Intentional Faith Development Resources
from the NCCUMC Media Center

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Purpose: These resources will help your church put into practice “Intentional Faith Development” from Robert Schnase’s *Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations*. Schnase defines intentional faith development as, “all the ministries that help us grow in faith outside of weekly worship, such as bible studies, Sunday School classes, support groups, and prayer teams. Congregations who practice Intentional Faith Development offer opportunities for people to learn in community for people at all stages of faith. They offer ministries that help people grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God. *Intentional* refers to deliberate effort, purposeful action, and high priority.”

Scope: The Media Center has hundreds of resources that can be used to engage your small group in Bible study and spiritual disciplines. The resources listed here will help you plan and lead a program of small group ministries for all of the people in your congregation with training on Christian education, building community, and leadership.

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**Subjects and Keywords**
Search for these subjects or keywords in the Media Center catalog:

Subjects
Child Development
Christian Education
Church Leadership Training
Leadership
Singles Ministries
Special Needs Ministries
Training for Leaders of Children
Training for Leaders of Youth

Keywords
Education
Small Group
Sunday School
Electronic Resource Keywords
Click on these words at http://nccumc.org/mediacenter/electronic-resources/ to find electronic resources related to this subject.

Assessment
Christian Formation
Leadership
Ministry
Teaching

Video Resources

DBSR25_DISCIPLE Bible Study I: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study - Training DVD
Necessary training to become an effective DISCIPLE Bible Study Leader in your congregation. How to use components, implement the program, define your role, spiritual gifts, and ways to recognize the commitment of the participants. Advice and suggestions from Bishop Richard Wilke, Bob Shell, LuAnn Charlton (from our conference!) and Candice Flowers.

DVD224_Sunday School: It's for Life
In four parts, separated into age level groups, this tape lifts up the ministry of Sunday School. It affirms the special gift that volunteers make to the church family by teaching Sunday School. Each part: It's For Life=General, Children, Youth and Adult is approximately 9 minutes long.

DVD312_The Searching Generation: The Spiritual Life of Twenty-Somethings
A documentary about Generation X and Milennials exploring the questions: What is important to these groups, what are common misunderstandings, how do they shape values, what is spirituality to these generations, and more. Includes discussion and listening guides.

Resource codes that begin with VC are on VHS tape and require a VCR.

VC930_Seven Laws of the Teacher
This is a 7-part series for teachers in Christian Education programs. Howard Hendricks spells out 7 important components of an effective and authentic teaching ministry. Comes with leader's book and example of a participant workbook.

Books

BK78_77 Ways to Energize Your Sunday School Class
This practical "how to" guide helps Sunday School teachers and Christian educators develop creative ideas to spark the imaginations and enthusiasm of their students.

BK95_Nuts and Bolts of Christian Education
Ways to evaluate your church’s Christian Education program, practical how-to’s, selecting and perfecting classroom space, church calendar, teachers, and more! Delia Halverson gives practical advice and examples gleaned from 20 years as a Christian Educator.

BK168_The Vital Singles Ministry
A book for planning for singles ministry in the local church. Includes a 6-month schedule, analyzes and evaluates leadership positions, and special forms for use by small, medium and large congregations.
BK169  Single in the Church
Subtitled: New Ways to Minister with 52% of God's People. This book "speaks sanely, compassionately, and wisely about the experiences and needs of single persons and their varied contributions to the church's life and mission."

BK170  Singles Care for One Another
This book about Singles Ministry is divided into two parts. The first describes ways in which individuals and groups can support singles; the second part gives programming helps and schedules.

BK181  How United Methodists Study Scripture
A four-part study with contributions by Catherine Gonzalez, Ben Witherington, Everett Tilson, and Gayle Felton. Chapters include: Reading the Bible in the First 16 Centuries, The Study of Scripture in Early Methodism, A Contemporary Approach-Interpreting the Bible in Historical Context, and Characteristics on United Methodist Study and Interpretation of the Bible. Discussion questions at the end of each section.

BK201  32 Ways to Become a Great Sunday School Teacher
32 self-directed, skill-sharpening sessions for busy Christian educators. Short articles, helps, charts, and guides on topics such as Teaching the Bible Creatively, Incorporating Stewardship and Mission, Selecting Curriculum for Adults, Prayer and much more.

BK280  Building and Growing Your Small-Group Ministry

BK282  Vital Ministry in the Small Membership Church: Christian Education
A large amount of information in a little booklet concerned with the Christian Education program in small membership churches. Chapters are suitable for individual study or workshop situations. What we teach, how we teach, and who we teach specifically addressing the needs of small membership churches.

BK283  The Christian Small-Group Leader
Setting the Table, Practicing the Means of Grace, Gospel Partnerships, Hospitality, Cultivating Shared Vision, Group Listening and Working through Resistance are all topics in this book for leaders of small groups. Using information from Titus and Timothy, you will learn the characteristics of a leader with a "seasoned pilgrimage."

BK286  Cultivating Christian Community
Hawkins identifies practices that help cultivate Christian community in small groups: listening, dialogue, discernment, covenant making, prayer and reflection, and hospitality. Recommended for accountable groups, covenant groups, service and support groups, study groups, and administrative groups.

BK287  Staying Focused: Building Ministry Teams for Christian Formation
Staying Focused helps ministry teams understand themselves as spiritual leaders and their meetings as places of spiritual formation. Church leaders are invited to engage committees and ministry teams in worship, prayer, Scripture study, and other means of grace as an ongoing part of their work. Included are suggestions and helps for doing this in specific groups, e.g., worship, education, stewardship, evangelism, etc.

Request materials from the NCCUMC Media Center by calling 800-849-4433 x264, email ldallas@nccumc.org, or visit www.nccumc.org/mediacenter.
BK288 The Heart's Journey
How do we make all small groups in the church places of Christian spiritual formation? Kurtz describes how small groups can become faith-forming groups while retaining their original purpose. There is also an excellent concise chapter on the Means of Grace.

BK293 Foundations: Shaping the Ministry of Christian Education in Your Congregation
"Foundations focuses on helping laity experience God's presence in their lives, know the Bible and the Christian faith, respond to God's call, grow in God's grace, and connect their faith to everyday life. Provides pastors and Christian educators with a tool for planning, supporting, and nurturing effective ministries in Christian education."

BK297 Designing a Single Adult Ministry
"William J. Cox provides leaders with much-needed information about how to develop and sustain an effective and lasting ministry with single adults. Addresses attitudes, current and future trends, and leadership issues. Includes ideas and methods for growth, outreach, marketing, and budgeting."

BK315 A Faithful Future: Teaching and Learning Discipleship
Ideas for equipping Sunday School teachers for doing their ministry in Christian education and spiritual formation.

BK316 The Church as Learning Community
Subtitled: A Comprehensive Guide to Christian Education. Divided into three Parts: Gathered to Learn, Challenged to Grow, and Sent to Serve. This book by Norma Cook Everist outlines an approach to Christian Education that proclaims that everyone is a learner and everyone is a teacher.

BK321 Start Here: Teaching and Learning with Adults
Practical ideas and information for leaders and teachers of adults. Planning a session, using a variety of teaching methods, connecting learning to life experiences and more.

BK325 Leading Adult Learners
Practical helps for leading a group of adult learners. Includes reproducible handouts.

BK349 Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach
"Good old educational practices and principles with the most recent and influential theories and technologies. For use as a resource for Christian educators as well as personal study by teachers who desire to improve their skills, teaching with today's innovations and challenges."

BK435 Training that Makes A Difference
Beginning the Year, Growing as A Teacher, Adding Variety to Your Class, Role of the Teacher plus helpful information for the Christian Education committee and the pastor.

BK461 Loving God with All Your Mind
How do the studies on the ways brains work relate to teaching and leading others in the community of faith? Comparing varieties of styles and reflecting on real-life examples from working in the local church, readers will learn more about critical thinking skills and how to overcome "emotional resistance."

BK483 Sacred Challenge: Blazing a New Path for the Sunday School of the Future
Building on shared strengths and naming the challenges are two of the processes suggested for enriching the Sunday School program. Includes a survey of issues presently discussed by Christian educators as well as a Sunday School Effectiveness Assessment.

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BK509  Our Spiritual Brain
The implications of the new research on the human brain in the areas of teaching and learning in Christian Education. Both theory and practical applications are included.

BK540  Triangular Teaching: A New Way of Teaching the Bible to Adults
"This practical and hands-on book trains Christian education leaders and teachers in the methods of triangular teaching: an integrated approach involving multiple intelligence theory, brain research and critical thinking. " Step by step training session and lesson plans built using this method are included.

BK602  Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century
"Facts and figures of our aging population," as well as a guide for continued discipleship and spiritual formation for older adults.

BK603  Beyond the Roll Book: Sunday School and Evangelism
Planning specific actions that will strengthen the evangelistic aspects of reaching out through small group and Sunday School classes. Workshop plans, forms, and handout examples are included. The CD-ROM includes printouts.

BK623  Ultimately Responsible: When You're in Charge of Igniting a Ministry
"It's not your own noteworthy, public accomplishments that inspire and encourage those around you to run the race with excellence. It's the practical, moment-to-moment choices you make as their servant leader that God uses for spiritual growth and ministry deployment. Great leaders are willing to sacrifice ego, self-significance, and self-imagined importance in order to live downward into increasing effectiveness, no matter what it takes. It is the passionate, relentless commitment to learning this art that God uses to transform ordinary people into intentional leaders. The DVD includes worksheets to unpack and apply each topic to your specific setting as well as videos that provide real-life illustrations of the principles you're learning. You can train your whole team using the book and resources provided."

BK652  Recruiting Volunteers
An excerpt from the Circuit Rider review: "This little guide, another in the series out of The Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, will be helpful to churches large, medium and small desiring to develop and expand lay participation in all aspects of congregational life and work. Dan Entwistle, managing executive director for programs and ministries at The Church of the Resurrection, writes out of years of experience in recruiting, training and deploying laypeople for ministry. His book will be no less valuable to UMM and UMW units, campus ministries, conference and district staff and church-related non-profits."

BK684  Foundations: Shaping the Ministry of Christian Education in Your Congregation
The longer book is shortened and updated in this 2010 booklet for Christian Education leaders. This document from the General Board of Discipleship "provides a starting point for building an intentional plan for teaching and learning in your congregation. It is written to encourage dialogue about how to implement this essential ministry with children, youth, and adults."

BK685  The Ministry of Christian Education and Formation
This guide from the General Board of Discipleship is a great starting point for beginning or expanding your Christian Education ministry. Twelve chapters explore the ministry, organization, planning, policies, recruiting, resource selection, budgeting, advertising, and evaluation of Christian Education in the local church.

BK733  Christian Education Handbook: Resources for Church Leaders
The ultimate guide to Christian education in academic or church settings, touching on virtually every aspect of planning, organizing, coordinating, and evaluating programs.
BK826 Christian Spiritual Formation in the Church and Classroom
In this thought-provoking new volume, Susanne Johnson counters what she sees as 'wrong-thinking' in much contemporary Christian education by offering forceful ideas about spiritual formation and faith development.

BK827 Making Disciples: Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition
How is it that we come to know ourselves as Christians? What were the elements of John Wesley's work that contributed to spiritual formation for a Christian life, and how did these elements interrelate? Focusing on matters of formation and transformation in faith, Sondra Matthaei answers such questions in light of early Methodist practices of formation. Through research and dialogue with Wesleyan scholarship and constructive proposals related to the life of the church, this insightful study encourages faithful and imaginative approaches to spiritual formation in churches today. The focus of this book is on matters of formation and transformation in faith. The book answers the question "How do we come to know ourselves as Christian?" and analyzes this question in light of early Methodist practices of formation and an ecology of education within the Methodist movement. The reader will come to understand John Wesley's idea of character formation and moral transformation. The reader will understand how Christian and vocation are shaped through spiritual formation and will understand the role of structures and relationships (family, school, church, etc.) in spiritual formation.

BK886 The 7 Laws of the Learner
You teach to make a difference. Now, revitalize your classroom by learning and mastering these seven time-tested principles being taught around the world! Written for teachers, including Sunday school teachers, parents, and professionals, this book outlines scriptural principles and techniques that will revolutionize your ability to teach to change lives. From the "law of the learner" to the "law of equipping," each chapter presents hands-on, practical tools for you to employ in your own classroom. Whether you're a professional teacher, a parent, or teach in any setting, these principles and techniques will empower you to make a lasting impact in people's lives. Thousands of teachers have already used these principles to spur their students to new horizons of success.

BK897 When You Pray as a Small Group
Leading a small group on prayer can be daunting. After all, it's not easy to be an expert on the subject. When You Pray as a Small Group is a resource that will help leaders guide their groups through developing a deeper prayer life. Used in conjunction with Rueben P. Job's When You Pray, leaders are provided with prayer activity ideas, example sessions, and five session templates for groups with different needs and interests: Discussion-based groups, Activity-based groups, Introspective groups, Arts-focused groups, Habit Breaker groups. Through this study, not only will your group be encouraged as a whole, each individual's prayer life will be enriched and strengthened.

BK905 Ready, Set, Teach!: Training and Supporting Volunteers in Christian Education
A Sunday school ministry can be full of challenges. Whether you are a pastor, a professional Christian educator, or a lay Christian education director, Sunday School presents you with a never-ending need to find the right people to teach, equip them to be the best teachers and leaders they can be, and keep them coming back from year to year. Delia Halverson, the country's best hands-on expert in Christian education, knows these needs, and how to fill them. She knows that while people volunteer in Christian education for a variety of reasons, the primary one is relationship with other leaders. She knows how to structure teacher training and equipping in the midst of today's busy lives. She knows how to recognize and encourage the individual talents volunteers bring with them to the Christian education setting. Most importantly, she knows how to share this wisdom and insight with you, so that your Sunday School and Christian education program can succeed in forming faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Let Halverson and
Ready, Set, Teach! be your guide as you work within and for your Sunday School and Christian education ministries.

**Youth Ministry Video Resources**

Resource codes that begin with VC are on VHS tape and require a VCR.

**VC315 Effective Youth Ministry Programming**
Duffy Robbins explores the three phases of effective youth ministry: Bible study, building community, and connecting faith to everyday life. Examples, games and ideas are shared.

**VC611 Leading Edge: Understanding Today's Teens**
In this training video, George Barna covers these topics: how will the world be changed by the teens of today, the importance of strong youth ministry, 10 things that successful youth workers have in common, and steps to take to reach today's youth.

**VC1370 Purpose Driven Youth Ministry Training Kit**
A program for training youth leaders by Doug Fields. Key concepts include: Tap into the Poser of God, Chart the Course of Your Ministry, Identify your Target Audience, Develop Purpose-Driven Programs, and Build a Healthy Leadership Team.

**Youth Ministry Books**

**BK155 Youth Ministry Handbook**
Reaching out to non-participating youth, becoming more than a social group, recruiting the best leadership, emphasizing the importance of spiritual growth, and finding abundant support from the "rest" of the church are all topics covered in this handbook for leaders of youth.

**BK237 SkillAbilities for Youth Ministry: 10 booklets**
10 booklets on topics designed to help youth leaders. Brief and to the point. The book titles are: Big Differences (Various Ages), The Bottom Line, Caring from the Inside Out, Helping Youth Pray, How to Use Music with Youth, It Takes a Congregation, Let's Talk About It, Open Doors, Open Arms, Overlooked Allies (Parents), Setting Boundaries, and Youth in Charge.

**BK250 Help, I'm a Small Group Leader: 50 Ways to Lead Teenagers in Discussion**
50 ways to lead teenagers into lively and purposeful discussions. "Solutions and tips that will help you nurture your small group into a growing community." It also includes 100 ready-to-go questions for Small Group Bible Studies.

**BK278 Making God Real for a New Generation**
Articles and guidelines for local churches to consider as we approach the years that will be impacted by the Millennial Generations. Includes: Millennials and their Families...Their Word...Their Spirituality...Models for Ministry.

**BK391 Sacred Bridges: Making Lasting Connections Between Older Youth and the Church**
For those concerned with the decline in the participation of senior high school students in the church. The book includes 4 principles of the sacred bridges, models that can work for you, stories to encourage you, and plans for renewed commitment.

**BK447 Single Digit Youth Groups: Working with Fewer than 10 Teens**
Founded in Scripture, Benefits of a Small Group, Adult Leaders, Starting or Restarting a Group, Cooperative Youth Ministry, Safety Issues, Activity Ideas and a whole section of reproducible forms are included in this guide for small group leaders and planners.

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BK450  Sage Advice: Stories from Seasoned Youth Workers
Experiential stories from those working with youth in local churches. Inspiring and encouraging for individuals working in this area, new or experienced. Also good for use during a training event for youth leaders.

BK453  Between Everything: Teacher Helps for Transitioning Preteens
Having trouble recruiting Sunday school teachers for fifth, sixth and seventh grade students? It may be the most difficult assignment! This book gives insights into the challenges and rewards of working with this age group.

BK454  10 Things I Wish I Had Known When I Started Youth Ministry
Working with and recruiting volunteers, dealing with difficult people, handling controversy and more are covered in this book for youth workers.

BK515  Single Digit Youth Groups 2: More Activities, Plus Mission Ideas
Spiritual leadership including the role of youth leadership, service, and mission training. Includes 50 more activity ideas for smaller youth groups and a whole section of reproducible forms.

BK572  Youth Ministry
Guide developed by The Church of the Resurrection focusing on a practical approach. This little booklet is full of best practices, models, and ideas with the intention of helping youth leaders in creating a learning and challenging, but safe, place where youth come to know God.

BK591  Small Group Strategies: Youth
A strategic approach to small group ministry, ideas for reaching students at a variety of levels and approaches that will foster spiritual growth.

BK768  Pause, Then Think Again
The teens’ get-started guide to success. This book is the result of the author's many years preparing teens for the world of work. It inspires and explains the secrets of: discerning between what is important in life and what is trivial, getting a jump on a successful career, making the best decisions, becoming a responsible citizen at home and at school, learning to succeed as a contributor that knows his life's purpose. The author is a member of the NC Conference.

CU5  Small Groups from Start to Finish
Rationale and steps in successful development of small group ministries with youth. Based on work done at Saddleback Church. Includes a CD-ROM with reproducible and adaptable forms and training sheets.

Children’s Ministry Video Resources

Resource codes that begin with VC are on VHS tape and require a VCR.

VC156  Children and Faith
Drawing from his own professional experience and Piaget's cognitive development learning process, Vince Isner explains faith development at each development level. Viewers are presented with important information and also practical suggestions for guiding faith development in children.

VC226  Creative Teaching: Pre-Schoolers
Invitational teaching as it applies to preschool-aged children. What are the needs of this age group? What are the styles and activities of teaching which are effective? The importance of

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Planning ahead is also discussed. A leader's guide with additional information and ideas for how to use the video in a workshop/teacher training is also included.

**VC994 Teaching Children in the Church**
A teaching series for teachers of children from kindergarten through sixth grade. Each age level has a separate tape. Good for age-level training events or personal study by teachers.

**Children's Ministry Books**

**BK48 Sprouts**
The covenant discipleship model for children. This resource book outlines the philosophy, structure, and planning needs for establishing a children's group in the local church. Charts, ideas, publicity and lists of resources are included.

**BK50 Weekday Programs for Children: Director's Manual**

**BK51 Weekday Programs for Children: Teacher's Guide**
Teacher's guidelines for setting up and running a weekday program in a local church. Includes examples of lesson plans for the all the seasons of the year.

**BK53 Helping a Child Develop Faith**
A booklet produced by the Western N.C. Conference to be used as a resource by parents and teachers and listing ideas and resources to be used with children as they develop their faith.

**BK56 Putting Children and their Families First**
A planning handbook for congregations...to help local churches plan for and strengthen ministries for children and families in their congregations and communities.

**BK202 Out of the Box: Helps for Children's Sunday School Teachers**
A collection of planning ideas and teaching strategies for teachers of children's Sunday School classes including using the Bible, taking care of personal spiritual formation, ideas and encouragement.

**BK216 Workshop Rotation: A New Model for Sunday School**
11 chapters of topics, guidelines, ideas and lessons for a rotation model Sunday School for children. Neil MacQueen is a leading national proponent of this method of organizing the learning of children in Sunday School.

**BK269 Teaching Young Children: A Guide for Teachers and Leaders**
The needs of infants and very young children are covered in this small book that is packed with practical suggestions for ideas that work! Room and space requirements, material and equipment, and age level guidelines are also included.

**BK270 Director's Manual for Weekday Ministries**
Are you treating your weekday program as a ministry of the church? Do you need guidance for the process of hiring and developing staff? Is sharing space a challenge? These and many more issues involved with the church as it serves the community in the areas of weekday programs (preschool or afterschool) for children are covered in this book.
BK271  Video, Kids, and Christian Education

BK273  PowerXpress: Guide for Rotational Learning with Children
Although this curriculum piece was made to coordinate with the PowerXpress program, the material in the majority of the booklet covers basic information about scheduling and managing a rotational program of learning. One chapter contains the scope and sequencing for the PowerXpress complete program.

BK279  Out of the Basement: A Holistic Approach to Children's Ministry
Using the Guidelines from the Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty as a foundation, church leaders learn how to best provide ministry for today's children. Topics include: protecting children, nurturing children as disciples, ministry with children of the community and more.

BK312  A Year's Worth of Children's Church
52 weeks of plans and programs for children's church. Adjustable experiences for 30 or 60 minutes of activities. Scripture reading, stories, and poetry from the Psalms are the basis for the ideas for this children's church program.

BK313  Helping Kids Include Kids With Disabilities
"This book includes information for understanding children with special needs, guidelines for churches, information about specific and general areas of impairment, lesson plans, forms, letters to parents, and devotions for families." By Barbara Newman, an expert in the area of inclusive education.

Bk434  Activities for Teacher Training
100 Activities are grouped into 8 themes for use in training and encouraging teachers of children: Getting Acquainted, Characteristics of Children, Faith Development, Sharing Feelings, Teaching Methods, Planning, Observing and Evaluating, Discipline, and a Conclusion.

BK519  Sunday School on a Shoe String
Subtitled: Creating Terrific Learning Environments without Breaking Your Budget. Ideas and patterns for learning centers, teaching tools and manipulatives, easily and inexpensively made. A good outline of the 8 ways in which children learn.

BK601  Children's Ministry Guide
Preparing the space, finding volunteers, vigilant safety practices, paying attention to the focus and encouragement to carry on are all included in this little booklet by the Children's Ministries Director at The Church of the Resurrection.

BK849  Building Children's Ministry: A Practical Guide
A step-by-step guide to building a strong children's ministry that is a vital part of the church. People know they are called to children's ministry when they get goose bumps and butterflies from something a kid says or an idea that they know will communicate the gospel to children. Building Children's Ministry provides the practical information to transform those feelings and that calling into a successful children's ministry that is integrated into the life of the congregation. The book is divided into topical chapters, including: Getting the support of the pastor and the congregation, Statements of purpose, Budgets and fundraising, Recruiting and keeping volunteers, Safety and security, Discipline and appropriate policies, Choosing and evaluating curriculum, Publicity. Building Children's Ministry is a practical guide through the challenging (but

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exciting) steps between recognizing the need for children’s ministry and creating a program that ministers to children and their families.

CU2 First Three Years
Guidelines for providing a ministry for infants, toddlers and twos. Practical and inspirational articles and form examples.

Websites related to the United Methodist Church

Christian Educators Fellowship
http://www.cefumc.org/

General Board of Discipleship
http://www.gbod.org/

A Theology of Discipleship
http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.2295449/k.6DAB/A_Theology_of_Discipleship.htm

Social Principles: Education
http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?mid=1827

United Methodist Association of Scholars in Christian Education
http://www.umasce.org/

United Methodist Men
http://www.gcumm.org/

United Methodist Women
http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/