

The Lads

Secrets of the Universe

A multi media biblically based experience introducing tweens to the "Secrets of the Universe," that is truths that provide a foundation for tweens to begin to claim their own faith. This experience stars a band, the Lads, three young men from New Zealand sharing their call by God to form a Christian band. It is

What are the secrets?

Secret # 1 - I was meant to be!

Secret # 2 - God loves me, no matter what!

Secret # 3 - God has a rescue plan for me!

Secret # 4 - I can come alive in Jesus!

Secret # 5 - I can know God!

Secret # 6 - It's not a Secret . . . Go and Tell!

- This product reaches tweens on several levels and provides an opportunity to churches for outreach in a new and inventive way that is difficult to accomplish through traditional resources.
- Includes: **DVDROM** with 5 video "tv shows" which are a fictionalized rendering of the real life story of how the Lads were called by God to be a band.
CD of 13 upbeat Christian songs.
Mission Handbook (student/devotional book) which is integral to the sessions and is also for personal use (Need one per tween).
Commander's Guide helps leaders provide six coordinated sessions that are core to the experience.
Comic book for tweens personal use.
dedicated web-site,
and the opportunity to book the Lads for a **live concert** gives added potential to the experience

This fun filled lively experience engages tweens on multiple levels and encourages them to invite friends to church.

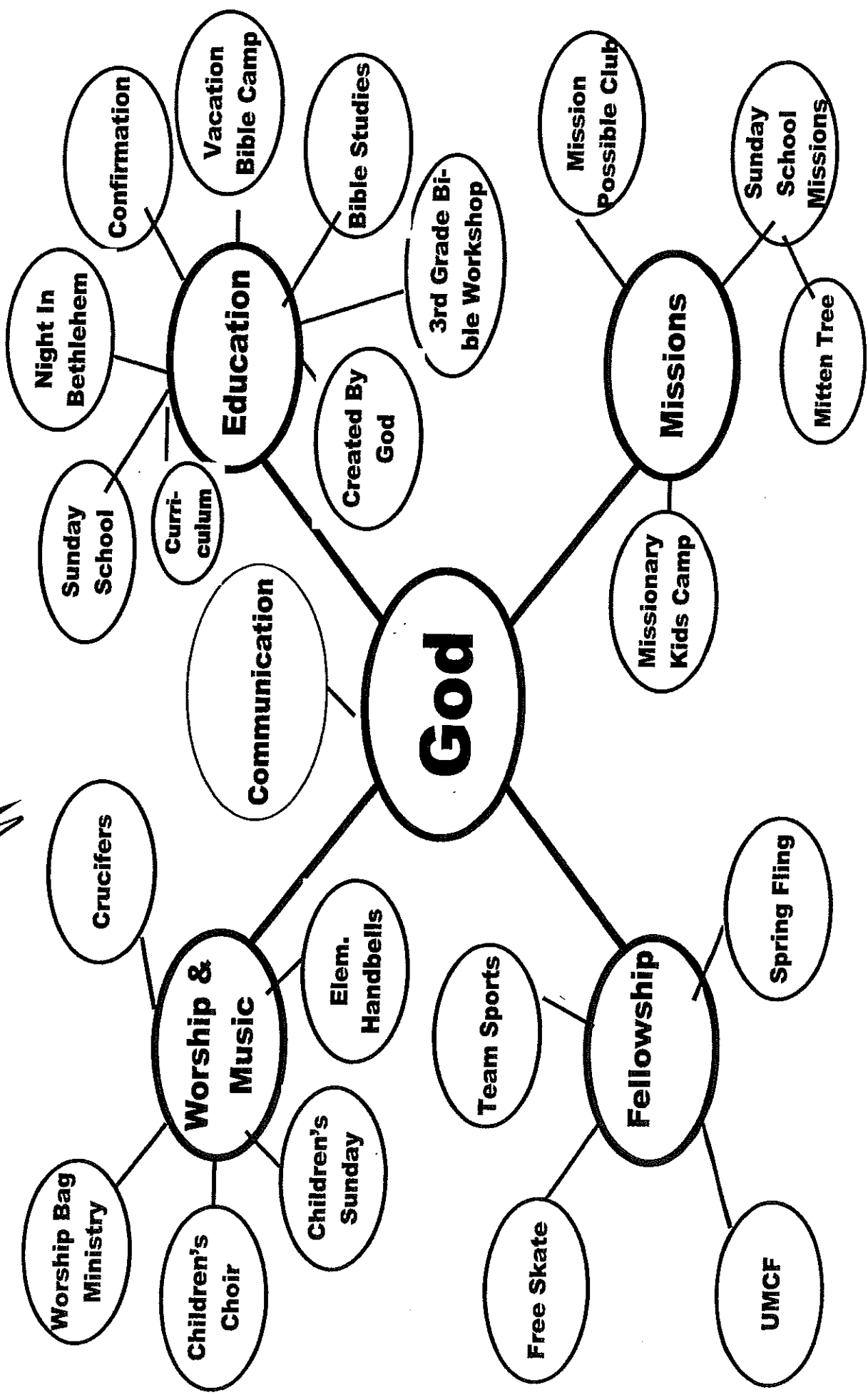
It has easy to use components that can be used in multiple settings.

It gives leaders ways to reach tweens in individual ways as well

Key Benefits: Gives churches new avenues to reach tweens.

Creates energy and excitement for tweens around faith issues

Is especially helpful for ministry with tween boys.



Leigh Meekins

From: Kenneth Libby [klibby@childrensdefense.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 11:46 AM
To: CDFHaley
Subject: July expected release for CDF's Sabbath Manual online

Dear Friends,

The Children's Defense Fund will be releasing its National Observance of Children's Sabbaths@ Manual in July as a resource guide that you can download only from our www.childrensdefense.org/childrens_sabbaths_manual webpage. From there the Manual will be free for you to download. This will do away with you having to order, pay for and then wait for the shipment to arrive. Our teams are work diligently to complete the Manual and make it available to you.

Three years of our Manuals are also available for you to order or for you to download now. Please visit our www.childrensdefense.org/childrens_sabbaths_manual webpage and choose from these Manuals with the themes:

- Creating Change for Children Today: Bring Hope and a Better Tomorrow
- When Will We Hear Dr. King's Call for to End Poverty in America?
- My Boat Is So Small: Creating a Harbor of Hope and Health Care for All Children

You can also call and place your order with our CDF Haley Farm for these three past manuals.

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Step Forward for Children

Nine month Preconfirmation Study (School Year)

(Such as Wednesday night programming)

(possible order)

1. Who Is Jesus?
2. Why Jesus for Me?
3. Growing Spiritually (add in Frutis of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit from Bible People of Faith)
4. Choosing to Be a Christian and What is a Christian? (Good Lenten study)
5. United Methodist add A United Methodist Is . . . and What Is a United Methodist?

Optional: Retreat – Living in Christian Community from Great Tween Getaways.

NOTE: Do not skip sessions in the resources above (with the possible exception of Growing Spiritually)

Symbols of Faith is a good supplemental material for all - special service and very special worship opportunities

For the Advent season you may be involved with church family event. (Seasons of Faith and Symbols of Faith are multigenerational, if you are looking for special Advent events for all generations, any would be helpful. It also contains a reproducible Advent/Christmas worship booklet to use in sessions or better yet by families at home.

For these resources you can pick and choose activities to add to any other.

Two Year Preconfirmation Study (School Year)

(Such as Wednesday night programming)

(possible order)

1. Live It! Being Christian at School
2. Who Is Jesus?
3. Advent Study or activities - Need intergenerational options? Symbols of Faith, Seasons of Faith or Bible People of Faith are options.
4. Talking with God
5. Why Jesus for Me? (Good Lenten study)
6. Growing Spiritually (add in Fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit from Bible People of Faith)
Optional: Retreat – Living in Christian Community from Great Tween Getaways).
7. Choosing to Be a Christian and What is a Christian? (Good Lenten study)
8. United Methodist add A United Methodist Is . . . and What Is a United Methodist?
9. Making a World of Difference

Optional: Retreat – Living in Christian Community from Great Tween Getaways.

Optional: Retreat & Experience - The Lads: Secrets of the Universe

Tween Ministry Needs Assessment

Who are my tweens?

How many tweens are in our church? _____

How many different schools are represented? _____
Which schools are they?

What is the socioeconomic background of my tweens?

What do they attend at church and how often?

Who are the unchurched tweens in the surrounding community?

What are defined goals of our tween ministry?

- Outreach
- Faith development
- Community of the faithful
- Bible literacy
- Church membership

What are our current ministry settings for tweens?

- Worship
- Sunday School
- Retreat
- VBS
- "youth" club
- other

Which ministries do we need to keep and which should we eliminate?

Is there something new we should be doing?

Are we doing too much taking into account that tweens lead busy lives?

How do tweens and their families fit together in our ministry?

Possible Preconfirmation Settings

One Six Week Short Term Study

Either Choosing to Be a Christian and What Is a Christian?
or A United Methodist Is. . . and What Is a United Methodist?

NOTE: For a United Methodist Church go with a United Methodist Is . . .

Two Six Week Short Term Studies

Both Choosing to Be a Christian and What Is a Christian?
and A United Methodist Is. . . and What Is a United Methodist?

Two Six Week Short Term Studies for new Christians or those who miss frequently

Who Is Jesus? and Why Jesus for Me?

An all Preconfirmation Study

Who Is Jesus?
Why Jesus for Me?
Choosing to Be a Christian and What Is a Christian?
A United Methodist Is. . . and What Is a United Methodist?

(Listed in order I would choose to do them in, though can be done in any order.)

Helpful Resource Websites

Website address	Content
www.adultbiblestudies.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download sample lesson, listen to audio sample • See Lesson titles and scriptures for current quarter • Read about the author for the quarter • Print out a Current Events Supplement each week that relates that week's Bible Study to today's world. • Find additional background information for each session under Supplemental Resources • Look at the new Scripture Index which tells when every scripture in the Bible is used in ABS from 1995 through 2007. • Also, sample, contents, and author info for Daily Bible Studies.
www.adamhamilton.cokesbury.com	This link takes you to Adam Hamilton's own website where a customer can learn about his work at Church of the Resurrection, the books he has written, and the training seminars he offers.
www.amazingbiblepace.com	Learn about this exciting new way for youth to study the entire Bible and try a sample quiz. Churches go here to sign up a team, monitor team progress, take daily quizzes, communicate with other teams and more.
www.africanamerican.cokesbury.com	Go to Resources, click on For Your Church, then on Spiritual Formation to see a listing of Christian education resources that are especially relevant to the African American church.
www.beginnings.cokesbury.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how beginnings works • See a training session at the Webcast Archives • Meet the authors • Download free samples • Order beginnings components • Get answers to Frequently Asked Questions • Find free helps for promoting beginnings program.
www.changetheworld.com	<p>Information on the book and the author</p> <p>Find out about the event</p> <p>Resources and media/ downloads</p> <p>Press releases</p>
www.cokesbury.com	<p>The master website for all Cokesbury products.</p> <p>Click on Curriculum Resources and Small Groups for most teaching materials.</p> <p>Choose from the age-level list or type a title in the search box. Choose Teaching Helps at the top of this page to get FAQ's, It Worked for Us ideas, free helps for adult teachers, or to get to Teachable Books and download free leader guides for many popular books. Look for downloadable resources under Download Store, Digital Curriculum</p>
www.cokesburyvbs.com	Each year this site is dedicated to Cokesbury's VBS resources for that year with promotional DVDs, featured stories and scriptures for each day, music clips, lists of the components, free clip art, testimonials, and much more!
www.claimthename.com	<p>Learn about all Cokesbury confirmation components at "What You Need"</p> <p>Find helps for choosing components to best meet a church's needs.</p> <p>Get answers to FAQs and find creative ideas for leading confirmation.</p> <p>Learn about confirmand gifts and pass along feedback or share ideas.</p>

www.claimthelife.com	Dedicated to the new Claim the Life Sunday school materials for Junior and Senior Highs.
www.cokesburymusic.com	Find music published by Abingdon as well as music from other publishers.
www.disciple.cokesbury.com	Great descriptions of each study in the Disciple Program Dates and locations for Disciple Training Seminars Frequently Asked Questions Sample Lessons and other Free Downloads are available.
www.fivepractices.cokesbury.com	Program Description, Planning Timeline, Video excerpt, printable promotion flyer, and more about <i>Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations</i> .
www.iamrocksolid.com	<i>The Foundation</i> offers Curriculum Overview, Scope & Sequence, Samples <i>Tools for Builders</i> offers information on age-level characteristics and more <i>Building Blocks</i> gives information on format and components <i>The Hangout</i> is just for kids, with activities, games and riddles <i>Building Additions</i> gives information on Toddlers and Twos and multiage curriculum
www.ileadyouth.com	Just for youth workers. Events Lots of free teacher helps and ideas plus sample lessons Idea exchange Info on upcoming events Articles by renowned Youth Ministry Leaders Information on the new E-Merge and Veracity Videos resources
www.ilivebig.com	Information and Samples of this resource and so much more. Free downloads Extra teaching helps Downloadable music for assembly time Midweek games and activities for kids Helps for parents to reinforce their children's learning Children's Sermons
www.livingthegoodlifetogether.com	Description of this adult resource, video preview, and free sample lessons, along with testimonials and author biographies and photos.
www.powerxpress.com	Article on how Rotation-Style teaching works, FAQs Free Downloadable Director's Manual Very helpful Scope and Sequence with expanded screens on theme, main idea, scriptures, and additional resources for each unit Features special \$25.00 offer on first unit. Free station (not unit) on Nothing But Nets
www.rock-a-bye.cokesbury.com	Information and samples on this new resource for babies and waddlers 0-18 months and toddlers and twos 18-36 months. Download samples Free posters to download – in color or black and white View and order product
www.sisters.cokesbury.com	Description of this small group study. List of units, author segments, promotional ideas.
www.sundayschool.cokesbury.com	Dedicated to supporting Sunday School Find a streaming video (also available free to order on DVD or VHS) with free discussion guide Free downloadable posters and other promotional helps. Lots of articles and ideas to support Sunday school.
www.tweenslive.com	For Adults: Tween Characteristics, articles, resources, feedback, service projects, feedback and more. For Tweens: Music reviews, cool tips, weekly polls, and more.
www.webinars.cokesbury.com	All available webinars are featured on this site. There is a brief description is given for each one.
www.wesleyministrynetwork.com	Information on Wesley Ministry Network Help selecting courses Information on studies Sample videos and downloads

Cokesbury Webinars

Cokesbury is pleased to offer a variety of webinars intended to educate our customers about the products we offer for you and your churches. To view a webinar, simply click on the link to either stream or download the file and enter the required registration information. All Cokesbury webinars are free to view and download unless otherwise noted.

- The Kaleidoscope of Children's Ministry
- Children's Resources Overview
- Cokesbury's VBS 2010 Showcase
- Using Cokesbury's 2010 VBS Online Tools
- Cokesbury's 2010 VBS Galactic Blast
- Focus on the Five Practices
- Children's Curriculum from Other Publishers
- Rock Solid Leader Training 2009-2010
- Rock Solid Overview 2009-2010
- Adult Curriculum Resources Overview
- Choosing Children's Curriculum
- Youth Resources Overview
- Implementing the Enough Stewardship Program
- Tweens Choosing Faith
- Claim the Life
- What's in the Bible (and Why Should I Care?)
- Live B.I.G.
- One Room Options
- Rock-a-Bye
- Faith in Hard Times
- Introduction to Disciple Bible Studies
- Introduction to Short-Term DISCIPLE
- Three Simple Rules – Small Group Studies for Adults, Youth, and Children

The website address is:

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=120&pageid=599>

Leigh Meekins

From: Melanie Gordon [mgordon@GBOD.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 2:39 PM
To: Melanie Gordon
Subject: Ministry with Children - Blog

Hello, everyone! I hope that all is well with you. The *Ministry with Young Children Blog* has been updated to include the following resources and links:

- [Helping Children Cope in the Aftermath of Disasters](#)
- [Resources for Christian Educators, Parents, and Pastors*](#)
- [Resources for New Children's Ministers](#)
- [Trainers and Resource People](#)
- [Training in Ministry with Young Children](#)
- [Weekday Preschool Ministries Resources](#)
- [What is Ministry with Children?](#)

Over the course of the next several months, I will be adding additional resources to this blog and there are ongoing changes on the GBOD Ministry with Children site. I hope that you will take a moment to click on the blog and subscribe to updates.

- [Ministry with Children Blog](#)

You may also want to consider subscribing to the monthly newsletter which you can access in two forms -- electronically, and a downloadable PDF for teachers and parents.

- [Ministry with Children Newsletter](#)

For those of you on Annual Conference staffs, these resources may prove helpful for Children's Ministers in the local churches!

Thanks so much!

**peace,
melanie**

melanie gordon
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www.gbod.org/ministries/children
877.899.2780 - ext.1762
blog: http://blogs.gbod.org/younger_children/

Children's Ministry Planning Guide

Recommended resources

Basic resources for planning and administration:

- *Guidelines 2009-2012: Children's Ministries* (9780687649518)
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=693075>
- *Safe Sanctuaries* 9780881775433
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=686384>
- *Safe Sanctuaries DVD* (9780881774153)
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=519420>
- *The Ministry of Christian Education and Formation* (0881773956)

Resources for Leaders:

It Worked for Us: Best Practices for Ministry with Children and Families (9780687659920)

Children grow as disciples through:

- **Sunday School**
Rock Solid www.iamrocksolid.com
Live B.I.G. www.ilivebig.com
One Room Sunday School
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/curriculum.aspx?sid=124>
Rock-A-Bye Toddlers and Twos
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=115&pageid=606>
All-In-One Bible Fun <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/curriculum.aspx?sid=658>
PowerXpress (Rotation curriculum) www.powerxpress.com
- **Church Nursery for Infants and young children (Sunday School, worship, etc.)**
Rock-A-Bye Ministry Guide for Babies and Woddlers
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=115&pageid=605>
- **VBS** *Galactic Blast* www.cokesburyvbs.com
Praise Party
- **Worship Education/United Methodist Heritage**
For Grades 1-3: *Touch the Water, Taste the Bread* (9780687048533)
Ages 3-5: *Touch the Water, Taste the Bread* (9780687048939)
For Ages 9-12:
What Is The Lord's Prayer?
What Is The Apostles Creed?
What Is Communion?
What is a United Methodist?
(Free downloadable leader guides for the What Is series available on Cokesbury web site.)
A United Methodist Is... A Six-Week Study for Tweens

Weekday Programs (After School, Wednesday evening, Weekday Preschool):

Wonder-filled Weekdays – Downloadable curriculum for preschool weekday ministries

Exploring L.I.F.E. (Elementary) Downloadable from Cokesbury.com

Project Choice: A Six-week study to Help Children Ages 7-10 Make Godly Choices

Live B.I.G.

Pioneer Clubs

All-In-One Bible Fun (Preschool and Elementary)

Stepping Stones of Faith: Exciting Lessons to Help Preschool Children Build Faith

Stewardship Education:

Let the Children Give: Time, Talents, Love and Money

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=519489>

Green Church Project: Caretakers of God's Creation – 6-week study
9781426707704

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=833404>

Mission and Service:

Raising Children to Love Their Neighbors (9780687651429)

Teaching Kids to Care and Share (9780687084289)

Ongoing Small Groups and Thematic Short-Term Studies

Learning to Use My Bible: A Special Study for Children in Grades 3 and 4

Lent and/or Discipleship (Elementary) – *Three Simple Rules for Following Jesus*

Stewardship of Creation--

Spiritual Formation: Elementary: *The Way of the Child*

Tweens: *Tween Spirituality*

Tween Fellowship Groups: *Live It!*

Tween Time Vol.1 & 2

Tweens – Pre-Confirmation: *Choosing To Be A Christian*

Tweens – Human Sexuality Study – *Created by God*

Special Needs

Bridges curriculum (downloadable)

Guidelines for Working with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children in Sunday

School with Other Hearing Children - free download from Cokesbury.com

Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with ASD

Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities

Milestones to keep in mind and celebrate:

Expectant Parents and Parent of Newborns
Baptism
Bible Presentation
Pre-Confirmation
Confirmation

Resources for developing teachers for children's ministries:

32 Ways to Become a Great Sunday School Teacher
How To Train Volunteer Teachers: 20 Workshops for the Sunday School

Resources for intergenerational settings:

Side by Side: Families Learning and Living the Faith Together
Nurturing Faith in Families
Symbols of Faith
Seasons of Faith
Retreats for Renewal: 5 Models for Intergenerational Weekends

Resources for parents of children:

A Baby is for Loving <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=441715>

Born to Be A Blessing

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=812135>

How Do Our Children Grow?

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=499900>

Building A Heart of Faith

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=784203>

Children and Prayer: A Shared Pilgrimage

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=506141>

Parents and Grandparents as Spiritual Guides

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=506232>

Parenting on Point

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=441106>

Parenting on Point Discussion guide (free download)

http://www.cokesbury.com/PDF/TeachableBooks/61_parentingonpoint.pdf

ProActive Parenting

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=440888>

These 6 studies are also available to order individually. (Please call Curric-U-Phone for further information.)

Together We Pray <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=500134>

When You Pray As A Family

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=831728>

Before They Ask: Talking with Your Child about Sex from a Christian Perspective

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/search.aspx?ddlSearchScope=title&txtSearchQuery=Before%20they%20ask>

Talking with Your Child: Conversations for Life

Leader's Guide <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=442364>

Parents Book: <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=442365>

Talking to Your Child About Life and Death

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=445881>