

Christmas Resources for use with Youth

Available to borrow from the United Media Resource Center umrc@igrc.org 217-529-2744

Key to age categories:

P = preschool e = lower elementary (K-Grade 3) E = upper elementary (Grade 4-6)

M = jr high/middle school H = high school Y = young adult A = adult (age 30-55) S = adult (age 55+)

DVDs:

APOSTLES' CREED: KNOWING WHAT WE BELIEVE (101025) Author: Tufts, Tom. Many people can recite the Apostles' Creed without giving thought to the beliefs they are expressing or to the meaning these beliefs have for their own lives. This 17-session study explores each phrase of the Creed, bringing new meaning to its truth and simplicity. Designed for a 45-55 min. class period, DVD segments are approximately 5 minutes each. Includes leader's guide. Age: MH.

CHRISTMAS CAROL BIBLE STUDY (103035) With practical applications for daily living, this four-session DVD study features an old black-and-white film version of Dickens' classic story with relevant scriptures for you to use on the teachings of Jesus. Session titles: 1) Scrooge (selfishness); 2) Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Past (Regret); 3) Ghost of Christmas Present (Repentance); 4) Ghost of Christmas Future (Salvation). DVD segments approx. 15 minutes each. Includes leader's guide. Age: MHYAS.

FIRST CHRISTMAS AND OTHER STORIES (106024) "The First Christmas" (21 min.) -- Christopher Plummer narrates the traditional story of the birth of Jesus, beginning with Mary and Joseph's trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It includes the announcement to the shepherds and the Magi who trek across the desert guided by the mysterious star. "The Chimes" (23 min.) -- Toby, a poor but kind man, is told by the well-to-do that the poor shouldn't have been born. In a dream, the spirits of the church bells remind him to hang on to hope. He awakens to a new year with renewed joy and thankfulness. "A Christmas Gift" (9 min.) -- Based on a ballad entitled 'Christmas Dinner,' this is a story of a boy, celebrating the food and festivities of Christmas Eve, who decides to share his bit of bread and cheese with a lonely woman; she can share only a drop of wine from her bare table--symbols of the Eucharist. Age: All

GOOD GOD THEATER, ACT 1: OLD TESTAMENT (107038) Author: Ted & Company TheaterWorks. Sixteen humorous skits help you see Bible events in a new way: Creation (9 min.); Cain and Abel (4 min.); The Flood (10 min.); Babel (9 min.); Jacob and Esau (7 min.); Joseph (7 min.); The Midwife (4 min.); Manna (7 min.); Golden Calf (8 min.); Leviticus (4 min.); David and Bathsheba (6 min.); Song of Solomon (9 min.); Prophet Radio (5 min.); Jeremiah (4 min.); Jonah (9 min.); Advent (8 min.). Includes guide. Age: MHYA.

GOOD GOD THEATER, ACT 2: NEW TESTAMENT (107042) Author: Ted & Company TheaterWorks. Sixteen humorous skits help you see Bible events in a new way: **Gabriel's Announcement** (15 min.); Temptation (7 min.); The Call (6 min.); Feeding 5,000 (11 min.); Sermon on the Mount (9 min.); Don't Tell Anyone (5 min.); Last Supper (9 min.); Arrest and Denial (7 min.); Breakfast on the Beach (13 min.); Pentecost (6 min.); Larry the Lame Guy (4 min.); Peter's Vision (6 min.); Philip and the Ethiopian (5 min.); Jerusalem Council (7 min.); Paul in Prison (10 min.); Don't Be Afraid (8 min.). Includes guide. Age: MHYA.

INNKEEPER'S DREAM (109008) Author: Shelton, David. This one-man performance is based on Chapter Two of Luke's Gospel. The innkeeper tells the story of Christ's birth to his friend, thinking that it was just a dream. With humor and poignancy throughout, this Christmas performance tugs at the heartstrings of everyone as they watch the innkeeper realize it wasn't a dream after all. Age: MHYAS. 28 Minutes.

MATTHEW: THE VISUAL BIBLE (113011) Actor Richard Kiley is Matthew, telling this New International translation of the first gospel. This 2-DVD set allows you to search by event or chapter. Includes English and Spanish language tracks. CLOSED CAPTIONED (English only). Age: MHYA. 240 Minutes.

MR. KRUEGER'S CHRISTMAS (113028) The story of a lonely man whose Christmas fantasies come true. As he decorates his Christmas tree, Mr. Krueger (played by Jimmy Stewart) dreams about directing the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He invites some real carolers inside for warmth and refreshment. After they leave, his fantasies continue and he finds himself among the now living biblical figures of his creche. In a moving monologue, he thanks Christ for being with him as

a friend and comforter. The carolers return and invite him to join him in singing and sharing Christmas dinner (26 min.). Includes guide. Additional DVD segments include: The Restoration (about Joseph Smith); The Nativity (5 min.); and Carols of Christmas (25 min.). Age: eEMHYAS. 26 Minutes.

MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS: A SANDSTORY PRESENTATION (113053) Author: Castillo, Joe. In this dynamic visual experience with a music soundtrack, Joe Castillo tells the Christmas story in a series of scenes created by manipulating black sand on a colored lightboard. Age: HYAS. 19 Minutes.

PATH OF JESUS (116037) Seven short dramas of the life and teachings of Jesus: Introduction (1 min.); **The Christmas Story** (9 min.); The Temptation (5 min.); Jesus and the Pharisees (10 min.); The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (8 min.); The Decision (6 min.); The Absent King (10 min.); The New Covenant (13 min.). The DVD also includes a director's commentary for each story containing behind-the-scenes information that leaders may want to show before or after each segment. Includes guide. Age: EMHYA.

STORY OF ADVENT: Speed Sketch Bible Stories (119135) This DVD contains four Bible stories told in 'speed sketch' style which are appropriate for use with all ages. Each story is told in two versions: 1) an easy-to-understand narrated paraphrase; 2) narrated directly from the NIV 1984 translation of the Bible. Likewise, each story in both forms is available with either English or Spanish audio. Stories (paraphrase time/NIV scripture time): 1) Isaiah's vision (5 min./5 min.); 2) The magi (5 min./2 min.); 3) The annunciation (5 min./5 min.); 4) Jesus' birth (5 min./3 min.). Lesson plans and coloring pages are available online at <https://www.wesleyan.org/2668/speed-sketch-bible-stories> All ages.

TRUE CHRISTMAS STORY, THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW (120001) Author: Vander Laan, Ray. **This DVD contrasts Herod the Great and the ruins of the Herodian and other building programs Herod built in Israel with Jesus, the King of the Universe, the Messiah born a few miles from the Herodian (Herod's palace) in Bethlehem in humble circumstances** (17 min). Also includes the segment 'Living Water,' the story of En Gedi and the significance of living water to King David and to us (23 min). Other bonus materials (under 5 min. each) include: Hebrew Thinking; Illustration Gallery; Video Trailers: True Christmas Story, True Easter Story, That the World May Know. CLOSED CAPTIONED. Age: MHYA.

VISUAL BIBLE FOR KIDS: CHRISTMAS/EASTER (122001) Includes two stories: 'The Birth of Jesus' (25 min.) and 'The Story Behind the Cross' (27 min.). Scenes from the Visual Bible are inserted into contemporary stories of skeptical youth learning about Jesus. Age: eEMHYAS

Kit:

CELEBRATE: CHURCH PLANNING KIT (103108) This four-week program focuses on acts of mercy. The kit includes a church planning guide, promotional poster, sample daily devotional guide, and an enhanced DVD that includes brief worship videos, service outlines, four-week Bible studies in print format for adults, youth, and children (ages 4 - 12), and more.

Books:

50 PRAYER SERVICES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS FOR EVERY SEASON OF THE CHURCH YEAR AND MORE (814048) Author: Clark, Connie. Designed for use with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, this book contains a variety of prayer activities for Catholics, but most of them can be used by Protestants with little or no adaptation. Includes seasonal prayers (starting the school year, fall feasts and remembrances, Advent and December, Christmas time and winter, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost), and anytime prayers.

DESTINATION CHRISTMAS! ADVENT PROGRAMS & PRACTICES FOR YOUTH (826800) Author: Echols-Richter, Laura and Billy. Follow the Star! Programs include: A look at Isaiah, John the Baptist, Joseph (and Mary), Jesus at birth, the Magi, Herod, Ourselves. Practices include: the Advent wreath, shopping--a new look at values, a quiz, Christmas caroling, nativity scavenger hunt, decision to care, a covenant service. Includes reproducible materials.

H.E.L.P. HASSLE-FREE EVENTS AND LESSON PLANS FOR YOUTH GROUPS (811013) Author: Newell, Arlo, editor. Session titles: 1) Home alone (dealing with the pain of loneliness); 2) Are we having fun yet? (believe it or not, Christianity and fun do mix); 3) Forever friends (help teens develop the skills of solid friendship); 4) If life's a roller coaster, I want off! (handling the mountains and valleys of the Christian life); 5) Parent to teen to parent (comparing the different worlds of parents and teens); 6) The Moses dilemma (the struggle to believe in ourselves); 7) Words, words, words! (the mouth, for better or worse); 8) My will, Your will (What is the will of God for me?); 9) Mercy, mercy, me, oh, my! (giving and receiving forgiveness); 10) This means war (dealing with the dilemma of war as a Christian); 11) Where are the nine? (taking time to be thankful); 12) No trivial pursuit (the relationship and involvement of teens in the church); 13) Til death do us part (planning for successful marriage); 14) Racism (red and yellow, black and white); 15) Temptation busters (what to do with temptation when it gets in your way); 16) Thorny, hard, rocky, good (exploring the Parable of the Sower); 17) Family feud (discuss help from the Bible for a great family life); 18) Yes sir! No sir! (a tune-up for attitudes to authority); 19) **Christmas (the story of stories)**; 20) Easter (from failure to hope); 21) Spiritual anatomy (help teens find significant identity in the church); 22) Materialism (getting loose from the grip of materialism); 23) Making life count (how much difference can one teen make?); 24) Rock 'n roll is here to stay (a look at rock 'n roll from a Christian perspective).

HOLIDAY IDEAS FOR YOUTH GROUPS (814220) Compiled from ideas submitted by youth leaders, this book contains over 200 festive activities, games, songs, and skits for use during the New Year, St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter/Lent, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas/Advent seasons. Also includes a few ideas for Super Bowl, April Fool's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Graduation.

MARKING MILESTONES AND MAKING MEMORIES FOR YOUTH (804387) Author: Schultz, Jason. A variety of ideas and activities to enhance your youth program. Chapter titles: Games, retreats, and events; Family, gender-specific, and intergenerational activities; Identity markers; Tearjerkers; Service and outreach; Holidays and annual occasions; Milestones; Fundraisers.

MISSION: CHRISTMAS -- YOUTH PROGRAMS AND IDEAS FOR ADVENT (805270) Author: Brooks, Bryan. The purpose of this book is to provide youth leaders, Christian education directors, and Sunday school teachers with programs and ideas they can use in a variety of settings throughout the Advent season. It includes: five programs, one for each of the four Sundays in Advent and one for the Sunday after Christmas; an easy-to-perform play for the Advent season; a variety of worship ideas; creative service project ideas; and plans for a Christmas party and a New Year's celebration.

READY-TO-GO RETREATS AND LOCK-INS (806218) Author: Miller, Beth. 16 Complete Plans for Fun and Soulful Events. This book and the accompanying CD-ROM contain plans and handouts for nine weekend retreats (includes Christmas and Lenten retreats) and seven lock-ins (12-hour versions of the non-holiday retreats) designed for youth groups. Retreat titles: Seek and Find; Learning Love; Grace and the Good Shepherd; Light Your Soul Fire; Faith Prints; Soul Mates; Friends for the Journey; Hope: The Rock; **Christmas Retreat**; Lenten Retreat. A notebook with printed copies of the CD-ROM material is also provided.

READY-TO-GO SCHOOL'S OUT (809030) Author: Outcalt, Todd. Youth Ministry Ideas for School Breaks and Summer Vacations. Here youth workers can find support and practical ideas that can help them minister to teens during times such as fall and spring breaks, summer vacation, Christmas break, New Year's Eve, and other special days such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, and more. Also includes ideas for youth leader rest and renewal times.

REEL TO REAL: VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2 (812105) Making the Most of the Movies with Youth. A Southern Storytelling Retreat -- a retreat based on "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," and "Fried Green Tomatoes." Also, studies based on the movies "**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "The Wedding Planner," "Finding Forrester," and "Miss Congeniality."

SALT AND LIGHT: YOUTH RETREAT DESIGNS (825900) Author: Miller, Martha H., editor. Help for planning retreats for the youth in your congregation. Includes sample forms useful for retreat planning and schedules for several retreats. Incorporates time for group building, prayer, arts and crafts, small group discussion, recreation, music, alone time, quiet time, scripture, and worship. Includes "**You Were There . . . At the Birth of Christ**."

SEASONS OF FAITH: TEACHING THE CHRISTIAN YEAR (805055) Author: Stoner, Marcia Joslin. A study of the Christian year can be a fun way to unite the generations. This book contains crafts and activities for all ages on special days throughout the year. Includes ideas for service projects.

SILENT NIGHT: THE STORIES BEHIND 40 BELOVED CHRISTMAS CAROLS (814055) Author: McLaughlin, David. This small book includes short articles on 40 Christmas songs, blending history, tradition, and devotional insight.

WERE THEY WISE MEN OR KINGS? THE BOOK OF CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS (839420) Author: Walsh, Joseph J. In this informative book of fifty questions, the author gives us the details behind Christmas traditions like holiday decorations, the nativity, celebrations and rituals, Santa, and more.

WORSHIP FEAST: DRAMAS (806001) Author: Miller, Beth. 15 Sketches for Youth Group, Worship, and More. Includes 8 thematic sketches, 6 Scripture sketches, and 1 full-length play ('**Chicken Soup at the Bethlehem Inn**')

WORSHIP FEAST: SERVICES (806002) Author: White, Gossett, Miller, Norman, Youngman. 50 Complete Multisensory Services for Youth. Chapter titles: Prayer services; Services for the spiritual journey; Community-building services; Services for the seasons.

Curriculum:

CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT WON'T BREAK FOR YOUTH (911021) Author: Poteet, Mike. Four sessions: 1) God's Gift of Hope; 2) God's Gift of Love; 3) God's Gift of Joy; 4) God's Gift of Peace. Includes leader helps. Also includes suggestions for an all-church event.

DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS: YOUTH STUDY EDITION (912037) Author: Alton, Kevin. Based on Mike Slaughter's book "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday," this five-session study will help youth reclaim the broader missional meaning of Jesus' birth. Sessions: 1) Expect a miracle; 2) Perfectly loved by God; 3) Outrageous love; 4) Jesus' wish list; 5) By a different road. Includes leader helps.

FINDING BETHLEHEM IN THE MIDST OF BEDLAM: YOUTH STUDY (914013) Author: Poteet, Mike. This five-session study will help youth experience the hope of Christ amid the commotion, confusion, and challenges of their day-to-day lives. Sessions: 1) Bedlam; 2) Freedom; 3) Superhero; 4) Remembrance; 5) The Word. Includes leader helps.

JOURNEY: WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM -- YOUTH EDITION (911020) Author: Gant, Jason. Five sessions: 1) Mary's story; 2) Joseph of Bethlehem; 3) Mary and Elizabeth; 4) From Nazareth to Bethlehem; 5) This will be a sign to you. Includes leader helps. Using the "Journey" book and DVD with this study is recommended, but not required.

SENT: DELIVERING THE GIFT OF HOPE AT CHRISTMAS – YOUTH STUDY BOOK (915027) Author: Alton, Kevin and Acevedo, Jorge. This five-session study will help youth learn about Jesus and how we are invited to participate in God's Kingdom. Sessions: 1) Jesus reconciles; 2) Jesus sets us free; 3) Jesus is God with us; 4) Jesus brings new life; 5) Jesus changes everything. Includes leader helps.