

Curriculum: **Seasons of the Spirit**

Publisher: Logos Productions, Inc. www.spiritseasons.com
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Denomination: Ecumenical partnership between independent and denominational publishers, in Canada, the United States and New Zealand.

Foundational doctrine: To provide God's people with lectionary-based, ecumenical resources that empower all ages to be transformed in Christ as they: explore meaning and mystery in the Bible; celebrate in worship, sacraments, education, and service; engage in ministries of love, justice, and witness; and live in inclusive communities of faith shaped and led by the Holy Spirit. *Seasons of the Spirit* is intended to be a distinct gift to congregations.

Scriptural/Theological Content: Through the Bible, the Spirit leads us to know God, Jesus Christ, and God's call to live lives of faith, love, and justice. The Bible contains meaning and mystery beyond the printed words. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to engage continually in biblical exploration in community. We learn from biblical scholarship and value the insights and experiences of people of diverse cultures and life situations and all ages and eras. The lectionary provides an organized, holistic exploration of Scripture, linking education and worship and calling us to service. Through the yearly cycle of readings, we are drawn into the story of God's creation of all things; God's calling and forming a people; the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; and the witness of the early church in the world.

Articulation: Lectionary based following the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). Most weeks focus on the Gospel lesson, while there is a theme chosen from all the readings for the lesson topic.

Interest / Abilities of Teachers: Recognizes the limited economic resources of many congregations and parishes by providing team teaching opportunities and multi-age groupings, employs a wide variety of teaching methods and learning styles, provides clear and practical support needed to equip persons with many different gifts and levels of experience for the ministry of teaching. Internet support and chat-rooms are available. Bible background included in teacher preparation sections. The website has numerous resources posted for use on a variety of topics.

Learning Activities, Format & Media: Uses a variety of media and art forms, including Internet resources. Teacher resource has all materials listed with reproducible materials for students such as crossword puzzles, pictures, and prayers. Music CDs are available, as well as posters.

1. Gather – prepare before the session and opening prayer
2. Engage – activities
3. Respond – in the world
4. Bless – send forth

Setting: Classroom with material for congregational settings: *Congregational Life* (for worship and outreach) and *Jesus is Alive Today* (words and music) for worship. It is designed to be used in educational settings: both formal and informal, traditional and non-traditional. Can be adapted to Rotation Workshop Model and one-room schoolhouse settings using the Multi-age module

Inviolate Principle of Choice: Teacher directed, with options and inclusion of many aspects of congregational life, if desired.

Age group differentiation: Material is produced in the following configurations: Ages 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-18, Multi-age, Adult

Home Involvement: Intentionally connect education with other dimensions of the church's life and practices: worship, hospitality, guidance, witness, stewardship of God's creation, and ministries of compassion and justice.

- *Spirit Sightings* are intended to lift up international news stories and current events, linking these to the lectionary passages for each Sunday. Adults, clergy, and adult Bible study leaders might visit this section of the website each week to enrich Bible study, for personal reflection, or to prepare sermons.
- *Action Zone!* is a place for kids, youth, teachers and leaders to find fun, interactive activities that enhance the printed curriculum via the Internet.

Language: Convictional with many denominations represented, showing diversity while not espousing any one particular denominational doctrine.

Sociological: God calls us into the body of Christ, the church. This church is, at the same time, both one and many. It is one, in that all who respond to Christ's claim are members of that body. It is also diverse, encompassing persons of various nations, denominations, ages, abilities, cultures, ethnicities, genders, orientations, and economic and social situations. When the church honors and regards both its oneness and its diversity—living with the tension—it expresses the reign of God. In the development of the material, the following was a guiding goal:

- Be committed to the use of inclusive language and images.
- Provide a variety of teaching/learning experiences, sensitive to different ages, abilities, cultures, global perspectives, and styles of learning.
- Receive the stories of those who are marginalized and those whose voices have not been heard.
- Include expressions of the arts from various cultures and communities.

Attendance Pattern: Each lesson is independent, although possibilities for ongoing projects and seasonal activities are suggested for intergenerational and congregational events.

Cost: Materials are ordered per nine-month period (Sept. – May). Age level resource \$149.60 or 56.95 for one season; *Congregational Life* \$192.95; Multi-age resource \$304.30; Music CD & Songbook \$31.95, Team Teacher supplement \$58.25 WEB BASED and print available.