

A Guide for Evaluating Curriculum

A Reformed POINT of View

All persons of the Trinity are included: God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

God is the central character of the Bible. The sovereignty of God--that God is the one in charge--is apparent. God is revealed through God's Word and in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Both the humanity and the divinity of Jesus Christ are portrayed. The Spirit of God is at work in individuals and in the world initiating, confirming and sustaining faith.

God is revealed in the Bible, materials from both the Old and New Testaments are studied.

The whole Bible tells the story of God's love and interaction with God's creation therefore lessons include stories from both the Old and New Testaments. The stories of the Bible are sufficient and relevant to our lives today because they are the stories of God's people in relationship with God.

God is a God of grace.

God's love, grace, and forgiveness are understood to be gifts from God that are freely given. Faith is a response to those gifts.

God calls us to be holy people in community and to serve God through serving others.

Throughout history God calls and equips people for service. We live out our discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ as a grateful response to God's love and grace. God calls and we respond with faith and service. We are a servant people following a servant Lord. We are also called to be in community with one another--the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Worship and the sacraments are important to the life of the faith community.

When appropriate, connections are made in the lessons to the worshipping life of the congregation, including instruction about Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Faith language and practices are used to help learners become familiar with them and integrate them into their daily life experience.

Illustrations, examples, and language treat all persons with respect.

In story illustrations you will find people of different ages, races, ethnicities, gender, abilities, socio-economic levels, and locales represented. The diversity of all people is honored and respected. Imagery and language for God is rich and diverse, rooted in Biblical, historical, and contemporary tradition.

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Questions to ask about the curriculum

Theological Criteria

- Are all persons of the Trinity included: God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit?
- Are both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible taught?
- Are the Bible stories central to the lesson?
- Are connections made between the lesson and worship and the sacraments when appropriate?

Educational Criteria

- Are different activities addressing multiple ways of learning incorporated over a period of time?
- Are there a variety of activities in each lesson and are they age appropriate?
- Is diversity and inclusiveness incorporated through art, language, and examples?
- Are the activities connected to the objectives of the lesson?
- Do the activities allow students to think for themselves and express their own feelings?
- Are there connections made to daily life?

Practical Criteria

- Are there clear and understandable directions for the leader?
- Is the lesson plan well organized and the format and design attractive?
- Is the curriculum adaptable to different class sizes?
- What is the price of the:
 - Leader guide
 - Participant materials
 - Take home materials
 - Other

Create your own criteria that is specific to your situation.