

Curriculum: **Walk With Me**

Publisher: Faith Alive Christian Resources www.WalkWithMeOnline.org
Reformed Church in America with Presbyterians for Renewal
(800-333-8300)

Denomination: Reformed / Presbyterian

Foundational doctrine: *Walk With Me* sessions have been crafted, both theologically and pedagogically, from the Reformed perspective. We take the Bible's teachings seriously. Our deeply biblical spin on the lordship of Christ and our role as God's covenant people are very evident in this curriculum. We believe that every story in the Bible tells us about God and that every story must be understood as part of the one story of God's redemption and restoration of this fallen world through Jesus Christ. We aim to be faithful to Scripture and to make the Reformed faith come alive in our everyday experiences as children of God.

Scriptural/Theological Content: Goals include: To nurture and encourage each child to know, love, and serve God; To nurture the faith of children and leaders within a caring community; To teach children the story of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation; To help children understand biblical/Reformed truths; To challenge children and leaders to live their faith; To equip children to share their faith and serve others in the community; To partner with families in the faith nurture of their children; To encourage children to make the church's teachings their own; To help children value the rich diversity of people in God's kingdom. Memory work is in two versions: NIV and NRSV

Articulation: A two-year scope and sequence quarterly, Year 1 for Kindergarten through Grade 5 is focused on Old Testament lessons, while Year 2 concentrates on the New Testament. Grades 6-8 is a three year program, with units on topics such as Tough Choices, Talking with God, Stewardship and Sexuality. At each level the materials are divided into nine units of four sessions each (plus separate Christmas, Easter and summer units), except at the four-year-old level, which offers one full year of forty lessons.

Interest / Abilities of Teachers: Leader's Guides contain complete session plans for a 45-minute class period, with suggestions for shorter or longer sessions. Suggestions are offered for including other adults in the congregation in teaching and sharing gifts & skills. Background material is included in each lesson, and support is also offered on the website, including a step-by-step tutorial on how to read the lesson plans.

Learning Activities, Format & Media: In addition to Leader's Guide, a CD is available with music, stories, games and other resources. Posters, comic books, trivia or game cards and magazines are also available. Based on Howard Gardiner's theory of multiple intelligences, within each session are activities based on: word smart, number smart, picture smart, body smart, music smart, people smart, self smart and earth smart.

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1. Hello – Getting Acquainted
 - a. Memory Fun – a scripture passage to be learned over the four-session unit
 - b. Focus – key teaching or theme of the session
2. Know – Telling the Story
3. Grow – Review and Praise – activity and song
4. Show – Closing activity
5. Overtime – extra activities
 - a. Worship
 - b. Other activities

Setting: A worship-education center: a place for children to be themselves that is respected as a space for community and open to the sacredness of God. The room contains shelves full of objects for children to use – images that make the stories come alive, a whole system of Christian language.

Inviolate Principle of Choice: Teacher led activities, with specific directions as to how to lead conversation.

Age group differentiation: The curriculum is designed for four-year-olds through eighth graders as follows: Preschool (1 year), Kindergarten/Grade 1 (2 years), Grades 2-3 (2 years), Grades 4-5 (2 years), Grades 6-8 (3 years). A two-session Christmas unit and a two-session Easter unit are offered each year for all age levels together.

Home Involvement: At the beginning of each school year, a special session is encouraged for parents and guardians as well as family letters for each unit; all found in the Coordinator’s Handbook. Children have take-home papers and the session activities produce something for the child to bring home – “something that will give parents and other members of the family an understanding of the stories and truths the child learned in a unit.”

Language: Convictional. The theology taught in the ecumenical Christian creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian) and in the confessions and doctrinal standards of the Reformed/Presbyterian churches.

Sociological: The worship-education classroom is a safe space for children – a place where their ideas, opinions, and gifts are deeply respected. The materials/figures usually do not have faces on them, allowing children to project their own image/face on them.

Attendance Pattern: Although each lesson is independent, children would need to be regular in attendance to learn the pace of the classroom. A child who arrives late will be admitted by the “greeter” as soon as they are ready to enter the room quietly without disturbing the circle of children engaged in a story.

Cost: Preschool: children’s cards \$9.50 / Resource Box \$104.95; K-Grade 5: Student \$8.35 / Leader \$20.95 / CD \$12.95; Grade 6-8: Student \$7.50 / Leader \$15.70; Coordinator’s Handbook \$19.95

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