

Curriculum: **Live B.I.G. (Belief in God)**

Publisher: Cokesbury www.iLiveBIG.com or www.cokesbury.com
201 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37202 (800-251-8591)

Denomination: United Methodist Church

Foundational doctrine: *Live B.I.G. is all about living your Belief in God. The goal of Live B.I.G. curriculum is to help equip Sunday School teachers, Christian educators, pastors, and parents with inviting stories, role models, sights and sounds that provide a foundation for Christian living that leads children to experience and mirror God in their everyday lives.* Children will experience the wonder of God in new ways that is contemporary and modeled after the real life they live through the use of multi-media (DVD which is central to the curriculum), bring the world into the classroom and providing live role models of Christian living.

Scriptural/Theological Content: A two-year (12 month) scope & sequence has been developed. Children need to encounter God for themselves. Live B.I.G. will lead children to experience God through coming to know Jesus and the Bible, relationships with others, praise and worship, and learning about God's creation.

Articulation: A Bible-based scope and sequence, each month has a "B.I.G. theme" across all ages, with a different lesson for each week following the theme. Monthly themes use both Old and New Testament scripture. Themes during Advent focus on Jesus' birth and during Lent / Easter focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus. A monthly DVD features a specific theme that is supported by teacher tips, actors acting out life situations, music clips, interviews with churches and mission projects, art, photos and videos that illustrated the Bible story. (NRSV and CEV)

Interest / Abilities of Teachers: Easy-to-use step-by-step lesson plans with background information, games, activities, worship, prayer and Bible to be used following the class watching a 5-minute video that resembles a Saturday morning children's program. Music with motions, pictures and video of children and visits to churches & missions around the world are also included on the video. Quarterly Leader Guide includes reproducible sheets for each lesson, that is also available for download on their website which also will contain additional teaching helps (website still 'under construction.')

Learning Activities, Format & Media: Lessons are dependent on the DVD that begins each session. Activities include art and discussion. DVD provides music, motions, TV-type show (developmentally different for each level)

1. Invite them in – arrival activities
2. Into the Bible – activities to explore the Bible story
3. Into Life – activities to connect children's lives to the Bible story

Setting: Classroom

Inviolable Principle of Choice: Teacher led activities, following the DVD.

Age group differentiation:

- *Preschool* (ages 3-6) DVD includes a fantasy backyard Saturday television show setting with Mr. Z and Ms. Lucy (with puppet Bongo) as they related Bible stories and lead contemporary songs with movements. Divided into 2 levels (Ages 3-4 & 5-6)
- *Elementary* (ages 7-10) meet four teens as they interact with Ms. Ana at “The Station,” an after-school hangout where the kids are involved in discussions about life, the Bible and what living B.I.G. is all about. Divided into 2 levels (7-8 & 9-10)
- *Tweens* (ages 11-13) gather each week at the “Common Ground Café” with four teenagers who talk about everyday issues and questions of faith with Will, the proprietor, who offers food, fun and advice.
- *One-room* format uses the cast & storyline in the Elementary DVD but uses the activities for all ages (3-13)

Home Involvement: Handouts can be taken home for family discussion. Website will have a section for parents with summaries of lessons, ideas for home with family games and activities and FAQs.

Language: Non-convictional. No sacramental teaching. All bible stories.

Sociological: Diverse representations on DVD to include Spanish speaking characters, handicapped children, multi-cultural cast. Video clips of other parts of the world.

Attendance Pattern: Each lesson is independent.

Cost: Leader Guide: \$15.00; Annual DVD kit \$199.00; quarterly kid’s book \$4.50; Bongo puppet \$30.00; Classroom decoration kit \$30.00