

# Redemption Church

## HOME CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

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### OVERVIEW

This season of Church life has a lot of drawbacks, but we think it has also presented a few opportunities. This season of isolation requires that the family become major participants in the spiritual formation of our children. **While we believe this has always been the case**, there is no question that it is true now. In other words, if we don't take seriously the spiritual rhythms and formation of our family, it is possible that our family will go months without it. Remember how you felt when your child's school was cancelled for the year? You probably began imagining how you might homeschool or maybe how you might come up with projects or reading assignments so that they can keep their learning skills sharp. It is the same with our spirituality, if we are not forming we are falling into atrophy. That is why we wanted to give you as much help as we can to guide you at home.

Below is a quick rundown of our U18 ministries and the curriculum we use in each area. This is the language we use to describe these ministries, what we are trying to do, and what we hope your children respond to. Please take the time to educate yourself about each ministry before you begin using our family curriculum which is written in collaboration with these curriculums.

### ONE BIG THING

If you have heard it once, you have heard it a thousand times at Redemption: NARRATIVE. Story is the most important aspect of each of these curriculums. We all have a story we tell ourselves about the world, about God, about ourselves, and about each other. [As Christians, there is a particular kind of story that we are telling](#), participating in, and trusting. All of our curriculums are primarily about the story of God. The teacher's responsibility (that's you) is to help our children see where they, and their Redemption Church family, fit into that story.

### A FEW THINGS WE NEED TO LEAVE BEHIND

Before we move forward, it is important to sync up on a few things. What is strange is that most of the things we need to discuss here are things that we need to agree **NOT** to do.

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- **Don't think you cannot be a part of your child's spiritual formation.** The reality is, you already are forming them. We have to get over the fear of messing up. I have read Stanley Hauerwas say something powerful about marriage, but it also applies to family life as well, "The problem with marriage is that you never marry the person that you are supposed to. This is the point of marriage, learning to love someone that doesn't exactly suit you." This also applies to spiritually forming our children, you will mess up and you will never be the perfect parent to your child (trust me I hear about it), but the Christian life is an education in, and an invitation to, a life of grace and love. If you mess up, wholeheartedly say you are sorry and work to repair.
  - **Don't think these lessons are an end.** We can fill our children's heads with stories and information, but the Word has to become flesh. In other words, we all have to participate in the rhythms and commitments of our allegiance to God and each other, and our children must see this happen. I have a friend who always says that what shaped him the most as a child was every morning before school, he would come downstairs, and his father would always put his Bible and notebook down before he came over to the table and ate breakfast with him. The word became flesh.

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## Seasons Curriculum | K - 4th Grade & 7th - 12th Grade

Seasons of the Spirit provides lectionary-based resources for worship and Christian education. These resources nurture faith through liturgy, ritual, imagination, and encourage Christian growth through worshipping, learning, and serving together. By equipping and enabling leaders, Seasons of the Spirit strives to empower children, youth, and adults to participate and foster "The hope that is in them."

This curriculum offers resources that encourage leaders and participants to be signs of God's liberating compassion and inclusive love, and to grow and be transformed in their relationship with Christ, God, and others. Seasons of the Spirit resources are developed collaboratively within an international and ecumenical group of writers, editors, and resource people, using the spirit of discernment, community exploration of biblical texts, and always mindful of current scholarship.

When you use this material with your K - 4th graders or 7th - 12th graders, remember what the curriculum is trying to do:

- **Explore** meaning and mystery in the Bible through the lectionary.

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- **Experience** the transforming power of Christ as worship, as sacraments, and as education.
  - **Invite** us to participate with what God is already doing at the heart of the church for the sake of the world.
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## Connect Curriculum | 5th & 6th Grade

Connect is narrative centered Sunday school for 5th and 6th graders. With Connect, kids see how individual Bible stories connect into larger themes that span the whole Bible from front to back. This curriculum is the most data heavy of all of our curriculums, and does not follow the liturgical calendar.

In the 2-year scope and sequence, tweens start their journey in the Old Testament. This gives them a solid understanding of the history of God's people, and adds context to who Jesus is and why Jesus is so important. In year 2, preteens continue with the New Testament, learning all about Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection.

When you use this material with your 5th and 6th graders, remember what the curriculum is trying to do:

- **See** – Helping kids see where each story fits into larger themes throughout scripture.
  - **Explore** – Use the Bible to read, highlight, and sketch as they search for passages that relate to the lesson theme. This is where they are introduced to holding and using scripture.
  - **Make** – Make associations between biblical themes and their own lives with activities and larger projects.
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## Godly Play | Preschool

Godly Play is an imaginative approach to telling the stories of God. It assumes that children have some experience of the mystery of the presence of God in their lives, but they lack the language, permission, and understanding to express and enjoy that in our culture. In Godly Play, we enter

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into parables, silence, sacred stories, and sacred liturgy in order to discover God, ourselves, one another, and the world around us.

The stories are designed to speak to the child's heart and soul more than their head. Playing with the story allows each child to take the story into their very being. A typical Sunday includes building the circle of children, getting ready to hear the story, sharing the story, wondering about the story, responding to the story (coloring, playdough, blocks, etc.), and ending with a feast (small snack which the children serve to each other). Normally, Godly Play follows the liturgical calendar, but during this time, some stories will be told because the kids LOVE them.

What to remember when listening to a Godly Play story with your children:

- **Take the time to get ready.** Ideally, everyone listening to the story should sit on the floor.
- **Let your child process the story themselves.** Instead of asking "What did you learn?" try asking "What was your favorite part?" In response, simply repeat back what your child said or ask another question. So if the story is Creation and your child's favorite part was when the animals were made, you can respond with "Oh, the animals" or "I wonder what animal God created first?"
- **Listening to a story at home could be more challenging than listening with other children in the Godly Play room at Redemption.** Children have a choice to sit in the circle or sit against the wall. Children have a choice of what their work is going to be. Do not force your children to participate in the way you think they should. Let them make it their own.