

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

BOOK RESOURCES/CURRICULUM

e|Merge*

Just what you need for dynamic and spiritually enriching youth group programs. e|Merge is a box full of resources that will help you with large group teaching and fellowship and small group discussion and discipleship. The box contains a director's guide and DVD and two small-group leader's guides, each with an enhanced CD. e|Merge uses a model that combines large-group teaching enhanced by digital media and small-group discussion. Weekly programs are organized by theme, and each theme includes three to six weeks of material. The interactive DVD features video segments, PowerPoint games, printable handouts, and a video showing a working model of the program. The interactive CDs found in the small group leader's guides provide leader training in MP3 format and printable handouts for use in the small-group setting.

Bible Lessons For Youth*

Bible Lessons for Youth is designed for youth in grades 7-12 and it covers the entire Bible in six years. Bible Lessons for Youth is based on the International Lessons Series (as is Adult Bible Studies) and it uses a Bible-to-life approach. Bible Lessons for Youth includes separate student and teacher books. Bible Lessons for Youth (Student Book) uses activities to engage student interest, focuses on how Scripture relates to their lives and prints the Scripture reading for easy access to the Bible. Bible Lessons for Youth (Leader Guide) includes a facsimile of each page from the student book to make planning easy, gives excellent Bible background, and provides step-by-step, in-depth lesson plans.

Combos For Youth*

Would you like to be able to coordinate all of your youth group activities and classes under a single unifying theme? Would you like a set of complete, month-long youth programs you can customize to your preference? Combos for Youth Groups programs are stuffed with coordinated "menus" that include choices such as offsite activities, Service Projects, Class Lessons, Skit Scripts, Scripture Tie-ins, Music, Videos, Games, Handouts, Devo Aids, Illustrative Snacks, Discussion Questions, Hands-on Activities, Theme Wall Decor, PowerPoint Presentations. Each Combos for Youth Groups volume includes complete plans, plus a CD-ROM for customizing six multi-faceted, month-long youth group themes. Completed four-volume set gives you Youth Group programming for two years!

Ready-To-Go Youth Ministry Series*

These ready-made event packages come complete with everything you need to easily prepare and smoothly execute fun and instructive youth activities. You can spend less time planning event details and more time directly engaging your teens. Ready-to-Go resources are equipped with event themes that target contemporary issues teens face in the real world. These relevant messages are delivered with impact through coordinated devotional plans, discussion frameworks, and captivating activities. All the event accessories you need are included, down to publicity fliers and parental forms. Just add a youth group.

* Indicates Resources Available Through Cokesbury

LINKS TO YOUTH PROGRAMMING/GAMES

www.youthpastor.com

This site contains numerous lessons in varying categories. It has links to youth gaming, lessons, and youth leader support. This would be a very helpful site to visit if you were just beginning in youth ministry, and had no idea where how to start.

<http://www.gospel.com/topics/youth+lessons>

This site contains many outside links to youth group lessons in multiple categories.

<http://www.egadideas.com/>

This site is a must-have bookmark for any youth worker. It contains lessons, inside/outside games, scavenger hunt ideas, illustration ideas, children's sermon ideas, and numerous other helpful resources for youth group leaders.

<http://www.thesource4ym.com/GAMES/>

Are you just beginning a youth program at your church, or a newly assigned youth pastor? This site has several great ideas for icebreakers and mixers that will help you get to know your new group and help them to get to know you in a fun way.

<http://www.christianbook.com/>

Christian Book Distributors is a very cost effective distributor of helpful support resources, curriculum, devotionals, and Bible Studies, to name a few. If you are in need of that perfect ministry resource for your group, this would be a great place to look for it.

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/home.aspx>

Cokesbury is also a great way to find helpful curriculum and resources for youth ministry. The advantage is that Cokesbury has several stores in Ohio, including two in the Columbus area; there is one on High Street and one at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, near Delaware. If you see something you think might be helpful, you can make a trip to the store to peruse through the resource before you purchase it to see if it is what you want/need. Plus, the convenience of a store removes shipping costs.

GAME IDEAS

Here are some really helpful games that can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Human Checkers: Cut pieces of black and white cardboard in half, and lay them out on the floor as a checkerboard. There will be an initial cost to this project, but the board can be used again and again. Break youth into two even teams, each group gets one move per turn, and have to work together as a team to determine who will move. Once a player is able to "jump" another player, they will do it in a leapfrog-type fashion. Local Burger King restaurants have crowns that they will usually donate for church purposes. Grab a few of these to "king" players once they reach the opposite end of the board. This is a great team-building/leadership exercise.

Bible Scavenger Hunt: Find various people, and concepts throughout the Bible, and type them out on a sheet of paper. Give this to your youth once they have been split into groups of 2-3 and allow them one half hour to find a passage about a person, or one that contains a word such as "love" or "friend". This is a good thing to do inside during the wintertime, and will take up some time if you are short of activities. This game should only be used if you feel confident in your youth's knowledge of the Bible.

Underwear Relay: Find the biggest underwear briefs you possible can and pair children up by even height. They must get into the underwear facing back to back, and will race to a certain marked finish line. This is a really fun project for the youth, and it is fairly entertaining to watch.

Frozen T-Shirt: This is a great game for a hot summer meeting. Purchase white t-shirts and wet them down a few days before the meeting. Wad them up into a ball, place them individually in freezer bags, and let them get hard and frozen. During the meeting split the youth into teams of 3-4 and hand them the frozen ball, tell them that they have to thaw it out, and the first team with someone wearing one of the t-shirts wins. It is amazing to see what the kids will do to thaw out this t-shirt. **WARNING:** Do not allow them to use running water of any kind on the shirts, as the game will end quickly, and it defeats the purpose of working as a team.

Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt: This game is wonderful if there is a neighborhood surrounding your church. The idea is to come up with a list of household items, such as a paper towel, a magazine dated before 2000, a thumbtack, a can of food for the food pantry, etc. Send the youth into the neighborhood in groups with an adult attendant to find as many items on the list as they can. This is a great outreach project to the neighbors, and the youth seem to enjoy it. Place a time limit on this activity, but allow plenty of time for youth to retrieve most items on the list.