



Genuinely
Lutheran
Learning

Sunday School Curriculum

Brief Outline

Welcome to Genuinely Lutheran Learning's Sunday School Curriculum

The following overview and introduction to this curriculum provide essential knowledge to utilize this unique learning opportunity. Please read it carefully in order to make full use of this material.



I. Goals and Objectives

1. The Genuinely Lutheran Learning Sunday School Curriculum seeks to:

- A. Provide a basic knowledge of many important Bible stories
- B. Provide a basic knowledge of elements of Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*
- C. Lay a solid foundation for entry into catechism / confirmation instruction
- D. Offer maximum learning for children with minimal preparation by teachers
- E. Offer children and teachers opportunities to tailor lessons to each congregation's needs
- F. Offer a curriculum with rich learning experiences *free of charge*

2. The Genuinely Lutheran Learning Sunday School Curriculum hopes to:

- A. Assist, equip, and encourage each child and teacher to communicate the Word of God confidently and competently to other people as a witness to God's love revealed to us in Jesus Christ, his Son and our Lord.

II. Textbook and Catechetical Materials

1. Textbook(s)

The textbook for this Sunday School Curriculum is not the curriculum itself but the Bible. With the aid of the curriculum, children and teachers are led through the given Bible stories twice. In grades/years one through three (1 - 3), both the Old Testament and the New Testament are covered. Then, in grades/years four through six (4 - 6), the same material is learned a second time but more in-depth. Again, the Bible is the textbook.

- A. School grades/years one through three (1- 3) use *The Beginner's Bible* as their primary textbook:

The Beginner's Bible - Timeless Children's Stories, a Zonderkidz publication is produced by Zondervan of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2005. This children's Bible is readily available online or at Christian bookstores. (Note: An earlier version of *The Beginner's Bible* was published by Zonderkidz in 1989. As most of the stories in both versions are the same, with the exception of accurate page references, this earlier edition could be used for most of the GLL Sunday School Curriculum.)

- B. School grades/years four through six (4 - 6) use a regular Bible as their primary textbook:

A regular Bible, with the version to be selected by individual congregations or individual Sunday school teachers, is the text for the second, more in-depth study of the stories in the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to continue to use *The Beginner's Bible* for its easy overview of the stories and for its colorful illustrations.

The curriculum itself uses biblical material from the *Revised Standard Version* (RSV), the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV), and the *New International Version* (NIV), mainly for the memory verses. Other Bible versions may be used for the memory verses.

2. Catechetical Material

The catechetical material is paraphrased or translated from Martin Luther's *Small and Large Catechisms* as found in the ninth edition of the *Bekennnisschriften der evangelisch-lutherischen Kirche* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1982), published in English either as *The Book of Concord* or *The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, depending on the edition.

III. Curriculum Outline

1. The curriculum is, as indicated, based on six age groupings: Grades or years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, with an approximate age range of 5 to 12 years.
2. For each grade, the Sunday school material comprises 30 lessons divided into three 10 lesson terms covering the periods Autumn, Winter, and Spring.
3. The first lesson of each grade/year begins with the topic of baptism and seeks annually to communicate to each child the centrality of baptism for Lutheran faith and theology. As Luther once wrote, "Whoever has crawled out of the water of baptism can boast, that he (she) has been consecrated a priest, bishop, and pope, although not everyone is suited to exercise such an office" (WA 6: 408, 11-13).
4. The subsequent lessons are based on biblical stories and are supplemented with catechetical material, drawn chiefly from the *Lord's Prayer* (Grades 1 and 4), the *Ten Commandments* (Grades 2 and 5), and the *Apostles' Creed* (Grades 3 and 6). As indicated above, each lesson is accompanied by a memory verse taken from the Bible (RSV or NRSV or NIV) and, where possible, by a craft.
5. Repetition of lesson material for the grades 1 and 4, 2 and 5, and 3 and 6 is intentional to reinforce learning. Memory verses, however, are not repeated and will be assigned per individual grade/year with the intention of expanding each child's mastery of biblical material.
6. The format is flexible to allow deviation from the curriculum to prepare for Christmas and Easter children's services and for "Ask the Pastor" lessons as negotiated between the teachers and the pastor.