



**URC Children's and Youth Work
Library of Resources for Children Aged Under 11
December 2017**

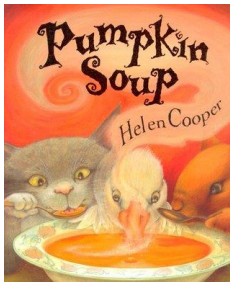
In need of inspiration? In search of new resources for your children's group? Looking for ideas for a particular event or season? Here are some resources we recommend for children under 11, their families and those working with them.

We've organised the resources into categories to help you find what you're looking for. These are:

Stories (with a message)	Page 2
Themed and General Resources	Page 5
Bible, Worship, Prayers and Reflection	Page 7
General Lectionary	Page 10
Music	Page 11
Sport	Page 12
Magazines	Page 13
Lent and Easter	Page 14
Christmas	Page 15
Children's Work Literature	Page 17

If you would like any more information on these materials or have some suggestions of your own, please contact us by e-mail at children.youth@urc.org.uk, by phone on 020 7916 2020 or by post to Children's and Youth Work Office, URC House, 86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT.

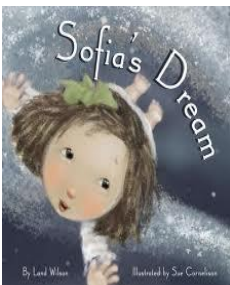
Stories (with a message)



Pumpkin Soup

by Helen Cooper (*Corgi Children's*)

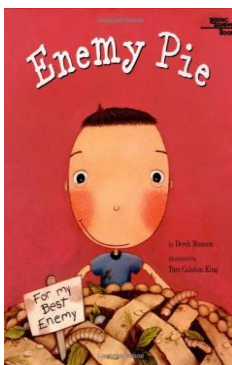
Three friends make the most wonderful pumpkin soup everyday, until Duck wants to try and do something different. Sharing and the importance of friendship feature highly in this lovely tale, suitable for linking with 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 about the body and every part having it's place.



Sofia's Dream

by Land Wilson (*Little Pickle Press*)

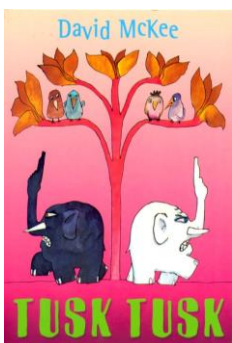
Sofia loves looking at the moon. One night, she dreams of being on the moon, looking at the earth and how damaged it has become. Join her and her best friend as they seek to clean up the world with recycling, tree-planting and other responsible ways of looking after creation. Great to accompany any environmental project, activity or theme.



Enemy Pie

by Derek Munson (*Chronicle Books*)

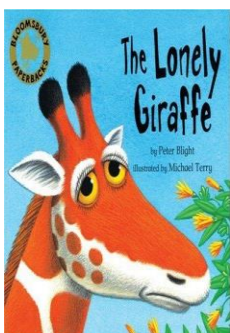
A young boy takes his dad's advice for getting rid of enemies; make them an enemy pie! An engaging story showing that enemies can be turned into friends by spending time with them and getting to know them better. It explores issues around friendship and how to handle conflict, weaving in feelings of anger and jealousy with a surprising end.



Tusk Tusk

by David McKee (*A Sparrow Book*)

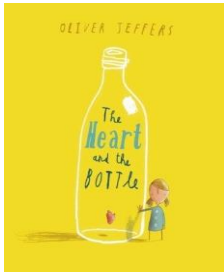
Two groups of elephants (black and white) hate each other so much that they wage war against each another. While they are fighting, the peace-loving elephants go deep into the jungle and are not seen again. Filled with bright illustrations, 'Tusk Tusk' is a thought provoking, useful introduction to such themes as war, prejudice, racism and tolerance.



The Lonely Giraffe

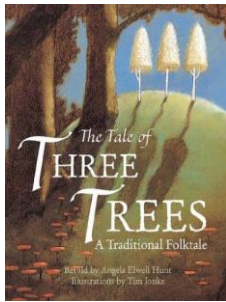
by Peter Blight (*Bloomsbury paperbacks*)

Poor giraffe is misunderstood by the other jungle animals and feels very lonely and left out. It is only when the jungle is threatened by a flood that the animals find a friend in the giraffe as he helps them to safety. A charming story of acceptance and misunderstanding showing that no one should be considered an 'outsider'.



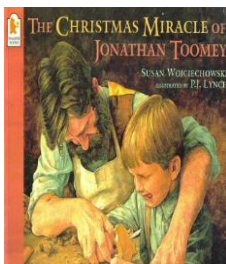
The Heart in the Bottle
by Oliver Jeffers (Harper Collins)

Once there was a girl whose life was filled with wonder at the world around her... Then one day something happened to make the girl to hide her heart away, in a safe place. This deeply moving story deals with the weighty themes of love and loss, showing that there is always hope.



The Tale of Three Trees – A Traditional Folktale
retold by Angela Elwell Hunt (Lion Hudson PLC)

This beautiful little hardback book, exploring how we can serve Jesus, is all about dreams. ‘Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up...’ God heard their dreams and fulfilled them in ways the trees could never have imagined...



The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey
by Susan Wojciechowski (Walker Children's Books)

This heart-warming story tells of a gloomy woodcarver who is asked to make a set of nativity figures for the widow McDowell and her 7 year old son, Thomas. Beautifully illustrated this tale is great as a stand-alone read or linked to other activities.



The Paper Dolls
by Julia Donaldson and Rebecca Cobb (Macmillan Children's Books)

A breathtaking story of a little girl and her five paper dolls who embark on a fantastic adventure through the house and out into the garden. They soon escape the clutches of the toy dinosaur and the snapping jaws of the oven-glove crocodile, but then a very real pair of scissors threatens.



Six Men
by David McKee (North-South Books)

This book tells a simple story of men with wealth and land starting to worry about other people coming to steal it from them. Although meant for children, this work appeals to all ages and is great as a reflection, discussion starter or part of a session on peace and conflict.



Where Children Sleep

by James Mollison (<http://jamesmollison.com/books/where-children-sleep/>)

This moving collection of photographs, depicting children's bedrooms from around the world, presents readers with the diversity and, often, unfair and difficult circumstances in which children are expected to sleep and grow. Suitable for children aged 9 and over, but insightful for all.



In God's Name

by Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (*Jewish Lights Publishing*)

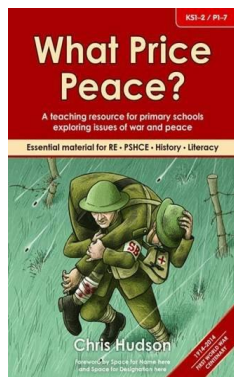
This beautifully illustrated book describes some of many varied names given to God. Creator, Giver of Life, Sustainer, Father, Mother... As the people in the story share these names with each other, they discover that every one of them offers important truth and insight on God's nature and identity. Includes a companion version more suitable for younger children.

Themed and General Resources



10 fun faith family things to do with stones (www.GodVenture.co.uk)

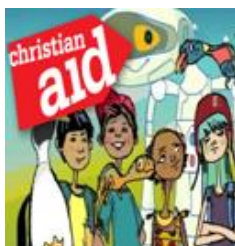
Whether it is stones you've collected at the beach, found in the garden or bought from a shop, GodVenture.co.uk has come up with 10 ways to use your stones in prayers and storytelling. These simple ideas are a great way to engage children in a fun and interactive, multi-sensory way from making towers or trails with stones to painting and decorating them.



What Price Peace?: A Teaching Resource for Primary Schools Exploring Issues of War and Peace

by Chris Hudson (*Barnabas in Schools*)

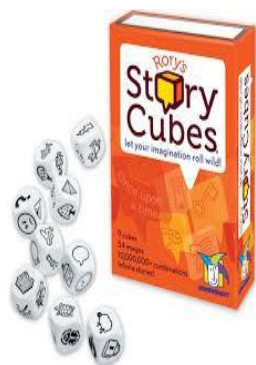
A great resource for 5-11 year olds, focusing on the First World War, using imaginative retellings of real life events to explore difficult questions such as 'Is fighting always wrong?', 'Are some people worth more than others?' and 'Can we really love our enemies as Jesus said?' Accompanying downloadable resources are available online.



Christian Aid Games and Children's Stories

(www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/games/)

This dedicated section of Christian Aid's website is packed full of engaging and informative resources to educate, encourage and inspire children to play their part in building peace, justice and love in the world. Age is no barrier in the fight for social justice!



Rory's Story Cubes (www.storycubes.com)

Unsure what story to share? Just roll the nine cubes and connect the images you get to come up with your own story. A great way to encourage imagination and communication skills across the generations. Different sets of cubes can be purchased, based on various themes, to keep your tales fresh.

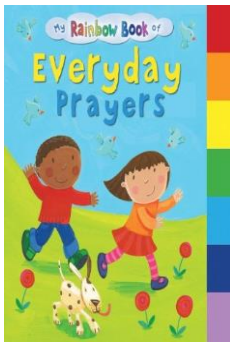


Growing God's Children

by Carolyn Larsen (Baker Academic)

Bereavement, losing friends, feeling sad, lying, stealing...All are difficult realities to face. Carolyn Larsen has published a series of books dealing with many of these issues in a sensitive, age-appropriate way. With colourful illustrations by Tim O'Connor and simple language they offer a great way of approaching challenging issues with children.

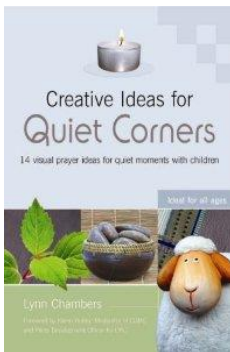
Bible, Worship, Prayers and Reflection



My Rainbow Book of Everyday Prayers

by Su Box (Lion Publishing)

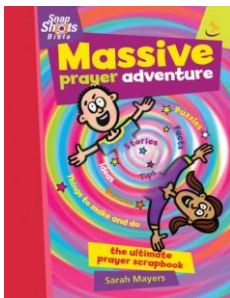
An appealing book for toddlers and grown-ups to share together, presenting very simple prayers on themes and subjects relevant to life as a child today. A great way for children to learn the colours of the rainbow whilst thinking of lots of things and people to be thankful for.



Creative Ideas for Quiet Corners: 14 Visual Prayer Ideas for Quiet Moments with Children

by Lynn Chambers (BRF)

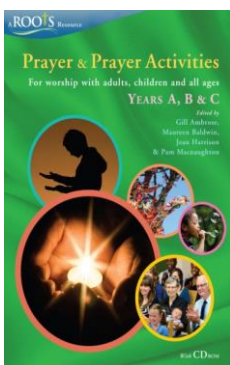
If you are keen to explore prayer with children, but are not sure where to begin, then this is an excellent resource to dip into. From themes like 'Saying thank you' and 'Praying for others' to 'Running the race', the book encourages you to create a physical prayer space in your own home or church to be enjoyed by all ages.



Massive Prayer Adventure

by Sarah Mayers (Scripture Union)

This is a personalised prayer scrapbook to help 8 - 11 year olds get started on the adventure of talking and listening to God. Children can personalise this scrapbook, discovering their personal prayer style with quizzes and puzzles and recording their discoveries on their own unique prayer journey.



Prayer and Prayer Activities - For Adult, Children's and All-age Worship Years A, B & C

by Gill Ambrose et al. (Roots)

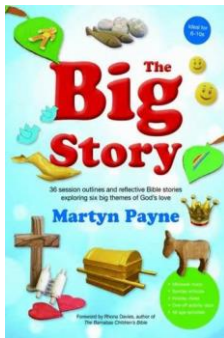
This versatile prayer resource for all-age worship is taken from the extensive material ROOTS has created. Based on the lectionary readings for each Sunday of Years A, B & C, it offers a range of prayers and activities on gathering, thanksgiving, confession, intercession and much more. Festivals and common celebrations are also covered.



The Jesse Box

by Paul Barnes et al. (Redemptorist Publications)

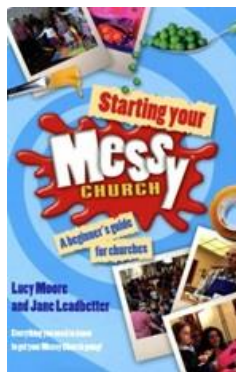
This imaginative little box opens up exciting ways to engage with scripture. With three backdrops and changeable characters, children can act out their favourite bible stories with puppets. Each story, available separately, comes with enough scripts, resources and activities to keep everyone interacting for a whole session. Have a look at www.jessebox.com to find out more.



The Big Story: 36 Session Outlines and Reflective Stories Exploring Six Big Themes of God's Love

by Martin Payne (Barnabas for Children)

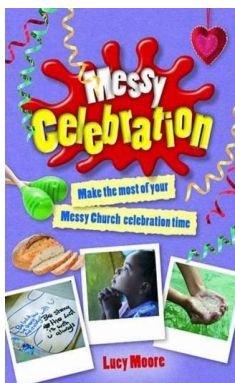
This resource contains a treasure bank of creative, visual storytelling sessions designed to unpack six big Bible themes. Payne connects up the whole story of the Bible and gives an overview of God's purposes by seeing the Bible, not as a collection of unrelated events, but as an amazing and ordered revelation of God's love.



Starting Your Messy Church: A Beginner's Guide for Churches

by Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter (Messy Church)

Preparing worship which caters for all ages in ways which are truly meaningful for everyone can be very challenging indeed. For those who haven't tried it yet, Messy Church offers an accessible and effective means of making sure services meet the needs of everyone in attendance.



Messy Celebration: Make the most of your Messy Church Celebration Time

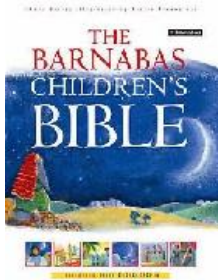
by Lucy Moore (The Bible Reading Fellowship)

An exceptionally helpful resource for anyone leading times of worship and celebration with children, young people and/or families exploring the purpose and main elements of 'celebration time' and equipping readers both spiritually and practically for the task of leading such events and services. A great confidence builder for worship leaders.

Godly Play (www.godlyplay.uk)

Through this exciting programme, participants, young and not so young, are invited to engage with Scripture through the crucial concept of play, offering every A chance for everyone to 'be like children', as God commands, and understand His Word in new and imaginative ways. For more information and resources, visit the website.





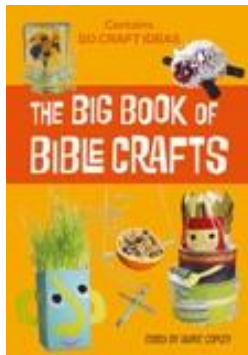
The Barnabas Children's Bible by Rhona Davies (*The Bible Reading Fellowship*)

When we simplify the Bible in order to share it, we can, so easily, lose much of the significance from its Holy texts. This simple, yet authentic version of Scripture aims to make the Bible accessible to all without losing the meaning or intent. Recommended not only for children, but all.



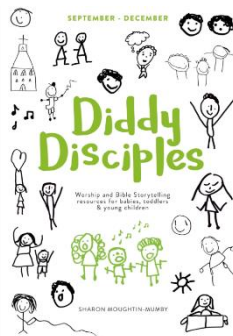
Images of God for Young Children
by Marie-Helene Deval (*Eerdmans Books for Young Readers*)

It is impossible to know what God looks like, but the Bible describes many other ways that God is revealed. This book uses simple language to help children discover these images of God in the world around them.



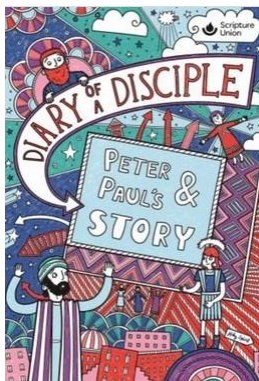
The Big Book Of Bible Crafts
by Laurie Copley (ed.) (*BRF Publications*)

For those not too confident on the creative front, this collection of 100 age-appropriate craft ideas can be something of a Godsend! Easy to follow instructions and clearly laid out formats guide users, step-by-step, through fun and engaging activities, reflecting all the while on Bible stories, their meaning and significance for our lives.



Diddy Disciples (www.diddydisciples.org)

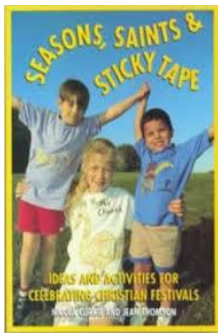
Diddy Disciples is a creative and playful new worship and bible storytelling resource for those working with babies, toddlers and young children. The books and website offer ideas, suggestions and activities to cover a range of sessions on discipleship with the youngest amongst us. The first book, covering September to December, is available now and the second book can be pre-ordered.



Diary of a Disciple: Peter and Paul's Story by Gemma Willis
(*Scripture Union*)

The previous release, looking at Luke's story, has proved very popular. Now it's the turn of Peter and Paul in this contemporary retelling of the book of Acts. Written in a quirky, contemporary, accessible style, Diary of a Disciple offers a way into the Bible for the next generation.

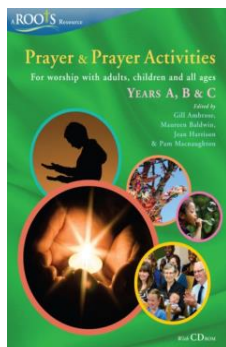
General Lectionary Resources



Seasons Saints and Sticky tape

by Nicola Currie and Jean Thomson (Church House Publishing)

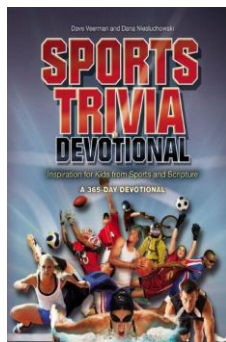
This book follows the liturgical year and provides good background information on each of the Christian festivals with two or three activity ideas to accompany. Despite its age, this resource remains very much relevant today.



Prayer and Prayer Activities - For Adult, Children's and All-age Worship Years A, B & C

by Gill Ambrose et al. (Roots)

This versatile prayer resource for all-age worship is taken from the extensive material ROOTS has created. Based on the lectionary readings for each Sunday of Years A, B & C, it offers a range of prayers and activities on gathering, thanksgiving, confession, intercession and much more. Festivals and common celebrations are also covered.



Sports Trivia Devotional

by David Veerman & Dana Niesluchowski (Zondervan)

An entertaining book combining highlights from a massively wide range of sports with fun, inspiring daily Bible and devotional thoughts. From the conventional basketball and football, to the more obscure dog sledding and elephant polo, this great resource explores topics ranging from losing with integrity to attitude and consistency.

Seasons of the Spirit Lectionary Resources

(<http://www.seasonsonline.ca/>)



These collections of engaging and inspiring materials, produced ecumenically across international borders, is tailored for a range of age groups, allowing everyone in a church to explore the lectionary, both separately and together, in ways which are accessible and relevant to all. Free sample materials are available on the website.

Scripture Union's LightLive (<https://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/LightLive>)



These quality Bible-based resources offer tools to deliver fun and exciting Bible-based sessions with groups of all ages. With thousands of free activities to choose from, you can follow the LightLive syllabus or use the materials to create your own.

Music



Fischy Music (www.fischy.com)

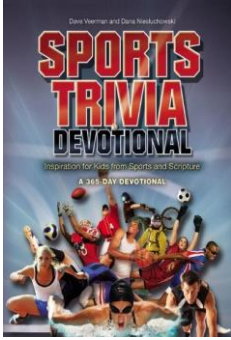
Fischy Music offers brilliant, easy to use singing materials to support the emotional, spiritual and social well-being of children. Their songs are used in schools and churches throughout the UK, supported by videos, backing tracks and teachers notes available on the site. Value subscription deals available.

Out of the Ark Music (www.outoftheark.co.uk)



Offering ready-written plays on a number of topics, many of their works are used in schools. Suitable for large or small groups of children, the songs are all very catchy and easy to pick up. Backing tracks and full tracks are also available. With a choice of over 30 plays, a huge selection of song books and other musical resources, a great place to go for inspiration!

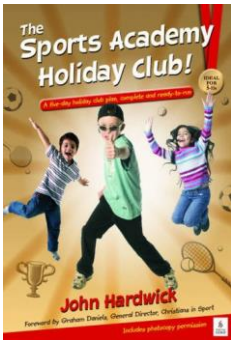
Sport



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Sports Academy Holiday Club

by John Hardwick (Barnabas for Children)

Sport brings people together and encourages good health. This excellent resource provides a complete five-day sport holiday club plan, as well as extra ideas for a special service or event, exploring how, like David in the Old Testament, some of the greatest sporting heroes have come from very ordinary backgrounds.

Magazines



Kids Alive! (<http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>)

Aimed at boys and girls aged 7-12, 'Kids Alive!' is The UK's only weekly Christian comic! A fun read but looks at serious issues too. Lots of Bible stories, cartoons, features, competitions, jokes, puzzles and much more.

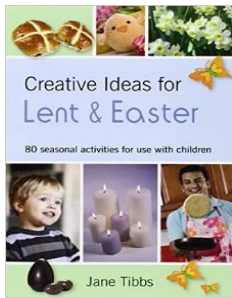


Premier CYW Magazine: The Elephant in the Room Edition

(<https://www.youthandchildrens.work/>)

This month's edition is particularly special as it aims to help readers think about all sorts of things we don't like to talk about when it comes to children and young people. Sexuality, abortion, corporal punishment, hell... Where do we start?! An important read for everyone supporting children and young people in tackling life's challenges.

Lent and Easter



Creative Ideas for Lent and Easter

by *Jane Tibbs (BRF)*

A great book with 80 easy to use, creative activities for children during the Lent and Easter period. Ranging from traditional and well-known games to new and interesting crafts, this lovingly written material is bound to influence children and adults alike as we all explore what it truly means to celebrate this season.



Follow the Footprints

Nina Mead

Taking a similar approach to an Advent Calendar book, this engaging book contains forty stories exploring Easter and Springtime. Designed for children to read alongside an adult, this inspiring resource aims to equip leaders, parents and teachers as much as younger ones.

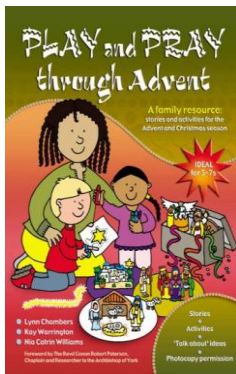


Messy Lent

by *Jane Leadbetter (Bible Reading Fellowship)*

A fantastic addition to the Messy Church series allowing people of all ages to engage in creative, messy fun in exploring Lent. If you haven't tried Messy Church session, this resource could be a great introduction to the concept!

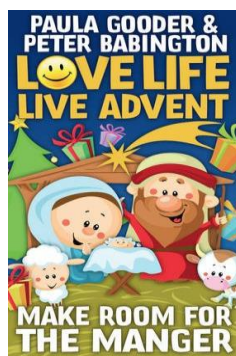
Christmas



Play and Pray through Advent - A family resource: Stories and activities for the Advent and Christmas season

by Lynn Chambers, Kay Warrington and Nai Catrin Williams (Barnabas)

Using simple, effective visuals, this great resource brings the birth of Jesus, his early years and the beginning of his ministry to life, engaging all the family. With story cloths, songs and crafts with simple guidelines, it couldn't be more fun or easier to explore these crucial themes at home, with friends or in church.



Love Life Live Advent

by Paula Gooder & Peter Babington (Church House Publishing)

Love Life, Live Advent is an all-age resource to help children and families celebrate the run-up to Christmas with simple daily prayer activities for Advent. Brightly illustrated throughout, this great resource seeks to heighten children's anticipation and enrich everyone's understanding of this important season of waiting and preparation.



Bumper Instant Art for Advent and Christmas

by Kathryn Atkins

A very useful collection of materials covering both Advent and Christmas, including worksheets, puzzles, word searches, colouring-in, crack the codes, mazes, dot-to-dots, models to make, Bible verses to look up, cartoons.... A perfect all-rounder choice for those lacking time, ideas or the ability to draw!



Bake through the Bible at Christmas

by Bekah Moore and Susie Bentley-Taylor (Good Book Company)

12 fun baking activities to enjoy over the Christmas period as participants discover more of what the season is all about. Listen to the story, make something nice, answer questions and then share what you have made. Ideal for families and children's groups alike.

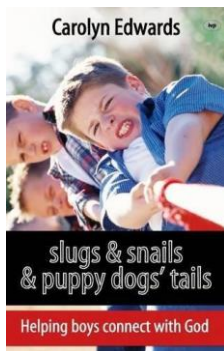


The Well Good News of Christmas

by Dai Woolridge and Emma Randall (The Bible Society)

An innovative booklet and video offering a fresh take on the story of Jesus' birth and its significance for our lives today. With its bold, colourful illustrations and engaging storytelling, this resource will appeal to children and adults alike.

Children's Work Literature



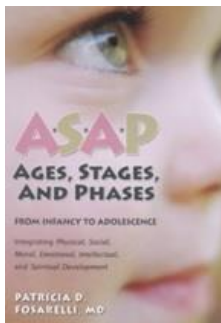
Slugs & Snails & Puppy Dog Tails – Helping boys connect with God. *by Carolyn Edwards (Inter-Varsity press)*

This very useful resource offers a wealth of insight into working with boys in a Christian context. From relationships to technology, humour and laughter to pain and loss, Edwards covers the theory, the practice and the spirituality of a range of relevant topics and issues for work in this vital area of work amongst children.



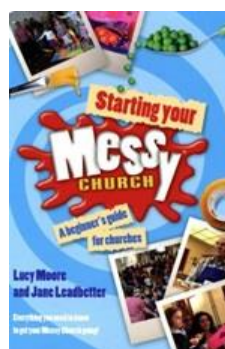
CHILDRENSWORK Magazine (www.premierchildrenswork.com)

This bi-monthly magazine aims to support those working with 0-11 year olds. In addition to ideas, 'How-To' guides and resources relevant to the time of year, it also features articles from experienced workers who directly address the issues faced by children's workers working in a faith context.



Ages, Stages and Phases *by Patricia D Fosarelli (Liguori, Missouri)*

An insightful resource linking various elements and stages of children's health, wellbeing and development with their spiritual journey. The accessible nature of the book, along with its great practical examples, make it invaluable to parents and children's workers alike.



Starting Your Messy Church: A Beginner's Guide for Churches *by Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter (Messy Church)*

Preparing worship which caters for all ages in ways which are truly meaningful for everyone can be very challenging indeed. For those who haven't tried it yet, Messy Church offers an accessible and effective means of making sure services meet the needs of everyone in attendance.