

Syllabus for *Light* 2013/14

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 2013.

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 also 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 lasts between four and five weeks, and will usually start on the first Sunday of the month. 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 3-14s. *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 also 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* also 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 *Bubbles*.

Bubbles (5s and under)

October–December 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 6	Jesus cares John's Gospel gives a unique portrait of Jesus, helping us encounter and understand his care for each of us	John 2:1-11 Jesus helps
2 October 13		John 6:1-15 Jesus feeds
3 October 20		John 10:1-15 Jesus protects
4 October 27		John 11:17-44 Jesus gives life
5 November 3	Moses the leader Follow Moses and the people of God as they journey in the desert, experiencing God's help and guidance in all they do	Exodus 16:1 - 17:7 Living in the desert
6 November 10		Exodus 19:16 - 20:17 Ten rules from God
7 November 17		Exodus 33:7-23, 34:1-9,29-35 Moses meets God
8 November 24		Exodus 35:20 - 36:7; 39:32 - 40:38 A place to worship God
9 December 1 (Advent 1)	Christmas praise Explore and enjoy the well-loved Christmas story, through the songs and praises of those who saw it all happen	Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah's praise
10 December 8		Luke 1:46-56 Mary's praise
11 December 15		Luke 2:8-20 Angel's praise
12 December 22		Luke 2:1-40 Christmas praise
13 December 29		Luke 2:28-35 Simeon's praise

January–March 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 5	First followers The first followers of Jesus find their lives turned upside down, but they know that Jesus is with them always	Acts 6:1-7 Stephen
2 January 12		Acts 9:1-19a Paul
3 January 19		Acts 4:36,37; 9:19b-31; 11:19-30 Barnabas
4 January 26		Acts 13:1-3; 15:1-35 Friends of God
5 February 2	Jesus is amazing! Begin an adventure, full of surprises, as we discover what it is like to meet and follow Jesus	Luke 5:1-11,27-32 Meeting Jesus
6 February 9		Luke 9:18-27 Knowing Jesus
7 February 16		Luke 9:28-36 Seeing Jesus
8 February 23		Luke 10:1-16 Following Jesus
9 March 2	Joshua Joshua discovers that, with God's help, anything is possible because God is powerful enough to do anything	Joshua 1:1-9 Joshua leads the way
10 March 9		Joshua 2 Joshua makes plans
11 March 16		Joshua 3 Over the river
12 March 23		Joshua 6:1-20 The walls of Jericho
13 March 30	Wonderful God! Enjoy spending time with God who knows all about us and loves us because he made us	Psalms 139 God loves me!

April–June 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 6	Stories of Jesus	Mark 10:46-52 Jesus and Bartimaeus
2 April 13	Easter is coming The events of the first Easter show that, even when things seemed to be going wrong, God was fully in control	Matthew 21:1-17 Here comes Jesus
3 April 20		Matthew 28:1-10 Easter is here!
4 April 27		Matthew 28:20 Jesus is here!
5 May 4		Acts 1:6-11 Jesus goes to heaven
6 May 11	Friends of God God may seem to choose unlikely people to be leaders, but he gives them the strength they need	Judges 4:1-10,23,24 Deborah
7 May 18		Judges 6:11-16,33-40 Gideon is afraid
8 May 25		Judges 7:1-22 Gideon obeys God
9 June 1		Judges 13:1-7; 16:4-31 Samson
10 June 8	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-14,41,42 Wind and fire
11 June 15	Light Be inspired, challenged and encouraged as you explore the Bible images of light	Psalms 119:9-16,105 Light to live by
12 June 22		John 9:1-12,35-38; 8:12 Light for the world
13 June 29		Matthew 5:14-16 You are light

July–September 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 6	Spreading the news Come with some of the first Christians as they experience the reality of God working in their lives	Acts 8:26-40 Philip explains
2 July 13		Acts 9:32-43 Peter prays
3 July 20		Acts 10 Cornelius prays
4 July 27		Acts 12:1-19 Peter escapes
5 August 3	Stories Jesus told Find out about the amazing love of God through the wonderful stories of Jesus	Luke 10:25-37 The kind traveller
6 August 10		Luke 14:15-24 The great feast
7 August 17		Luke 15:1-7 A lost sheep
8 August 24		Luke 15:11-24 A loving father
9 August 31		Psalms 25 God keeps me safe
10 September 7	Samuel During a long life of service to God, Samuel knows God is with him everywhere he goes and in all that he does	1 Samuel 1:9-20 Samuel is born
11 September 14		1 Samuel 3 Samuel and Eli
12 September 21		1 Samuel 8:4-9; 9:15-17; 10:1,17-27 Samuel and Saul
13 September 28		1 Samuel 15 Saul the king

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

October-December 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 6	Jesus shows God's love John's Gospel gives a unique portrait of Jesus, helping us encounter and understand his care for each of us	John 2:1-11 Water into wine
2 October 13		John 6:1-15,22-40 Bread for life
3 October 20		John 10:1-15 Good shepherd
4 October 27		John 11:1-44 Death to life
5 November 3	Life in the desert Follow Moses and the people of God as they journey in the desert, experiencing God's generous provision in all they do	Exodus 16:1 - 17:7 Bread and water
6 November 10		Exodus 19:16 - 20:17 Laws for life
7 November 17		Exodus 33:7-23, 34:1-9,29-35 Moses meets God
8 November 24		Exodus 35:20 - 36:7; 39:32 - 40:38 Giving to God
9 December 1 (Advent 1)	Christmas praise Explore and enjoy the well-loved Christmas story through the praises of those who saw it happen	Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah's praise
10 December 8		Luke 1:46-56 Mary's praise
11 December 15		Luke 2:8-20 Angel's praise
12 December 22		Luke 2:1-40 Christmas praise
13 December 29		Luke 2:28-35 Simeon's praise

January-March 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 5	Travelling in faith The early Christian church grows, under God's direction	Acts 6,7 Ever faithful
2 January 12		Acts 9:1-31 Stunning vision
3 January 19		Acts 4:36,37; 9:19b-31; 11:19-30 Getting in
4 January 26		Acts 13:1-3; 15:1-35 Stepping out
5 February 2	Following Jesus We explore the challenges and surprises involved in being friends with Jesus	Luke 5:1-11,27-32 Jesus calls his disciples
6 February 9		Luke 9:18-27 Who is Jesus?
7 February 16		Luke 9:28-36 Jesus in his glory
8 February 23		Luke 10:1-20 Jesus sends the 72
9 March 2	Joshua Joshua discovers that, with God's help, anything is possible because God is powerful	Joshua 1 Power with you
10 March 9		Joshua 2 Help for the spies
11 March 16		Joshua 3:1 - 4:9 Across the barrier
12 March 23		Joshua 6 Breaking the walls
13 March 30		Psalms 139 God knows me
	Wonderful God! Getting to know God better through a psalm	

April-June 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 6	Authority of Jesus	Mark 10:46-52 Jesus heals Bartimaeus
2 April 13	Jesus rescues We explore the Easter story in Matthew to discover how Jesus fulfils God's rescue plan	Matthew 21:1-17 Jesus arrives in Jerusalem
3 April 20		Matthew 28:1-10 Jesus is alive
4 April 27		Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus commissions his friends
5 May 4		Romans 5:1-11 Right with God
6 May 11	Judges rule God's people A series exploring how God gave power to his chosen people and how they responded	Judges 4 Power to the leaders
7 May 18		Judges 6:11-16,33-40 Power to the weak
8 May 25		Judges 7:1-22 Power to the few
9 June 1		Judges 13:1-7; 16:4-31 Power misused
10 June 8	Pentecost	Acts 2 Spirit-power
11 June 15	Light for life Be inspired, challenged and encouraged as you explore the Bible images of light	Psalms 119:9-16,105 Light to live by
12 June 22		John 9:1-12,35-38; 8:12 Is seeing believing?
13 June 29		Matthew 5:14-16 You are light

July-September 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 6	Adventures with God Through the action-packed stories of the early church, we discover God speaking and responding to his people	Acts 8:26-40 Philip explains
2 July 13		Acts 9:32-43 Peter prays
3 July 20		Acts 10 Cornelius prays
4 July 27		Acts 12:1-19 Peter escapes
5 August 3	Love stories Looking at stories that Jesus told that demonstrate God's love	Luke 10:25-37 Picture story
6 August 10		Luke 14:15-24 Invitations refused
7 August 17		Luke 15:1-7 Lost sheep
8 August 24		Luke 15:11-32 Invitation given
9 August 31		Psalms 25 Responding to love
10 September 7	Hearing from God A series exploring how God communicates with people and what he wants from us in return	1 Samuel 1:1 - 2:21 Right focus
11 September 14		1 Samuel 2:22 - 3:21 Listen right, do right
12 September 21		1 Samuel 7:3 - 8:9; 12 Guiding right
13 September 28		1 Samuel 15 Listen and do

theGRID (11-14s)

October-December 2013

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 6	Jesus the compassionate king Four snapshots of Jesus' life that not only reveal his power and mission, but also his compassion	John 2:1-11 The Miracle Maker
2 October 13		John 6:1-15,22-48 The Bread of Life
3 October 20		John 10:1-15 The Good Shepherd
4 October 27		John 11:1-44 The Crying Saviour
5 November 3	Journey of life Use the example of Moses on your own discipleship journey	Exodus 16:1 - 17:7 The wilderness years
6 November 10		Exodus 19:16 - 20:17; Deuteronomy 6:1-9 The top ten dos and don'ts
7 November 17		Exodus 33:7-23, 34:1-9,29-35 Face to face
8 November 24		Exodus 35:20 - 36:7; 39:32 - 40:38 Multi-dimensional worship
9 December 1 (Advent 1)	The King is born A series looking at the significance of God's Son becoming human	Luke 1:57-80 God's in the house
10 December 8		Luke 1:26-56; 1 Samuel 2:1-11 He's on his way
11 December 15		Luke 2:1-21; Micah 5:1-5 I want to break free
12 December 22		Romans 5:12-21 The new life
13 December 29		Luke 2:22-38 Breaking news

January-March 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 5	Illustrated letters Pictures of the Christian life	Hebrews 11:39 - 12:3; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Starter's orders
2 January 12		Ephesians 6:10-18 Tooled up
3 January 19	Spread the word The church begins to grow through the work of the Spirit	Acts 4:36,37; 9:19b-31; 11:19-30 Barnabas sorts it out
4 January 26		Acts 13:1-3; 15:1-35 Everyone says yes
5 February 2	The Challenge Jesus' life and teaching presents us with several challenges which we cannot ignore. This series investigates four of them. How will you respond?	Luke 5:1-11,27-32 Follow
6 February 9		Luke 9:18-27 Sacrifice
7 February 16		Luke 9:28-36 Recognise
8 February 23		Luke 10:1-20 Go
9 March 2	Becoming the people of God How the Israelites became God's nation	Joshua 1 Be big
10 March 9		Joshua 2 Red or dead
11 March 16		Joshua 3:1 - 4:9 Making a mark
12 March 23		Joshua 6 The bigger they are...
13 March 30		Psalm 139 You know me

April-June 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 6	In charge To understand that, even leading up to his crucifixion and apparent defeat, Jesus is still very much in charge	Mark 10:46-52 Extraordinary
2 April 13		Mark 11:1-26 What an entrance!
3 April 20		Mark 15:1 - 16:8 The barrier to God
4 April 27		Matthew 28:16-20 The new life
5 May 4		Romans 5:1-11 Breaking news
6 May 11	Heroes In a world where everyone did what they thought was right, can God find heroes to bring justice?	Judges 4 Girl power
7 May 18		Judges 6:11-16,33-40 Your country needs you
8 May 25		Judges 7:1-22 Weapons of mass confusion
9 June 1		Judges 13:1-7; 16:4-31 Brute force
10 June 8	Illustrated letters	1 Corinthians 12,13 Body beautiful
11 June 15	Light Explore one of the greatest themes of the Bible	Psalms 119:9-16,105 Light the way
12 June 22		John 8:12-20 The one and only
13 June 29		Matthew 5:14-16 Light relief

July-September 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 6	God speaks An opportunity to discover that God speaks and interacts with us in so many different ways	Acts 8:26-40 Confused?
2 July 13		Acts 9:32-43 Can you believe it?
3 July 20		Acts 10 Mind the gap
4 July 27		Acts 12:1-19 Great escape
5 August 3	Rescue mission: impossible? In a galaxy very close actually, the human race is in need of a loving God to rescue them	Luke 10:25-37 Are you sitting comfortably?
6 August 10		Luke 14:15-24 Admit one
7 August 17		Luke 15:1-7 SOS
8 August 24		Luke 15:11-24 Whatever I've done?
9 August 31		Psalm 25 Rescue me
10 September 7	Here comes the judge A look at Samuel, the last Judge of Israel, and the importance of being obedient right to the end	1 Samuel 1:1 - 2:21 Gift tagged
11 September 14		1 Samuel 2:22 - 3:21 Who said that?
12 September 21		1 Samuel 7:3 - 8:9; 12 Respect
13 September 28		1 Samuel 15 Rejection