

# Syllabus for *Light* 2015/16

*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 2015.

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 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 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 to 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* 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* provides corresponding children's session 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 under-5s.

## Bubbles (5s and under)

October–December 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 4	<b>Jesus the friend</b> John introduces us to four people who meet Jesus and experience his care	<b>John 3:1-21</b> An evening visitor
2 October 11		<b>John 4:3-42</b> A woman at a well
3 October 18		<b>John 4:43-54</b> A man in need
4 October 25		<b>John 5:1-18</b> A man by a pool
5 November 1	<b>Old Testament kings</b> Meet Hezekiah and Josiah, two kings who led God's people in difficult times	<b>2 Kings 18:13 - 19:37</b> Hezekiah trusts God
6 November 8		<b>2 Kings 20:1-11</b> Hezekiah and Isaiah
7 November 15		<b>2 Kings 22:1-13; 23:1-3</b> Josiah becomes king
8 November 22		<b>2 Kings 23:1-23</b> Josiah and God's book
9 November 29 (Advent 1)	<b>God is love</b> Take time to pause and wonder that God loves us so much that he became a human being	<b>Isaiah 9:2-7; John 1:1-18</b> A child is born
10 December 6		<b>Matthew 1:18-25;</b> <b>Isaiah 7:14</b> God with us
11 December 13		<b>Luke 2:1-20; Micah 5:2-5</b> Peace on earth
12 December 20		<b>Matthew 2:1-12;</b> <b>Isaiah 60:1-3</b> Look for the star!
13 December 27		<b>John 3:16; Christmas narratives and prophecies</b> Happy birthday, Jesus!

January–March 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 3	<b>Good news</b> The news of Jesus is good news for everyone and Paul sets out to tell as many people as he can	<b>Acts 18:1-23</b> Priscilla and Aquila
2 January 10		<b>Acts 23:12-34</b> Paul in danger
3 January 17		<b>Acts 26:1-32</b> Paul talks about Jesus
4 January 24		<b>Acts 27:1,13-44;</b> <b>28:11-15,28-31</b> Paul is safe
5 January 31		<b>Psalms 150</b> Wonderful God!
6 February 7	<b>Jeremiah</b> God's messenger, Jeremiah, speaks out faithfully for God in difficult times	<b>Jeremiah 18:1-12</b> The potter's house
7 February 14		<b>Jeremiah 31:1-6; 32:1-15</b> Jeremiah buys a field
8 February 21		<b>Jeremiah 36</b> Jeremiah's scroll
9 February 28		<b>Jeremiah 38:1-13</b> Jeremiah in the well
10 March 6	<b>Ruth</b> The story of Ruth shows how God loves us and knows what we need	<b>Ruth 1</b> Naomi and Ruth
11 March 13		<b>Ruth 2-4</b> Ruth and Boaz
12 March 20	<b>God's big plan</b> We look at the last days of Jesus' life to discover that God is in control and knows what to do	<b>John 13:1-9,34,35</b> Jesus washes feet
13 March 27		<b>John 19:17-30; 20:1-18</b> Where is Jesus?

April–June 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title	
1 April 3	<b>God's big plan</b>	<b>John 20:19-31</b> Jesus and Thomas	
2 April 10		<b>Daniel and Esther</b> Daniel and Esther demonstrate the importance of honouring God with amazing results	<b>Daniel 1</b> Daniel's new life
3 April 17			<b>Daniel 6</b> Daniel prays to God
4 April 24			<b>Esther 1-4</b> Beautiful Esther
5 May 1		<b>Esther 5-9</b> Esther saves God's people	
6 May 8	<b>The Holy Spirit</b> Jesus finishes his work on earth and ascends to heaven. Then, after a time of waiting, God sends his Holy Spirit transforming the lives of the believers	<b>Acts 1:6-11</b> Jesus goes to heaven	
7 May 15		<b>Acts 2:1-13,43-47</b> Peter speaks out	
8 May 22	<b>Followers of Jesus</b> Paul's letters to Jesus' early followers offer forgiveness, encouragement and love	<b>Philippians 2:25-30</b> Epaphroditus	
9 May 29		<b>Philemon</b> Philemon	
10 June 5		<b>2 Timothy 1:3-10; 3:14-17</b> A letter to Timothy	
11 June 12		<b>Psalms 95:1-7</b> Wonderful God!	
12 June 19	<b>Jonah</b> Jonah learns the hard way to show God's mercy to others	<b>Jonah 1,2</b> Jonah runs away	
13 June 26		<b>Jonah 3,4</b> Jonah obeys God	

July–September 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 3	<b>What's Jesus like?</b> Explore how Jesus wants to be our friend - and how he wants us to be his friends too. A series for younger children	<b>Matthew 10:1-4</b> Jesus the leader
2 July 10		<b>Mark 6:45-52</b> Jesus is amazing
3 July 17		<b>Luke 17:11-19</b> Jesus the healer
4 July 24		<b>Luke 19:1-10</b> Jesus and Zacchaeus
5 July 31		<b>Psalms 145</b> God is with us
6 August 7	<b>Nehemiah</b> Nehemiah finds that God is always with him, to help and guide	<b>Nehemiah 1,2</b> Nehemiah builds
7 August 14		<b>Nehemiah 12:27-43;</b> <b>Psalms 126</b> Follow Nehemiah
8 August 21		<b>Zachariah 7:1-10</b> God is merciful
9 August 28		<b>Zachariah 10:1-12</b> God cares
10 September 4	<b>Jesus lives!</b> This series explores the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus, in the detail and depth that is not always possible at other times of year	<b>Four Gospel accounts</b> A meal with Jesus
11 September 11		<b>Four Gospel accounts</b> Jesus in the garden
12 September 18		<b>Four Gospel accounts</b> Jesus is questioned
13 September 25		<b>Four Gospel accounts</b> Where is Jesus?

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

October-December 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 4	<b>Jesus the friend</b> God's love and compassion are seen in Jesus' encounters with four individuals	<b>John 3:1-21</b> Fresh start
2 October 11		<b>John 4:3-42</b> No secrets
3 October 18		<b>John 4:43-54</b> Healing words
4 October 25		<b>John 5:1-18</b> Helping hand
5 November 1	<b>King of kings</b> God is fair, just and right, but the kings who lead his people do not always follow his ways	<b>2 Kings 18,19</b> God protects
6 November 8		<b>2 Kings 20</b> God restores
7 November 15		<b>2 Kings 21:1-18</b> God is forgotten
8 November 22		<b>2 Kings 23:1-23</b> God is remembered
9 November 29 (Advent 1)	<b>God is love</b> Take time to pause and wonder that God loves us so much that he became a human being	<b>Isaiah 9:2-7; John 1:1-18</b> A child is born
10 December 6		<b>Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 7:14</b> Of royal descent
11 December 13		<b>Luke 2:1-20; Micah 5:2-5</b> The praising shepherds
12 December 20		<b>Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 60:1-3</b> Royal visit
13 December 27		<b>John 3:16; Christmas narratives and prophecies</b> Happy birthday, Jesus!

January-March 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 3	<b>Sharing the good news</b> A series exploring the effect that the good news of Jesus had on the early believers and the people they met	<b>Acts 18:1-23</b> Teamwork
2 January 10		<b>Acts 23:12-34</b> True friend
3 January 17		<b>Acts 25:13 - 26:32</b> Truth telling
4 January 24		<b>Acts 27:1,13-44; 28:11-15,28-31</b> Total trust
5 January 31		<b>Psalms 150</b> Praise the Lord
6 February 7	<b>Jeremiah the prophet</b> The lordship and foreknowledge of God are explored through key experiences in the life of his prophet, Jeremiah	<b>Jeremiah 18:1-12</b> In the potter's shop
7 February 14		<b>Jeremiah 31:1-6; 32:1-15</b> Buying a field
8 February 21		<b>Jeremiah 36</b> Burning a scroll
9 February 28		<b>Jeremiah 38:1-13</b> Down a well
10 March 6	<b>Ruth</b> God's provision is displayed in the life of Ruth	<b>Ruth 1</b> Shoulder to shoulder
11 March 13		<b>Ruth 2-4</b> Good harvest
12 March 20	<b>God's big plan</b> God's plan for our salvation, as told from John's Gospel	<b>John 12:20-36; 13</b> Coming as a servant
13 March 27		<b>John 19:17-30; 20:1-18</b> Dying - and rising in victory

April-June 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 3	<b>God's big plan</b> God's desire to rescue and protect his people is shown in the stories of Daniel and Esther	<b>John 20:19-31</b> Proving beyond doubt
2 April 10		<b>Daniel 1</b> Daniel is different
3 April 17		<b>Daniel 6</b> Daniel in the lion's den
4 April 24		<b>Esther 1-4</b> A challenge for Esther
5 May 1		<b>Esther 5-9</b> Esther to the rescue
6 May 8	<b>The gift of God's Spirit</b> The Holy Spirit brings God's power to the first Christians	<b>Acts 1:1-11</b> Promise made
7 May 15		<b>Acts 2:1-13,43-47</b> Promise delivered
8 May 22	<b>Illustrated letters</b> Passages from Paul's letters illustrate how God lives in the lives of his people	<b>Philippians 2:25-30</b> No place like home
9 May 29		<b>Philemon</b> Freed to serve
10 June 5		<b>2 Timothy 1:3-10; 3:14-17</b> Letters to a friend
11 June 12		<b>Psalms 95:1-7</b> Let's praise
12 June 19	<b>Jonah</b> God's goodness and mercy are explored through the story of Jonah	<b>Jonah 1,2</b> Mercy on a city
13 June 26		<b>Jonah 3,4</b> Mercy on a man

July-September 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 3	<b>Living God's way</b> We follow Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount to discover how to live holy lives	<b>Matthew 5:1-12</b> Attitudes to follow
2 July 10		<b>Matthew 5:13-48</b> Laws for life
3 July 17		<b>Matthew 6:1-18</b> Ways to pray
4 July 24		<b>Matthew 6:19 - 7:12</b> Reasons to trust
5 July 31		<b>Psalms 145</b> God is with us
6 August 7	<b>Nehemiah</b> Wall building shows God's desire to restore his people	<b>Nehemiah 1,2,4</b> At work, at prayer
7 August 14		<b>Nehemiah 6:15,16; 12:27-43; Psalm 126</b> Dedication and celebration
8 August 21		<b>Zechariah 7:1-10</b> God is merciful
9 August 28		<b>Zechariah 10:1-12</b> God cares
10 September 4	<b>Jesus - our Saviour</b> A chance to explore the death and resurrection of Jesus, in the detail and depth that is not always possible at other times of year	<b>Four Gospel accounts</b> Jesus' last meal
11 September 11		<b>Four Gospel accounts</b> Jesus is arrested
12 September 18		<b>Four Gospel accounts</b> Jesus on trial
13 September 25		<b>Four Gospel accounts</b> Jesus saves

## theGRID (11-14s)

October-December 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 4	<b>Radical networking</b>	<b>John 3:1-21</b> Reboot
2 October 11		<b>John 4:3-42</b> Spyware
3 October 18		<b>John 4:43-54</b> Remote assistance
4 October 25		<b>John 5:1-18</b> Debugged
5 November 1	<b>A right royal rumble</b>	<b>2 Kings 18,19</b> Up against the odds
6 November 8		<b>2 Kings 20</b> Help me, please
7 November 15		<b>2 Kings 21:1-18</b> Evil with a capital 'M'
8 November 22		<b>2 Kings 23:1-23</b> Follow the leader
9 November 29 (Advent 1)	<b>God's glory revealed</b>	<b>John 1:6-9</b> In the beginning...
10 December 6		<b>Isaiah 6</b> Now that's what I call glory
11 December 13		<b>Revelation 1</b> Glory is so now
12 December 20		<b>1 Thessalonians 4:13-18</b> I'll be back
13 December 27		<b>Isaiah 9:2-7</b> Party time!

January-March 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 3	<b>Random diffusion</b>	<b>Acts 18:1-23</b> Get connected
2 January 10		<b>Acts 23:12-22</b> Time to move on
3 January 17		<b>Acts 25:13 - 26:32</b> Right words, right time
4 January 24		<b>Acts 27:1,13-44;</b> <b>28:11-15,28-31</b> Capsized, but not drowned out
5 January 31		<b>Psalms 150</b> Loud noise and whispers
6 February 7	<b>Prophet of doom</b>	<b>Jeremiah 18:1-12</b> Whatever
7 February 14		<b>Jeremiah 31:1-6; 32:1-15</b> Hope springs eternal
8 February 21		<b>Jeremiah 36</b> 'I'm not listening'
9 February 28		<b>Jeremiah 38:1-13</b> Well, fancy that
10 March 6	<b>Ruth</b>	<b>Ruth 1</b> Stand by your mum
11 March 13		<b>Ruth 2-4</b> Combined harvest
12 March 20	<b>God's big plan</b>	<b>John 12:20-36; 13</b> I love you
13 March 27		<b>John 19:17-30; 20:1-18</b> It is finished

April-June 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 3	<b>God's big plan</b>	<b>John 20:19-31</b> Urban myth
2 April 10	<b>Set apart</b>	<b>Daniel 1</b> Just say 'no'
3 April 17		<b>Daniel 6</b> Stick to the truth
4 April 24	<b>God the Protector</b>	<b>Esther 1-4</b> Such a time as this
5 May 1		<b>Esther 5-10</b> Happy ending?!
6 May 8	<b>The gift of God's Spirit</b>	<b>Acts 1:1-11</b> Promise keeper
7 May 15		<b>Acts 2:1-13,43-47</b> Transformed
8 May 22	<b>Illustrated letters</b>	<b>Philippians 2:25-30</b> Risk assessment
9 May 29		<b>Philemon</b> Freed to serve
10 June 5		<b>2 Timothy 1:3-10; 3:14-17</b> He said to him and...
11 June 12		<b>Psalms 139</b> The now life
12 June 19	<b>Jonah</b>	<b>Jonah 1,2</b> Leg it
13 June 26		<b>Jonah 3,4</b> I knew you'd do that

July-September 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 3	<b>Total life</b>	<b>Matthew 5:1-12</b> Bad attitude
2 July 10		<b>Matthew 5:13-48</b> Oh, behave!
3 July 17		<b>Matthew 6:1-18</b> Silent prayer?
4 July 24		<b>Matthew 6:19 - 7:12</b> Don't worry, be happy
5 July 31		<b>Ecclesiastes 3:1-22;</b> <b>Psalms 119:9-16,97-104</b> Heaven knows I'm miserable now
6 August 7	<b>Nehemiah</b>	<b>Nehemiah 1,2,4</b> Homeward bound
7 August 14		<b>Nehemiah 6:15,16;</b> <b>12:27-43; Psalm 126</b> Give it back to God
8 August 21		<b>Zechariah 7:1-10</b> God is merciful
9 August 28		<b>Zechariah 10:1-12</b> God cares
10 September 4	<b>Overcoming the barriers</b>	<b>Mark 10:17-31</b> Barriers to Jesus 1
11 September 11		<b>Matthew 8:18-22</b> Barriers to Jesus 2
12 September 18		<b>Mark 15; 16:1-8</b> The barrier to God
13 September 25		<b>Colossians 3:1-17</b> The barrier to life