

Syllabus for *Light* 2016/17

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 2016.

You can learn more about the whole syllabus at 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 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 under-5s.

Bubbles (5s and under)

October–December 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 2	Jesus cares The way in which Jesus responds to people, gives us the assurance that he cares for everyone	Luke 7:11-17 Jesus helps a woman
2 October 9		Luke 18:18-22 Jesus meets a rich man
3 October 16		Luke 18:23-30 Jesus can do anything
4 October 23		Romans 8:38,39 Nothing can separate us from God's love
5 October 30		John 8:12 Jesus brings light
6 November 6	God is good God has made a good world for us to live in and he helps us know how he wants us to live	Genesis 6:9-22 Noah and the boat
7 November 13		Genesis 7:1 - 8:12 Noah and the flood
8 November 20		Genesis 8:13 - 9:17 Noah and the rainbow
9 November 27	Christmas surprises Christmas is a very special time when we can experience some very special surprises together	Luke 1:5-25 Baby John
10 December 4		Luke 1:26-56 Baby Jesus
11 December 11		Luke 2:1-7 In a stable
12 December 18		Luke 2:8-21 Shepherds and angels
13 December 25		Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-21 The birth of Jesus

January–March 2017

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 1	Talking with God Follow Jesus' example as we talk and listen to God	Luke 11:1-4 Jesus talks with God
2 January 8		Luke 11:5-13 We can talk with God
3 January 15		Luke 18:1-8 Keep on praying
4 January 22		Luke 18:9-14 Ways to pray
5 January 29		Luke 18:15-17 Jesus welcomes children
6 February 5	Songs to God Discover some of the songs that David wrote to God	Psalms 19 The wonders of God
7 February 12		Psalms 20 God wins
8 February 19		Psalms 22:1-5 God is near
9 February 26		Psalms 23 God is good
10 March 5	God is awesome Find out how great God is	Exodus 15 God is amazing
11 March 12		Isaiah 6:1-3 God is special
12 March 19		Revelation 1:1-5 God is kind
13 March 26		1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 God is coming

April–June 2017

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 2	God comes to his people Discover that Jesus can do things that no one else can do	Mark 7:31-37 Jesus heals a man
2 April 9		Mark 11:1-11 Jesus rides a donkey
3 April 16		Mark 16:1-8 Easter Sunday
4 April 23		Luke 13:10-17 Jesus heals a woman
5 April 30		Luke 17:11-19 Jesus heals ten men
6 May 7	God's promise Join Abram and his family as they trust God to keep his promise to them	Genesis 12:1-9 Abram obeys God
7 May 14		Genesis 13 Abram and Lot
8 May 21		Genesis 15:1-6 God's promise to Abram
9 May 28		Genesis 17 Abram's new name
10 June 4	Jesus starts work We can have the expectation that God will meet us and help us, as he equipped Jesus for his ministry	Luke 2:41-52 Jesus the boy
11 June 11		Matthew 3:1-17 John baptises Jesus
12 June 18		Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus in the desert
13 June 25		Matthew 11:1-19 Who is Jesus?

July–September 2017

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 2	God makes the world Enjoy encountering our wonderful God who has made everything	Genesis 1:1-8 God makes light and sky
2 July 9		Genesis 1:9-13 God makes land, sea and plants
3 July 16		Genesis 1:14-19 God makes stars and planets
4 July 23		Genesis 1:20 - 2:25 God makes animals and people
5 July 30		Psalms 104 God the maker
6 August 6	Moses in Egypt Moses and God's people discover that God loves them and will keep them safe, in many different situations	Exodus 2:1-10 Baby in a basket
7 August 13		Exodus 3:1 - 4:20 God talks to Moses
8 August 20		Exodus 11:1 - 12:30 A meal to remember
9 August 27		Exodus 14:1-31 Crossing the Red Sea
10 September 3	What does Jesus do? A series from Matthew's Gospel, exploring Jesus' power to heal, to help and to provide	Matthew 8:1-4 Jesus heals a man
11 September 10		Matthew 8:5-13 Jesus helps a soldier
12 September 17		Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus stops a storm
13 September 24		Matthew 15:32-39 Jesus feeds people

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

October-December 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 2	Love in action The love and compassion of God are seen through Jesus' encounters with different people	Luke 7:11-17 Jesus brings life
2 October 9		Luke 8:26-39 Jesus brings freedom
3 October 16		Luke 18:18-30 Jesus brings challenge
4 October 23		Luke 19:1-10 Jesus brings salvation
5 October 30		John 8:12 Jesus brings light
6 November 6	God sets the standard God responds with justice and grace when people sin	Genesis 4:1-16 Our choice
7 November 13		Genesis 6:1 - 8:19 Flood warning
8 November 20		Genesis 8:20 - 9:17 Rainbow promise
9 November 27	God's plan God uses John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus	Luke 1:5-25 A surprise
10 December 4		Luke 1:57-80 A song
11 December 11		Luke 3:1-20; Isaiah 40:1-11 A sermon
12 December 18		Luke 1:26-56 No ordinary child
13 December 25		Luke 2:1-21 The birth of Jesus

January-March 2017

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 1	How should we pray? God speaks and listens to us	Luke 11:1-4 Pray like Jesus
2 January 8		Luke 11:5-13 Ask, search and knock
3 January 15		Luke 18:1-8 Never give up
4 January 22		Luke 18:9-14 Smug or sorry
5 January 29		Luke 18:15-17 Come to Jesus
6 February 5	Songs to God Discover some of the songs that David wrote as he cried out to God	Psalms 19 The wonders of God
7 February 12		Psalms 20 God wins
8 February 19		Psalms 22:1-5 God is near
9 February 26		Psalms 23 God is good
10 March 5	A vision of God God's great glory is revealed	Exodus 15 Majestic and holy
11 March 12		Isaiah 6 High and lifted up
12 March 19		Revelation 1 Glory unbounded
13 March 26		1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Sound of heaven

April-June 2017

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 2	God comes to his people We explore how Jesus demonstrates his power and compassion	Mark 7:31-37 Eyes and ears
2 April 9		Mark 11:1-11 Into Jerusalem
3 April 16		Mark 16:1-8 It is finished!
4 April 23		Luke 13:10-17 Back healer
5 April 30		Luke 17:11-19 Ten healed
6 May 7	God's call and promise Through the life of Abraham, we discover God calls his people and keeps his promise to them	Genesis 12:1-9 Abram's call
7 May 14		Genesis 13 Lot's choice
8 May 21		Genesis 16 Hagar's promise
9 May 28		Genesis 17 Abram's name change
10 June 4	Jesus and John We discover how God prepares his people as we look at the life of John the Baptist and his interaction with Jesus	Luke 2:41-52 Jesus in the Temple
11 June 11		Matthew 3:1-17 John in the desert
12 June 18		Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus in the desert
13 June 25		Matthew 11:1-19 John in prison

July-September 2017

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 2	And God saw it was good Learning about God creating an amazing universe	Genesis 1:1-8 God makes light, day and night
2 July 9		Genesis 1:9-13 God makes land, plants and sea
3 July 16		Genesis 1:14-19 God makes sun, moon and stars
4 July 23		Genesis 1:20 - 2:25 God makes animals and people
5 July 30		Psalms 104 Creation praise
6 August 6	Birth of a nation God rescues his people from slavery in Egypt	Exodus 2:1-15a Rescue and run
7 August 13		Exodus 3:1 - 4:20 Holy ground
8 August 20		Exodus 11:1 - 12:30 Sacrificial lamb
9 August 27		Exodus 14:1-31 The great escape
10 September 3	Jesus in command By performing great miracles, Jesus shows God's power	Matthew 8:1-4 Power to heal
11 September 10		Matthew 8:5-13 Officer's orders
12 September 17		Matthew 8:23-27 Storm stopper
13 September 24		Matthew 15:32-39 4,000 for lunch

theGRID (11-14s)

October-December 2016

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 2	Jesus cares In his words and actions, Jesus cares deeply for his people	Luke 7:11-17 Life
2 October 9		Luke 8:26-39 Freedom
3 October 16		Luke 18:18-30 Tough love
4 October 23		Luke 19:1-10 Forgiveness
5 October 30		John 8:12 Light
6 November 6	God's justice and grace Exploring our response to God's justice and grace	Genesis 4:1-16; 6:1-8 Fugitive from justice?
7 November 13		Genesis 6:9 - 8:19 Saving grace
8 November 20		Genesis 8:20 - 9:17 Gracious promise
9 November 27	God's plan God uses John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus	Luke 1:5-25 He's having a baby
10 December 4		Luke 1:57-80 God's in the house
11 December 11		Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 3:1-20 A right jobsworth
12 December 18		Luke 1:26-56 He's on his way
13 December 25		Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-21 The birth of Jesus

April-June 2017

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 2	God of victory Jesus demonstrates his compassion by healing those who are ill, and his power by defeating death and rising from the dead	Mark 7:31-37 Spitting image
2 April 9		Matthew 21:1-17 What an entrance!
3 April 16		Matthew 28:1-10 What a comeback!
4 April 23		Luke 13:10-17 Back trouble
5 April 30		Luke 17:11-19 One out of ten
6 May 7	God's call and promise God calls Abram and promises to make him the father of many nations	Genesis 12:1-9 The promise
7 May 14		Genesis 13 Deal or no deal?
8 May 21		Genesis 16 The substitute
9 May 28		Genesis 17 New names
10 June 4	Ready for action? 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.	Luke 2:41-52 Routine surprises
11 June 11		Matthew 3:1-17 Earmarked
12 June 18		Matthew 4:1-11 Be prepared
13 June 25		Matthew 11:1-19 Have you heard?

January-March 2017

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 1	Carry on praying Listening and talking to God, in the way the Bible tells us to	Luke 11:1-4 Teach me to pray
2 January 8		Luke 11:5-13 Knock on the door
3 January 15		Luke 18:1-8 Never give up
4 January 22		Luke 18:9-14 Right with God
5 January 29		Luke 18:15-17 Come to Jesus
6 February 5	Songs to God Discover some of the songs that David wrote as he cried out to God	Psalms 19 The wonders of God
7 February 12		Psalms 20 God wins
8 February 19		Psalms 22:1-5 God is near
9 February 26		Psalms 23 God is good
10 March 5	God's glory revealed God's great glory is revealed	Exodus 15 Majestic and holy
11 March 12		Isaiah 6 High and lifted up
12 March 19		Revelation 1 Glory unbounded
13 March 26		1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Sound of heaven

July-September 2017

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 2	God the Creator God makes the world and makes people in his image. What difference does that make to you?	Genesis 1:1-19 In the beginning
2 July 9		Genesis 1:20-31 Made in his image
3 July 16		Genesis 2:1-3 Blessed and holy
4 July 23		Genesis 2:4-25 You and God
5 July 30		Psalms 104 Praise the Lord!
6 August 6	Global issues, global warning A look at contemporary global issues through the events of the Exodus	Exodus 2:1-15a Injustice
7 August 13		Exodus 3:1 - 4:20 What difference can I make?
8 August 20		Exodus 11:1 - 12:30 Why doesn't God do something?
9 August 27		Exodus 14:1-31 Freedom
10 September 3	Power in action Through Jesus' use of his power, we find out more about who he is	Matthew 8:1-4 Unclean!
11 September 10		Matthew 8:5-13 Sick!
12 September 17		Matthew 8:23-27 In danger!
13 September 24		Matthew 15:32-39 Hungry!