

Curriculum: **Firelight II**

Publisher: Augsburg Fortress Publishers
www.augsburgfortress.org/learning/sundayschool/firelight/
PO Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209 (800-328-4648)

Denomination: Lutheran (ELCA) – ecumenical

Foundational doctrine: “Change how you tell the story. Not the story you tell.” (Based on Howard Gardiner’s “Multiple Intelligences” theory.) All activities are grounded in real life – providing an easy way for leaders to help kids make important connections between their Christian faith and the Bible stories they study. “In Christian education settings, when groups of two, three, five, 12, 20 or more gather together, God is present as learning ignites.” The five “sparks”:

1. Faith is a given.
2. Learning Happens.
3. We’re different – and that’s good!
4. Everybody has a story and a question.
5. God promises grace.

Scriptural/Theological Content: Lessons are based on (currently) four units – each containing materials to explore five Bible stories:

Most Certainly True! Living the Catechism

Circle of Seasons: Living the Church Year

Kingdom Stories: Learning Jesus’ Parables

Wonder Stories: Learning Jesus’ Miracles

Bible stories are paraphrased; use of “The Learning Bible” (Contemporary English Version). Little sacramental theology used. “Experiential learning stimulates learners to come to know the Bible characters as real people – with real experiences and feelings.” Additional CD-ROM with seasonal ideas.

Articulation: Each unit (not dated) has resources to explore five Bible stories. Each of the five Bible stories has material and clear directions for exploring that story over two to four sessions — using each unit for as few as ten weeks and as many as twenty weeks. Because of the flexibility of the program, the units can be purchased and used independently and in any order. All grade levels focus on the same stories/units.

New Testament 5%

Old Testament 5%

Gospels 90%

Interest / Abilities of Teachers: Each leader gets a Leader Pack which includes one Unit Guide, One Learner Resource and Five Bible Story Guide foldouts. Each lesson is on a large foldout format with clear directions for organizing each session in a variety of situations. Video and training book are included which explains “how to spark the learning.” Numerous teaching aids, clip art, discussion forums on the Website.

Learning Activities, Format & Media: A wide array of learning techniques include: exploration, art, music, drama, games, storytelling, puppets, food, video, science, computers, Godbearing, movies, video production and social justice (each lasting 20-40 minutes. Learning tools include paper, CDs and posters.

1. Prepare(foundational information for the teacher)
2. Present (the Bible story)
3. Pick (one or two of the 10 Deeper Learning Options)

Setting: Flexibility to a variety of settings with instructions of how to implement each: traditional classroom, learning centers, rotation-style model, one-room schoolhouse. Other possibilities are suggested: after school, summer ministries, intergenerational, evening programs, retreats.

Inviolate Principle of Choice: Depending on the setting, learners can have a great deal of choice in what they choose to do. Flexible in teacher or learner direction.

Age group differentiation: Materials published in group levels, although all follow the same story: Ages 2-3, PreK-K, Grade 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Middle School/Jr. High

Home Involvement: Storybooks can be taken home after a unit. Each unit has a parent letter explaining the curriculum. Reproducible home pages on CD-ROM.

Language: Very open-ended with student choice and discussion encouraged. “Formation – not instruction” is encouraged. Little convictional or informal language.

Sociological: Language is inclusive and multi-culturally presented.

Attendance Pattern: Flexible, especially if used in a rotation-style model.

Cost: Per module: \$49.99 Leader Pack; \$39.99 Leader Guide (reproducible); \$5.99 CD tunes; \$9.99 Posters; \$29.99 CD-ROM home pages; (\$79.99 Starter Kit for six age-level Leader Packs, and supporting materials)