

All books are in print and available unless designated with an asterisk; all DVDs are available for purchase. Books not in print may be found in public, private, or church libraries as well as for purchase at <http://www.usedaddall.com>. New books or books in print may be found at <http://www.addall.com>. Compiled by Marjorie Geissinger, Naomi Kauffman, and Mary Grieser, members of the Bux-Mont Librarians in Pennsylvania, with the hope that teachers, parents, and librarians would work together to provide some of these rich resources to the children in our congregations.

## **CHILDREN'S BOOK & DVD SUGGESTIONS TO ACCOMPANY GATHER 'ROUND CURRICULUM, WINTER 2011–2012**

### **Preschool**

***One Starry Night*, Jan Godfrey and Honor Ayres, Standard, 2007.**

One starry night, a shepherd boy and one, two, three, four ... ten little sheep came over the hill outside Bethlehem to worship Christ the Savior. (*Session 5*)

***Shaoey and Dot: A Thunder and Lightning Bug Story*, Mary Beth and Steven Curtis Chapman, Thomas Nelson, 2006.**

When the lights go out during an electrical storm, Shaoey, a young Chinese American girl, is frightened until Dot, the ladybug, reminds her of God's protection. (*Session 13*)

### **Preschool–Primary**

***A Christmas Journey: From Creation to the Savior's Birth*, Susie Poole, Standard Publishing, 2003.**

From the light of creation to the dark day when Adam and Eve sinned to the Bethlehem star and the first Christmas; the birth of the Savior was part of God's plan from the very beginning. (*Sessions 1–7*)

**Arch Book series: *Clem, the Clumsy Camel*, Virginia Mueller, Concordia, 1974 (*Session 5*); *The Strange Young Man in the Desert*, Ronald Klug, (*Session 2*), *Donkey Daniel in Bethlehem*, Janice Kramer, 1970 (*Session 5*).**

***Bedbug Bible Gang: Just John*, DVD, 23 minutes, 2006.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Bedbug Bible Gang 3-D computer animation, illustrations and live-action puppets for ages three to seven. Three stories about John, one of which is *Weird John*. (*Session 2*)

***The Berenstain Bears: Always Look on the Bright Side*, Sony DVD, 82 minutes, 2006.**

Six episodes dealing with worry, friends moving away, befriending a snob, and helping around the house teach that a change in attitude is sometimes all that is needed. Scripture-based activity guide is included. (*Sessions 1, 10–12*)

***The Berenstain Bears and the Bad Influence*, Stan and Jan Berenstain with Mike Berenstain, HarperFestival, 2008.**

Sister and a new friend make lots of bad decisions. Mother wants Sister to stop playing with a new neighbor. Is it all really Miranda's fault? (*Sessions 10–12*)

***The Berenstain Bears and the Golden Rule*, Stan & Jan Berenstain with Mike Berenstain, Zonderkidz, 2008.**

Should Sister Bear ignore the new girl at school just because her friends do? Choosing to be kind may not always be the easy choice. But it is always the right one. (*Sessions 10, 11, 12*)

***The Berenstain Bears Love Their Neighbors*, Jan and Mike Berenstain, Zonderkidz, 2009.**

Who is my neighbor? Being a good neighbor is more than keeping a nice house. (*Sessions 10–12*)

***The Berenstain Bears: Faithful Friends*, Jan and Mike Berenstain, Zonderkidz, 2009.**

Sister begins to spend time with a new friend, neglecting her "old" friend. Sister finds that "new friends are fun to have and old ones are great to keep." (*Session 12*)

***The Berenstain Bears: God Loves You!*, Stan and Jan Berenstain with Mike Berenstain, Zonderkidz, 2008.**

Brother and Sister Bear discover that God loves them, not because they are successful, but because God made them. This book helps children appreciate the many ways God shows love. (*Sessions 1–4*)

***Bully Bill*, Joy Birky, Herald Press, 2007.**

When someone shows kindness to Bully Bill, Bill decides he wants to change his image. (*Session 9*)

***Cherub Wings: Shine Your Light*, DVD, 25 minutes, 2001.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Cherub and Chubby explore practical ways to share the message of Jesus' love with others in their everyday lives in colorful animation and live-action. (*Sessions 9, 10*).

***Classic Bible Stories*, Rhona Davies, B&H Publishing, 2007.**

Twenty-eight familiar stories told in less than 300 words, illustrated in a dynamic contemporary style bringing fresh dimension to the Biblical subjects. A key scripture verse included with each story. (*Sessions 1–13*)

***The Crippled Lamb*, Max Lucado, Thomas Nelson, reprint edition, 2011.**

God's love extends to all. A crippled lamb is at the right spot when Jesus is born. (*Session 5*)

***Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom*, Tim Tingle, Cinco Puntos Press, 2008.**

Set in Mississippi in the days before the Civil War, the author and illustrator create a tale of friendship across the cultures. A Choctaw girl befriends a family of slaves on a plantation. The result is heartwarming. (*Session 13*)

***The Gift of the Christmas Cookie*, Dandi Daley Mackall, Zonderkidz, 2008.**

In a captivating interplay of simple words and beautiful illustrations, *The Gift of the Christmas Cookie* tells a tender story of giving—not just cookies, but gifts of the heart that last forever. (Session 5)

***Hot Day on Abbott Avenue*, Karen English, Clarion Books, 2004.**

Two girls, mired in a “never going to be friends again day” find a way to redo their friendship. Stunning collage art graphics by Javaka Steptoe. (Session 12)

***How Can I Celebrate Advent?* DVD, 27 minutes, 2004.**

Available on [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Beth and her brother Digger can hardly wait for Christmas. They are thrilled to learn that the church has a special season of waiting and preparation in expectation of the coming Savior, the season of Advent. Beth and Digger eagerly hear God’s plan of salvation as they light the candles of their Advent wreath and mark the days until the coming of Emmanuel, “God With Us.” (Sessions 1–4)

***I Wanted to Know All about God*, Virginia Kroll, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 1997.**

A story about where to find God. (Session 2)

***Ivy’s Icicle: Book Three—Forgiving Others*, Gary Bower, Tyndale Kids, 2002.**

Ivy is very upset when her brother accidentally breaks the doll Grandmother gave her for Christmas but she eventually learns how to forgive him. (Session 9)

***Ituku’s Christmas Journey*, Elena Pasquali, Good Books, reprint edition, 2005.**

An Inuit child and his dog journey in a kayak to find and worship the newborn king of heaven. (Sessions 1–5)

***The Jesse Tree*, Geraldine McCaughrean, Eerdmans, 2005.**

A carpenter carves a Jesse tree in a dusty old church as a curious young boy asks about the various symbols on the tree. The old man finds himself retelling the familiar Biblical tales that trace the lineage of Christ, from the garden of Eden to Jesus’ birth. The tree grows and an unlikely friendship takes root as well. (Sessions 1–5)

***Jesus*, Brian Wildsmith, Eerdmans, 2000.**

This book, true to the biblical account from which it is drawn, is written in a simple manner. The superb illustrations are a visual feast. (Sessions 1–13)

***Jesus for Kids*, DVD containing 5 programs, 50 minutes, 1998.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Delightful, animated stories based squarely on the gospels. Included is a companion guide with suggested activities and more. Five programs are *The First Christmas* (Session 5), *Jesus the Storyteller*, *Jesus the Miracle Worker* (Session 9), *Jesus the Healer* (Session 10), and *The First Easter*.

***Jin Woo*, Eve Bunting, Clarion Books, 2001.**

A family waits expectantly for their adopted son to arrive. (*Sessions 1–4*)

***The Journey to Bethlehem*, Chris Molan, Lion Publishing, 2000.**

Travel with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Experience the trip as they may have experienced it. Seek for a room in the crowded city. Intertwined with the Christmas story is the portrayal of everyday life in Roman Palestine that provides fresh insights into the wonder of Jesus' birth. (*Session 5*)

***The King's Christmas List*, Eldon Johnson, Thomas Nelson, 2010.**

Emma, a sharing little girl who arrives empty-handed at the king's birthday party, finds him delighted. A companion website offers creative ways to follow her example by donating time and gifts to others. (*Session 6*)

***Lily's Purple Plastic Purse*, Kevin Henkes, Greenwillow, 1996.**

When Lily disrupts the class to show everyone her new purple purse, the teacher takes it away from her. The next day Lily tells her teacher and classmates how sorry she is for her behavior and asks them to forgive her. (*Session 12*)

***Little Shepherd*, DVD, 25 minutes, 2002.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Wolves have been spotted in the fields around Bethlehem and the shepherds are nervous. When angels suddenly appear with the glorious news, everyone rushes to town to see if it's true! But Joel and his lamb fall behind—left alone to face great danger. (*Session 14*)

***The Little Spider*, Sigmund Brouwer, Tyndale Kids, 2001.**

A group of animals vows to protect the holy family, but when Herod's soldiers close in it is the tiny spider whose gift hides the cave in which the child sleeps. Based on a legend. (*Session 7*)

***The Lost Sheep*, Kenneth N. Taylor, Tyndale House, 1989.**

A story of the life of a shepherd and his sheep. (*Session 14*)

***Martin's Big Words*, Doreen Rappaport, Hyperion, reprint edition, 2007.**

A beautifully illustrated and wonderfully told story of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., ending with the assurance that "his big words are alive for us today." (*Session 11*)

***My Very First Christmas*, Lois Rock, Good Books, reprint edition, 2006.**

Ten delightful stories about the wonder of the first Christmas and its message of love and generosity. (*Sessions 1–5*)

***One Winter's Day*, M. Christian Butler, Good Books, 2006.**

When Hedgehog loses his home to the wind, he heads to Badger's house. His generosity to others along the way is returned to him when the storm is over. (*Session 7*)

***Papa's Birthday Gift*, Lynn Downey, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2003.**

The book is written in the first person. A little girl is very disappointed when her father does not make it home before the first snowstorm of the year. But waiting for the big event is worth the anxiety —Papa comes home during the night and they play out in the snow together. (*Sessions 1–3*)

***Night Tree*, Eve Bunting, Sandpiper, 1994.**

A family decorates a tree with food for the animals at Christmas. (*Session 5*)

***No Tree for Christmas*, Marilyn Lashbrook, Roper Press, 1989.**

The angels appear to the shepherds and they travel to find the baby. No trees needed... (*Session 5*)

***The Rainbow Fish*, Marcus Pfister, North-South Books, 1992.**

Rainbow fish learns that giving away his most prized possessions brings happiness. (*Session 6*)

***Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale*, Martin Waddell, Margaret McElderry Books, 2006.**

Beautiful retelling of the Nativity story from the animals' perspective. Exquisitely illustrated. "Come inside. There is always room for a little one here." This line is repeated as each animal arrives and seeks shelter. (*Session 5*)

***!Si, Se Puede! Yes, We Can! Janitor Strike in L.A.*, Diana Cohn, Cinco Puntos Press, Bilingual edition, 2005.**

"While everyone sleeps, my mamma goes to work." This is a powerful bilingual story of the struggle of janitors in Los Angeles to be treated with dignity and justice. It represents a critical insight for young readers today. (*Session 12*)

***The Stable Where Jesus Was Born*, Rhonda Gowler Greene, Aladdin Paperbacks, 2002.**

In the repetitive style of *This is the House That Jack Built* this book tells the story of Jesus' birth for young children. (*Session 5*)

***The Story of the Selfish Giant*, DVD, 25 minutes, 2005.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

A grandfather uses Oscar Wilde's timeless tale to unlock the true meaning of Christmas for his granddaughter. (*Session 4*)

***The Saturday Escape*, Daniel J. Mahoney, Clarion, 2002.**

Three animal friends cannot go to the library until they finish their chores. They each come up with a scheme to get out of work. The story they hear at the library causes guilty feelings and they scamper home to do their chores. (*Session 12*)

***This is the Star*, Joyce Dunbar, Harcourt Brace, 1996.**

A cumulative presentation in which rhyme is used to describe the night of the birth of Christ. (*Session 5*)

***Who is Coming to our House?* Joseph Slate, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1988.**

All the animals bustle around to clean up the stable for the visitors. (*Sessions 1–5*)

***Who is Jesus?* Sarah Hall, Lion Children's Books, 2001.**

Short stories about Jesus with appealing artwork and interesting tidbits of information interspersed throughout the book. (*Sessions 1–13*)

***Who Was Born This Special Day?* Eve Bunting, Aladdin, 2003.**

Each manger animal is asked this question before the revelation that it was the child that was born. (*Session 5*)

***Will You Forgive Me?* Sally Grindley & Penny Dann, Kingfisher, 2002.**

Figgy Twosocks has lost Jefferson Bear's favorite stick and she's too scared to tell him. Figgy's fibbing gets her into even more trouble...until JB reassures her that if you're truly sorry, friends will forgive and forget. (*Session 12*)

***Yoko's World of Kindness*, Rosemary Wells, Hyperion Books for Children, 2005.**

This is a collection of six of Well's previously published books about learning skills and building confidence; how people are different; how teasing can hurt feelings; and about making friends. (*Session 12*)

***You are Special and Best of All*, Max Lucado, Crossways Books, 2006.**

Two of Lucado's previous books are republished in one book. Both stories feature Punchinello. In the first the wooden boy changes his opinion of himself after talking to Eli, the creator. The second story is set in a village of carved wooden people where an uppity woman claims her maple "ancestree" is superior until Punchinello helps her change her mind. (*Session 11*)

## **Primary**

***An Apple for Harriet Tubman*, Glennette Tilly Turner, Albert Whitman & Co., 2006.**

This story is based on a true fact in the life of Harriet Tubman and was gleaned by the author from one of Harriet's relatives. Harriet turns a bad experience from her youth into a generous, caring act for her neighbors when she reaches adulthood. (*Sessions 10, 12*)

***An Orange for Frankie*, Patricia Polacco, Philomel, 2004.**

The Stowell family shares Christmas with those less fortunate, so when Frankie loses his prized orange, the family each shares one wedge of their own oranges to make up a whole one for him. (*Sessions 5, 8, 12*)

***Calie's Gift*, Madeline Arroyo, Stairway Publications, 2003.**

Calie is a homeless woman who spends her days playing her recorder in the park for the children. The children who are her friends decide to bring Christmas to her. (*Sessions 4, 11, 12*)

***Clopper and the Night Travelers*, Emily King, Kregel Kidzone, 2007.**

Clopper the donkey, was there when Jesus was born and carries Jesus and Mary to Egypt after they were warned by the wise men. (*Session 7*)

***Enemy Pie*, Derek Munson, Chronicle Books, 2000.**

Hoping that the enemy pie that his father makes will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy finds that instead it helps make a new friend. (*Session 12*)

***God's Little Dreamer*, Ann Kiemel Anderson, Harvest House Publishers, 1990.**

Madison wants something special to dream about. Failing to find her special dream, she decides to let God help her find her dream. God leads her to a dream that makes each day magnificent. (*Sessions 8, 12*)

***Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*, Kathleen Krull, Harcourt Children's Books, 2003.**

A biography of Cesar Chavez highlighting his organization of a peaceful protest to bring miserable working conditions to the public eye. (*Sessions 10, 12*)

***One Green Apple*, Eve Bunting, Clarion Books, 2006.**

While on a school field trip to an orchard to make cider, a young immigrant named Farah gains self-confidence when the green apple she picks perfectly complements the other students' red apples. (*Sessions 11, 13*)

***Watch Out for Joel! Series: Mystery Pennies and Strunk Soup*, Sigmund Brouwer, Bethany House, 2003.**

Seven-year-old Joel supplies plenty of laughs and biblical lessons. Joel's brother "lets" him deliver newspapers and collect *Mystery Pennies* (fifth book in the series). But is Rick cheating him? Can Joel avoid eating *Strunk Soup* (sixth book in series) without hurting her feelings? (*Sessions 10–12*)

***Winter's Gift*, Jane Monroe Donovan, Sleeping Bear Press, 2004.**

A wild, pregnant mare loses its way from the herd of wild horses and rests under a tree near the home of a lonely old man. He finds the horse and takes it into his barn, giving it food and shelter for the night. On Christmas morning he finds that the mare has given birth during the night. The new foal gives him hope for the days ahead. (*Sessions 1–5*)

### **Primary—Middler**

***A Day's Work*, Eve Bunting, Sandpiper, 1997.**

A Mexican-American boy helping his grandfather find work learns the importance of honesty. (*Session 8*)

**\**A Gift from Saint Francis: the First Crèche*, Joanna Cole, Morrow Junior Books, 1989.**

St. Francis helped the poor and cared for the sick. He believed Christ's birthday should be made special. He carved the first crèche as a way of sharing the Christmas story with others. (*Sessions 3, 5*)

***An Angel Just Like Me*, Mary Hoffman, Frances Lincoln Children's Books, reprint edition, 2007.**

A child wonders why all Christmas tree angels look alike and sets out to find one that looks like him. (*Session 5*)

***Beatrice's Goat*, Page McBrier, Aladdin, 2004.**

A young girl's dream of going to school in her Ugandan village is fulfilled after her family receives an income-producing goat. A Heifer Project story. (*Session 12*)

***Boxes for Katje*, Candace Fleming; Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 2003.**

A young Dutch girl writes to her new American friend in thanks for the care package sent after World War II. Many more packages followed the first one. When the hard winter was over, a package was sent from Olst to Indiana. Based on fact. (*Sessions 10, 13*)

***Bugtime Adventures: Joy to the World*, DVD, 25 minutes.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem where they prepare for the birth of Christ. Each episode in the Bugtime Adventures series includes two separate yet connected stories, the bug story and the Bible story, presented in an interwoven three-act format. (*Session 5*)

***Children's Illustrated Bible*, Eve McMaster, Herald Press, 2006.**

This compilation of Eve McMaster's individual books is rich in stories that teach, fascinate and encourage young people. Bible stories are retold with clear, simple language. The colorful artwork adds to the message. (*Sessions 1-13*)

***The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*, Susan Wojciekowski, Candlewick Press, 2002.**

Jonathan Toomey was an embittered woodcarver, having lost to death his wife and young daughter until a little boy and his widowed mother come into his life just before Christmastime and cause a miraculous change in his life. (*Session 5*)

***The Christmas Surprise*, Ruth Nulton Moore, Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2007.**

When Indians burn her home, kill her parents and kidnap her young brother, Kate goes to live with her circuit-riding preacher uncle who takes her to the Moravian settlement of Bethlehem. She learns true strength lies in trust in God and peace with all people. (*Session 14*)

***Distant Thunder*, Ruth Nulton Moore, Herald Press, 1991.**

This is a sequel to *The Christmas Surprise* by Ruth Nulton Moore. Although the Moravians do not believe in war, they want to help their country in peaceful ways. Kate lives with her cousins in Bethlehem, during two of the most critical years of the Revolutionary War. (*Session 12*)

***For All the World*, Helen Earle Simcox, Augsburg, 1994.**

Simple text and striking illustrations of people from many places tell the story of God's gift of love for all people everywhere. (*Session 5*)

***God, My Creator: The Apostles' Creed, Jim Gimbel, Concordia, 2003.***

Explanation of the first three articles of the Apostles' Creed. Jesus, My Savior, the second article is based on the books of Luke and Acts 1. Done in verse and attractively illustrated. (*Sessions 1–13*)

***Give a Goat, Jan West Schrock, Tilbury House, 2008.***

After hearing a story about a girl in Uganda whose life is changed for the better by the gift of the goat, a class of fifth graders decides to make a similar donation. (*Sessions 12, 13*)

***The Goat Lady, Jane Bregoli, Tilbury House, 2008.***

The story of an elderly woman who raised goats to provide milk for people who needed it. (*Session 10*)

***The Golden Rule, Ilene Cooper, Harr N. Abrams, 2007.***

The Golden Rule can be found in all the world's religions. Grandfather explains it and helps his grandson figure out how to apply it. (*Session 12*)

***The Great Stone Face, Nathaniel Hawthorne, retold by Gary D. Schmidt; Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2005.***

Ethan grew up believing the prophecy that someone will be born hereabouts who will look just like the Great Stone Face and he will be the noblest person of his time. A young child, seeing more deeply than all the rest, reveals the truth... (*Sessions 10–12*)

***\*I Heard Good News Today: Stories for Children, Cornelia Lehn, Faith & Life, 1983.***

Mission and service stories from around the world. (*Sessions 6–13*)

***I Like Your Buttons, Sarah Maril Lamstein, Albert Whitman, 1999.***

When a little girl compliments her teacher, it starts a chain reaction of good will, good deeds and thoughtfulness throughout the day. (*Session 11*)

***In Jessie's Shoes, Appreciating Kids with Special Needs, Beverly Lewis, Bethany House, reprint edition, 2007.***

Allie learns from her brother with special needs to "see" the world through her senses as she "walks in his shoes" for a time. (*Session 10*)

***Julia's Words, Judith L. Roth, Herald Press, 2009.***

Two girls, one deaf and one hearing, meet at camp. They learn to communicate and become real friends. (*Session 12*)

***Leah's Pony, Elizabeth Friedrich, Boyds Mills Press, 1999.***

Setting in the 1930s, one child will sacrifice her pony for the love of her family. (*Sessions 10, 11*)

***The Loving Arms of God*, Anne Elizabeth Stickney, Eerdman Books for Young Readers, 2001.**

The author uses stories from the Bible to teach children important truths about how God continues to work with and care for his people today. Each chapter also includes a section called “Meeting God” which offers a verse to remember, some questions to discuss, and a suggestion for prayer. (*Sessions 1–5*)

***The Miracles of Jesus (Bible Animated Classics)*, DVD, 45 minutes, 2006.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

This exciting panorama of Jesus’ most touching miracles teaches character-building qualities such as service, mercy and love and introduces the ministry life of the Savior. (*Sessions 9–14*)

***Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*, Carole Boston Weatherford, Hyperion Books for Children, 2006.**

A unique and moving portrait of Harriet Tubman and her faith, one of the most inspiring figures of the Underground Railroad with paintings that embody strength, healing, and hope. (*Sessions 8–12*)

***One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference*, Katie Smith Milway, Kids Can Press, 2008.**

From a loan his mother received, Kojo asked for a loan to buy some chickens. From this small beginning, Kojo completes his education and requests a big loan, starts a poultry farm and hires workers. Based on a true story. (*Session 8*)

***The Other Side*, Jacqueline Woodson, Putnam Juvenile, 2001.**

The fence which divides the town in half—African-Americans live on one side and Caucasians on the other—doesn’t stop two children who want to be friends. Find out how Clover and Annie solve their problem. (*Session 10*)

***Plant a Seed of Peace*, Rebecca Seiling, Herald Press, 2007.**

Forty-three illustrated true stories of peacemakers from today and the past, appropriate for a variety of ages. Stories tell of people whose lives point to a transforming faith in God. (*Session 8*)

***\*Praying With Our Feet*, Lisa D. Weaver, Herald Press, 2005.**

A story told by young girl who takes part in walk for peace with parents and church family. (*Session 11*)

***Prince of Peace: A Christmas Story*, DVD, 3-D animation, 29 minutes, 2003.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

You and your family will travel back to Bethlehem to see Mary and Joseph visited by angels—and the evil Herod plotting to erase any competition to his throne, as God’s Son is born. (*Session 5*)

***The Quiltmaker's Gift*, Jeff Brumbeau, Scholastic Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2001.**

Kenya always had lots of trees but they are now being cut down for new buildings. Wangari decides to begin planting trees so the land will not become a desert. (*Session 13*)

***The Story of Ruby Bridges*, Robert Coles, Scholastic, anniversary edition, 2010.**

The first black child to attend an all-white elementary school, Ruby finds herself in the center of a storm of hatred and prejudice. (*Sessions 12, 14*)

***Stories Told by Mother Teresa*, compiled by Edward LeJoly & Jaya Chaliha, Element Children's Books, 2000.**

The smallest acts of kindness and love make the world a better place for everyone. (*Sessions 8, 12*)

***Talking Walls*, Margy Burns Knight, Tilbury House Publishers, reprint edition, 2003.**

A beautifully illustrated description of walls around the world and their significance, from the Great Wall of China, the Wailing Wall of Jerusalem to the Berlin Wall. This book can be used and adapted for a variety of uses. Discussion questions are located in the back of the book. (*Session 3*)

***Storyteller Café: The Gift*, DVD, 31 minutes, 2007.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

The Bible is brought to life as the toys at Storyteller Café re-enact Bible stories in this award winning 3-D computer animated one of a series. *The Gift* is a reminder to celebrate the life of Christ all year long, not just at Christmas. (*Session 5*)

***Three Christmas Classics*, DVD, 72 minutes, 2003.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

***Christmas is:*** Benji is disappointed when he must play the second shepherd in the school play—again. Animated, 30 minutes. ***The Stableboy's Christmas:*** Ten-year-old Tammy travels back in time to the first Christmas to learn how sharing presents with others is a way of sharing God's love at Christmas. Drama, 30 minutes. ***The City That Forgot About Christmas:*** When a woodcarver teaches the children about the birth of Jesus, the uncaring village is filled with the joy of Christ. Animated, 30 minutes. (*Session 5*)

***Two Bobbies*, Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery, Walker Childrens, 2008.**

Based on a true story, a dog and a cat were good friends. Bobbie, the dog, became eyes for Bobcat who was blinded during the Katrina disaster in New Orleans. (*Session 11*)

***Walking to School*, Eve Bunting, Clarion Books, 2008.**

When the path to eight-year-old Allison's Catholic school goes through hostile Protestant territory in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Allison finds she is not alone in her loathing of the situation. (*Session 14*)

## **Middler**

***The Candle in the Forest and other Christmas Stories Children Love*, Joe Wheeler, Howard Books, 2007.**

Eight treasured tales of faith, hope, and love in a beautifully illustrated heirloom quality edition that could be effectively read aloud in a family setting. (*Sessions 1–5*)

***A Leap of Faith: True Stories for Young and Old*, Peter J. Dyck, Herald Press, 1990.**

Interesting stories that entertain and pass on the faith to those who read them. (*Sessions 8–14*)

**\**A Safe Place*, Maxine Trottier, Albert Whitman, 1997.**

To escape her father’s abuse, Emily and her mother come to a shelter to stay with others in similar circumstances. (*Session 14*)

***Jotham’s Journey, A Storybook for Advent*; Arnold Ytreeide, Kregel Publications, 2008.**

Jotham’s Journey is divided into short chapters for each day of Advent, giving families the opportunity to create a seasonal tradition of storytelling in their home. Ten-year-old Jotham’s adventures take him across Israel as he searches for his family. (*Sessions 1–5*)

***Let It Shine: Stories of Black Freedom Fighters*, Andrea Davis Pinkney, Harcourt Children’s Books, 2000.**

The author states that she hopes the lives of these women reflect something in each of us—the courage to stand up for what is right. Stories of Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, and others jump off the pages and grab the reader. (*Session 11*)

**\**The Man Who Would Not Hate*, Jill Briscoe (Heroes of the Faith), Word Publishing, 1991.**

Relates events in the life of the Ugandan bishop Festo Kivengere. (*Session 12*)

***Number the Stars*, Lois Lowry, Sandpiper, reprint edition, 2011.**

This is a fictional story based on real events around the evacuation of Jews from Denmark in World War II. A ten-year-old Danish girl is the central figure as her family decides to harbor a Jewish family. (*Session 11*)

***The Road to Paris*, Nikki Grimes, Putnam Juvenile, 2006.**

This is a poignant story of faith, family, and resilience based on the love and trust of others. As 8-year-old Paris deals with the pain of the foster care system, she learns how to “keep God in her pocket” and believe in herself and others. (*Session 14*)

***Stephen’s Test of Faith*, DVD, 27 minutes, 2003.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Many kids can relate to twelve-year-old Stephen: his peers mock him for his faith in Jesus. Then he has a dream that empowers him with an inner strength to live boldly for the Savior. (*Sessions 3, 14*)

***Tabitha's Travels: A Family Story for Advent: Arnold Ytreeide, Kregel, 2010.***

Join Tabitha, a courageous shopkeeper's daughter, as her family travels to Bethlehem for the census! End of chapter reflections make this companion to *Jotham's Journey* an ideal Advent devotional. (*Sessions 1–5*)

**Primary–Youth**

***Best Christmas Pageant Ever, DVD, 60 minutes, 1986.***

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

When the Herdmans (the nastiest kids in the neighborhood) decide they want to be in this year's Christmas pageant, everyone is sure it will be a disaster. But when the curtain goes up, a miracle happens and it turns out to be the best ever! (*Session 13*)

***Christmas Blessing, DVD, 96 minutes, 2005.***

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

This sequel to *The Christmas Shoes* continues the story of Nathan Andrews, now a medical resident, who upon losing a patient, moves back home with his father. Here he finds the woman he loves and an innocent child in crises. Will Nathan let God restore his hope? (*Sessions 1, 14*)

***Christmas Shoes, DVD, 94 minutes, 2006.***

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Rob Lowe stars as a workaholic attorney with no time for Christmas—until a young boy helps him rediscover the true meaning of this special time of year. (*Session 8*)

***The Christmas Story, Carol J. Haile, Firenze Press, 2001.***

The Biblical text is beautifully done in calligraphy and the paintings were magnificently done using Amish persons as models. A very unique way to portray the familiar Christmas story out of Luke's and Matthew's gospels. (*Sessions 1–5*)

***Classic Children's Films, DVD, 120 minutes.***

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Three stories present lessons based on Scriptural truths, all of which are based on God's love and forgiveness. *Winning Circle* and *Climb a Tall Mountain* are 45 minutes in length; *Home Run for Rusty*, 30 minutes. (*Session 2*)

***God in Between, Sandy Eisenburg Sasso, Jewish Lights Publishing, 1998.***

Together the people of the town search for God only to make the grand discovery that God can be found within all of us and the relationships between us. (*Session 8*)

***Jesus: He Lived Among Us, DVD, 90 minutes, 2011.***

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

This account of Jesus' life, featuring vivid storytelling and high impact animation is recommended for ages seven and up. Seen from the eyes of the last surviving apostle, John. (*Sessions 1–14*)

***Veggie Tales: Big River Rescue*, DVD, 45 minutes, 2008.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Tomato Sawyer and Huckleberry Larry's life on the lazy river takes a turn for adventure when they help a stranger in need. With unexpected twists around every bend, they discover that while helping others may not be the easiest thing to do, it's always the right thing to do. (*Session 10*)

## **Middler and Youth**

***14 Cows for America*, Carmen Agra Deedy in collaboration with Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah, Peachtree Publishers, 2009.**

Nine months following the attack on the World Trade Center, Americans are deeply touched by the selfless gesture of a gift of 14 cows from the Maasai people of western Kenya as a gift of hope and friendship. Beautifully illustrated and deeply moving text. (*Session 13*)

***First Valentine*, DVD, 25 minutes, 2003.**

Available from [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)

Tess, a shy 13 year old, embarks on an adventure of imagination and meets the third century martyr Valentine and his Christian friends. They show her what it means to love others as Jesus loves us and to receive that love in return. (*Session 12*)

***I'll Be With You Always*, Joni Eareckson Tada, Crossway Books, 1998.**

A disillusioned artist's faith in his ability is restored by his father's love and faith in him. (*Session 14*)

## **Multiage Reference Books**

***Daily Life at the Time of Jesus*, Miriam Feinberg Vamosh, Palphot, 2007.**

The purpose of the book is to bring the reader as close to life as it was lived in the time of Jesus. The many vivid, original illustrations complement the text.

***Food at the Time of the Bible*, Miriam Feinberg Vamosh, Palphot, 2007.**

The book contains an in depth, easy to read survey of every aspect of food in the Bible accompanied by fascinating illustrations and photographs. Also includes authentic recipes from the time of Jesus.

***International Children's Bible Dictionary*, Ronald Youngblood, Thomas Nelson, 2006.**

This is a fun and easy to use guide to the words, peoples and places in the Bible.

***Nelson's Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Bible*, John Drane, Thomas Nelson, 2001.**

***Manners & Customs in the Bible*, Victor H. Matthews, Baker Academic, 2006.**

This resource contains lots of helpful background information for teacher's use as well as for middler and junior high age students. Good illustrations.

***The Jesus Encyclopedia, Lois Rock, Thomas Nelson, 2005.***

This is a well-illustrated and informative resource by a frequently published author that would be very helpful to explain many aspects of life and customs in Jesus' time.

***The Nazareth Jesus Knew, Joel Kauffman, Nazareth Village, 2005.***

Nazareth Village was constructed to show believers and nonbelievers alike what Nazareth would have looked like in the days of Jesus. The book contains pictures and illustrations of the village that can be visited today.