

# Syllabus for *Light* 2014/15

*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 2014.

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 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 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* 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 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 5	<b>Jesus the healer</b> Jesus demonstrates his love and compassion when he meets people who need the healing help that only he can provide	<b>Mark 1:29-39</b> At Peter's house
2 October 12		<b>Mark 1:40-45</b> A man with leprosy
3 October 19		<b>Mark 3:1-6</b> A damaged hand
4 October 26		<b>Mark 5:21-43</b> Jairus and his daughter
5 November 2	<b>David</b> God's love and protection for David are shown again and again, as we see how God keeps him safe in unlikely and often dangerous circumstances	<b>1 Samuel 16:1-13</b> David the shepherd boy
6 November 9		<b>1 Samuel 18:1-5</b> David and Jonathan
7 November 16		<b>1 Samuel 20</b> David in trouble
8 November 23		<b>1 Samuel 24</b> David and King Saul
9 November 30 (Advent 1)	<b>Good news for everyone</b> Hear the good news of Christmas and join in celebrating the birth of Jesus	<b>Luke 1:26-38</b> Good news for Mary
10 December 7		<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b> Good news for Joseph
11 December 14		<b>Luke 2:1-20</b> Good news for the shepherds
12 December 21		<b>Matthew 2:1-15</b> Good news for the wise men
13 December 28		<b>Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12</b> Happy Christmas!

January–March 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 4	<b>Meeting Jesus</b> Meet some of the people Jesus met - and see what a difference he made to them!	<b>Luke 4:16-21; Isaiah 61:1,2</b> Jesus at Nazareth
2 January 11		<b>Luke 5:17-26</b> Jesus heals a man
3 January 18		<b>Luke 7:36-50</b> A woman with a gift
4 January 25		<b>Luke 10:38-42</b> Mary and Martha
5 February 1	<b>David the king</b> God promises David that he will be a powerful ruler and that one of his descendants will always be king	<b>2 Samuel 5:4-12; 6:1-19</b> David becomes king
6 February 8		<b>2 Samuel 7</b> God's promise to David
7 February 15		<b>2 Samuel 9</b> David is kind
8 February 22		<b>2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:15</b> David's big mistake
9 March 1	<b>What Jesus said</b> Explore some of the pictures-in-words that Jesus created. A series for younger children	<b>Matthew 7:24-27</b> Two house builders
10 March 8		<b>Matthew 13:44</b> Hidden treasure
11 March 15		<b>Matthew 13:45,46</b> A beautiful pearl
12 March 22		<b>Matthew 13:33</b> Yeast
13 March 29	<b>Jesus is alive!</b> Easter starts here!	<b>Luke 19:28-40; 22:7-23</b> Jesus rides a donkey!

April–June 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 5	<b>Jesus is alive!</b> Jesus completes his work and death is defeated	<b>Luke 24:1-12</b> Jesus is alive today!
2 April 12		<b>Luke 24:13-35</b> On the way to Emmaus
3 April 19		<b>Luke 24:36-49</b> Jesus meets his friends
4 April 26	<b>Solomon</b> Solomon displays the importance of honouring God and reflecting his holiness	<b>1 Kings 5:1 - 6:1</b> Solomon builds for God
5 May 3		<b>1 Kings 8:1-13,54-66</b> Solomon praises God
6 May 10	<b>Jesus promises</b> Find out what Jesus said about himself, and that he is the only one to follow	<b>John 14:13,14</b> Asking Jesus
7 May 17		<b>John 15:12</b> Loving others
8 May 24		<b>John 16:5-7; Acts 2:1-12</b> Jesus' promise
9 May 31	<b>The church grows</b> The first followers of Jesus find their lives turned upside down, but they know that Jesus is always with them	<b>Acts 13:13-52</b> Barnabas and Paul
10 June 7		<b>Acts 14</b> Talking about Jesus
11 June 14		<b>Acts 16:1-15</b> Lydia joins the church
12 June 21		<b>Acts 16:23-40</b> Paul in prison
13 June 28		<b>Psalms 103:1-5</b> God cares for me

July–September 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 5	<b>Elijah</b> We meet Elijah and find out how God showed his care for him	<b>1 Kings 17:1-7</b> God feeds Elijah
2 July 12		<b>1 Kings 17:8-24</b> God helps a family
3 July 19		<b>1 Kings 18</b> God shows his power
4 July 26		<b>1 Kings 19:1-18</b> God speaks to Elijah
5 August 2	<b>Peter, friend of Jesus</b> Discover, with Peter, that God knows us and everything about us	<b>Mark 1:16-20</b> Peter meets Jesus
6 August 9		<b>Mark 8:27-30</b> Peter knows who Jesus is
7 August 16		<b>Mark 9:2-13</b> Shine, Jesus
8 August 23		<b>Mark 14:27-31</b> Peter lets Jesus down
9 August 30		<b>Mark 16:1-8; John 21:15-19</b> Peter and Jesus are friends
10 September 6	<b>Elisha</b> Elisha's experiences give us confidence that God can do anything	<b>2 Kings 4:1-7</b> Elisha helps a family
11 September 13		<b>2 Kings 4:8-37</b> A home for Elisha
12 September 20		<b>2 Kings 5:1-19</b> Elisha and Naaman
13 September 27		<b>2 Kings 6:8-23</b> Elisha prays

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

October-December 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 5	<b>Jesus the healer</b> Jesus demonstrates his love and compassion as he meets the needs of people he encounters	<b>Mark 1:29-39</b> Healing power
2 October 12		<b>Mark 1:40-45</b> Healing touch
3 October 19		<b>Mark 3:1-6</b> Healing word
4 October 26		<b>Mark 5:21-43</b> Healing faith
5 November 2	<b>In God's hands</b> We hear how God protects David in his early life	<b>1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23</b> Close to God's heart
6 November 9		<b>1 Samuel 17:1 - 18:5; Psalm 23</b> Larger than life?
7 November 16		<b>1 Samuel 19,20; Psalm 23</b> Kept safe
8 November 23		<b>1 Samuel 24; Psalm 23</b> Wait for God's time
9 November 30 (Advent 1)	<b>Good and faithful God</b> We explore the lives of characters in the Christmas story and discover God's goodness and faithfulness	<b>Luke 1:26-38</b> Trusting Mary
10 December 7		<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b> Obedient Joseph
11 December 14		<b>Luke 2:1-20</b> The praising shepherds
12 December 21		<b>Matthew 2:1-15</b> The worshipping wise men
13 December 28		<b>Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12</b> Happy Christmas!

January-March 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 4	<b>Following Jesus</b> A series designed to challenge our understanding of who Jesus is and what he expects from us	<b>Luke 4:16-30; Isaiah 61:1,2</b> Running thread
2 January 11		<b>Luke 5:17-26</b> Being restored
3 January 18		<b>Luke 7:36-50</b> Being thankful
4 January 25		<b>Luke 10:38-42</b> What Jesus wants
5 February 1	<b>Good King David?</b> God promises David that he will be a powerful ruler and that one of his descendants will always be king	<b>2 Samuel 5:4-12; 6:1-19</b> David: a new king
6 February 8		<b>2 Samuel 7</b> David: a king for ever
7 February 15		<b>2 Samuel 9</b> David: a good king
8 February 22		<b>2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:15</b> David: a king who goes wrong
9 March 1	<b>Jesus challenges us</b> Jesus' parables confront us with challenges about how we should live	<b>Matthew 7:13-29</b> Decisions to make
10 March 8		<b>Matthew 25:1-13</b> Bridesmaids
11 March 15		<b>Matthew 25:14-30</b> Talents
12 March 22		<b>Matthew 25:31-46</b> Sheep and goats
13 March 29	<b>Victorious love</b>	<b>Luke 19:28-40; 22:39-48</b> The King's decision

April-June 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 5	<b>Victorious love</b> Jesus completes his work and death is defeated	<b>Luke 24:1-12</b> Death defeated
2 April 12		<b>Luke 24:13-35</b> Walk to Emmaus
3 April 19		<b>Luke 24:36-49</b> Flesh and bones
4 April 26	<b>Solomon</b> Solomon displays the importance of honouring God and reflecting his holiness	<b>1 Kings 5-8</b> God moves in
5 May 3		<b>1 Kings 11:1-13,26-43; 12:1 - 13:10</b> Solomon moves out
6 May 10	<b>Only Jesus</b> Find out what Jesus said about himself, and that he is the only one to follow	<b>John 14:1-14</b> True path
7 May 17		<b>John 15:1-17</b> True growth
8 May 24		<b>John 14:15-31; 16:5-15</b> True guide
9 May 31	<b>Travelling in faith</b> The first followers of Jesus find their lives turned upside down, but they know that Jesus is with them always	<b>Acts 13</b> Starting out
10 June 7		<b>Acts 14</b> Hard times
11 June 14		<b>Acts 16:1-15</b> The church grows
12 June 21		<b>Acts 16:16-40</b> Prison praise
13 June 28		<b>Psalms 103:1-5</b> Praise the healer

July-September 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 5	<b>Elijah the prophet</b> The incomparable power of the Lord God is seen through the life of Elijah	<b>1 Kings 17</b> Power to provide
2 July 12		<b>1 Kings 18</b> Power to amaze
3 July 19		<b>1 Kings 19</b> Power to protect
4 July 26		<b>1 Kings 21:1-19; 22:29-40</b> Power to judge
5 August 2	<b>Living with Jesus</b> Explore Peter's experience of God's goodness and mercy as he follows Jesus	<b>Mark 1:16-20</b> New way of life
6 August 9		<b>Mark 8:27-30</b> New understanding
7 August 16		<b>Mark 9:2-13</b> New perspective
8 August 23		<b>Mark 14:27-31,66-72</b> Old fears
9 August 30		<b>John 21:15-19</b> New start
10 September 6	<b>Elisha the prophet</b> God's power is seen through his prophet, Elisha	<b>2 Kings 4:1-7</b> Powerful provider
11 September 13		<b>2 Kings 4:8-37</b> Powerful life-giver
12 September 20		<b>2 Kings 5</b> Powerful healer
13 September 27		<b>2 Kings 6:8-23</b> Powerful warrior

## theGRID (11-14s)

October-December 2014

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 5	<b>Mark's Messianic mystery tour</b> Discover Jesus as Lord through the Gospel of Mark	<b>Mark 1:29-39</b> In sickness and in health
2 October 12		<b>Mark 1:40-45</b> I am the law
3 October 19		<b>Mark 3:1-6</b> Rest in peace
4 October 26		<b>Mark 5:21-43</b> Don't fear the reaper
5 November 2	<b>The boy becomes a man</b> The early years of David's life	<b>1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23</b> About a boy
6 November 9		<b>1 Samuel 17:1 - 18:5</b> Hunky gory
7 November 16		<b>1 Samuel 19:1-17</b> He's just a jealous guy
8 November 23		<b>1 Samuel 24; Psalm 23</b> I'm not the bad guy
9 November 30 (Advent 1)	<b>Christmas time</b> Theme sessions drawn from the Christmas story	<b>Luke 1:26-56</b> Angels
10 December 7		<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b> Dreams
11 December 14		<b>Luke 2:1-21</b> Look at the stars
12 December 21		<b>Matthew 2:1-15</b> Jesus is born
13 December 28		<b>Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12</b> Happy Christmas!

January-March 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 4	<b>Do you know this man?</b> It's Jesus, but not as you know him. Prepare to be challenged as you meet him in a new way	<b>Luke 4:16-30; Isaiah 61:1-3a</b> The real Bible code
2 January 11		<b>Luke 5:17-26</b> No waiting list
3 January 18		<b>Luke 7:36-50</b> Extravagant worship
4 January 25		<b>Luke 10:38-42</b> The better thing
5 February 1	<b>Good King David?</b> God promises David that he will be a powerful ruler and that one of his descendants will always be king	<b>2 Samuel 5:4-12; 6:1-19</b> Starting out
6 February 8		<b>2 Samuel 7</b> Thinking big
7 February 15		<b>2 Samuel 9</b> Doing well
8 February 22		<b>2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:15</b> Going wrong
9 March 1	<b>Counterculture shock</b> How the kingdom of heaven should affect our lives	<b>Matthew 7:13-29</b> Subsidence
10 March 8		<b>Matthew 25:1-13</b> Live fast, die never
11 March 15		<b>Matthew 25:14-30</b> If it's true, then...
12 March 22		<b>Matthew 25:31-46</b> Deadstock
13 March 29		<b>God of victory</b> <b>Luke 19:28-44</b> Fame idol

April-June 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 5	<b>God of victory</b> Jesus completes his work and death is defeated	<b>Luke 24:1-12</b> Life reloaded
2 April 12		<b>Luke 24:13-35</b> What a difference a day makes!
3 April 19		<b>Luke 24:36-49</b> We are witnesses
4 April 26	<b>Going solo</b> God is entirely good and he desires that his people reflect his holiness	<b>1 Kings 5-7; 8:1-13,54-61</b> My way or the highway
5 May 3		<b>1 Kings 11:1-13,26-43; 12:1 - 13:10</b> The tears of a clown
6 May 10	<b>The unique mystery</b> How the three, who are one, can guide us in the truth	<b>John 14:1-14</b> We are the one
7 May 17		<b>John 15:1-17</b> Staying close
8 May 24		<b>John 14:15-31; 16:5-15</b> Spirit guide
9 May 31	<b>Relationships</b> Thinking biblically about various relationships that young people have	<b>Exodus 20:12</b> Family
10 June 7		<b>Proverbs 1,2,11,18,24</b> Friends
11 June 14		<b>Song of Solomon 4:1-7; 8:6,7; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7</b> 'Just good friends' ;)
12 June 21		<b>Luke 16:19-31</b> The afterlife?
13 June 28		<b>Psalms 103:1-5</b> Do not forget

July-September 2015

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 5	<b>Extreme prophecy</b> God's power and justice in the life of Elijah	<b>1 Kings 17</b> 'Can I have some more?'
2 July 12		<b>1 Kings 18</b> Great Baals of fire
3 July 19		<b>1 Kings 19</b> I'm not the one and only
4 July 26		<b>1 Kings 21:1-19; 22:29-40</b> Not beyond justice
5 August 2	<b>Following Jesus</b> God's mercy shown through Peter's successes and failings	<b>Mark 1:16-20</b> Want to know me?
6 August 9		<b>Mark 8:27-30</b> Do you know me?
7 August 16		<b>Mark 9:2-13</b> Do you really know me?
8 August 23		<b>Mark 14:27-31,66-72</b> I don't know you!
9 August 30		<b>John 21:15-19</b> Well, I love you
10 September 6	<b>Elisha</b> God shows his power through 'hopeless' situations	<b>2 Kings 4:1-7</b> Eco oil
11 September 13		<b>2 Kings 4:8-37</b> Breathe again
12 September 20		<b>2 Kings 5</b> Healing dips
13 September 27		<b>2 Kings 6:8-23</b> Blindfolded