Joseph's life had many highs and lows. But throughout this rollercoaster life God had a plan	<b>Genesis 37</b> When the going gets tough
2 July 14		<b>Genesis 39</b> A turn for the worst
3 July 21		<b>Genesis 41</b> All in a day's work
4 July 28		<b>Genesis 42-44</b> 'Knock, knock' 'Who's there?'
5 August 4	<b>Jesus speaks</b> A look at how Jesus teaches and trains through what he says and how he behaves	<b>Matthew 13:1-23</b> There was a farmer...
6 August 11		<b>Matthew 13:24-30,36-43</b> There were some weeds...
7 August 18		<b>Matthew 13:31-33</b> There was a seed...
8 August 25		<b>Matthew 19:13-15</b> There were some children...
9 September 1	<b>Global issues, global warning</b> A look at contemporary global issues through the events of the Exodus	<b>Exodus 2</b> Injustice
10 September 8		<b>Exodus 3:1 - 4:20</b> What difference can I make?
11 September 15		<b>Exodus 11:1 - 12:30</b> Why doesn't God do something?
12 September 22		<b>Exodus 14:1-31</b> Freedom
13 September 29		<b>Psalm 136</b> Everlasting love