

Resources for EMC Churches:

Materials for Sunday School, VBS, Small Groups, Preaching and Teaching

Need ideas for Sunday School, VBS, small groups, preaching, and teaching?

The EMC does not produce its own Sunday School curriculum for a wide range of ages; it would have to be done on a yearly basis, and we are too small for this. However, we do produce occasional materials. For EMC materials, please contact the EMC national office to talk with Rebecca Roman or Terry Smith: 204-326-6401 or messenger@emconf.ca.

We can, however, refer pastors, Sunday School superintendents, and teachers to other locations where materials may be considered. Contact the organizations listed below.

I. Evaluating Materials

A Look at Sunday School Materials

EMC minister and retired teacher Ray Hill (MacGregor) compares (now) MennoMedia's *Adult Bible Study* (ABS) with other materials. See *The Messenger* (March 2011) online at www.emconference.ca/messenger.

Answers to Questions

Representatives from the publishers of three Sunday School curricula (*Scripture Press*, *David C. Cook*, and *Gather 'Round*) responded to questions. These summaries, provided by the publishers, are available from the EMC national office or online at www.emconference.ca/CE-update (August 2010, curriculum survey responses). **Free.**

Curriculum Evaluation Guide

David C. Cook/Scripture Press provides a guide to selecting a Sunday School curriculum at www.davidccook.com (under Curriculum | Overview | Curriculum Evaluation Guide). **Free.**

How Do You Select a Bible College?

This is a somewhat outdated, yet still useful pamphlet by (now) Dr. Harvey Plett on what to look for in a Bible college. Disclosure: he was academic dean of SBC at the time. **Free.**

MennoLens

A four-page tool for evaluating Christian resources from a Mennonite perspective is available from *MennoMedia*, formerly *Mennonite Publishing Network* and *Third Way Media*,

which merged in July 2011 (866-866-2872, www.faihandliferesources.org/Curriculum/MennoLens.pdf). **Free.**

II. Sunday School Curricula

Adult Bible Study

This adult study material, through MennoMedia, has an Anabaptist perspective. Contact www.faihandliferesources.org/Curriculum/abs or abseditor@mpn.net. A brochure on ABS is available from the EMC office. The brochure is **free.**

David C. Cook and Scripture Press

These curricula serve a range of ages and are popular within EMC churches. However, their theology and subject matter need to be supplemented or adjusted in order to better reflect Evangelical Anabaptist concerns. For both, contact www.davidccook.com. However, please note that David C. Cook Canada is www.davidccook.ca.

Gather 'Round

Gather 'Round is for all ages. It is produced by Mennonite Church USA and the Church of the Brethren, in cooperation with MennoMedia. Information can be found at www.faihandliferesources.org/Curriculum/gatherround. It is useful, carefully prepared material. At times, however, it might need additional Scripture passages for further study of doctrine and more age-appropriate activities.

III. Daily Devotional Materials

Rejoice!

Rejoice! is an Anabaptist daily devotional guide produced by MennoMedia (www.faihandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice). A **free sample** is available.

IV. Study Materials

A Case Study as a Discussion Starter: How Should a Canadian Christian Respond to Remembrance Day?

This case study is designed for discussion in a teen or adult classroom. It provides the case, lists questions and Scripture passages, and provides a short list of resource materials (bibliography). **Free.**

ALPHA

This evangelism/discussion program is available to suit various settings. Contact www.alphacanada.org.

Ancient Future: A Mennonite Catechism

This is study material locally produced in connection with Fort Garry EMC in Winnipeg, Man. If you are interested in looking at it, contact the church at 204-261-1084. It was written by Eric Jordan M. Doerksen, BA.

EMC Statement of Faith and Church Practices

This 25-part series looks briefly at each article in our *EMC Statement of Faith and Church Practices*. A pdf booklet can be found online at www.emconference.ca/ce-resources.

Follow Me: Exploring More of Our Calling as Christians

This 13-lesson discussion guide, produced by the EMC in 2006, looks at biblical social justice. It is suitable for teens, adults, small groups. The studies include:

- *Why Stick to the Gospel?* How full is the message we live and share?
- *Good News for the Poor:* Social justice is part of our evangelical heritage.
- *Joining Sunday and Monday:* Putting together our faith and work
- *Does Politics Have a Place in the Christian Life?* Let me see a show of hands!
- *Racial Prejudice:* But some of my best friends are Native!
- *Pro-life? What's the Alternative?* A radical alternative without easy answers.
- *Isn't War a Four-Letter Word?* The moral issue our churches rarely talk about.
- *The Arms Race and the Search for Security:* Are we shooting ourselves in the foot?
- *Coffee and Cocoa—the Pleasures of the Elite:* The sticky web of international trade
- *The Golden Rule: Whoever Has the Gold, Rules:* Materialism and the Simple Life
- *Creation: It Isn't Just Passing Away!* On stewardship of planet Earth
- *Waiting for Christ's Coming, But Not Sleeping!* The Second Coming and Social Justice
- *On Living Without All the Answers:* Why grace shouldn't cause us to freeze with indecision.

Cost: \$2.50 plus mailing.

Peace Sermons by EMCers 2007 and 2008 (booklets on CD)

EMC leaders are expected to teach on Jesus, peace, and war. How should they do it? These CD booklets contain 17 and 13

sermons each, respectively, in this area. They are offered to assist pastors in their own reflection, preaching, and teaching. **Free.**

Theodidaktos: Journal for EMC theology and education

This EMC journal is produced twice-yearly for leaders and members. It has an editorial, two or three papers, a book review or two, and a sermon. *Theodidaktos* means “taught by God.” It is designed to help in-depth thought and education. **Free.**

Topical Study Materials

A range of materials are available from MennoMedia (www.mennomedia.org), produced by Mennonite Church USA and Church of the Brethren. Kindred Productions (www.kindred.com), the Mennonite Brethren publisher, also has materials.

2011 Peace and Discipleship Sermons by EMCers (booklet on CD)

EMC leaders are expected to teach on Jesus, peace, and war. How should they do it? This CD booklet contains eight sermons, one study, and several quotes. It is offered to assist pastors in their own reflection, preaching, and teaching. **Free.**

V. Basic Materials on Anabaptist History and Thought

A Partial Bibliography on Anabaptist History and Thought

This longer list of books prepared in 2006 by Dr. Harvey Plett was reorganized and expanded by Rev. Terry M. Smith in 2009/2011; it is available at www.emconference.ca/ce-resources. **Free.**

Radical Followers of Jesus

This DVD series by the Evangelical Anabaptist Fellowship highlights men and women who “display radical forgiveness, radical love and radical peace.” **Cost: \$11.20 plus mailing.**

Stories, Beliefs, and Practices

Dr. John D. Roth (Goshen College) has written a trilogy (Herald Press, 2006-2009) on Anabaptist history, beliefs, and practices:

Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be

Beliefs: Mennonite Faith and Practice

Practices: Mennonite Worship and Witness

These titles can be found at <http://store.mpn.net>.

The Naked Anabaptist

Dr. Stuart Murray, from Great Britain, has written on “The Bare Essentials of a Radical Faith” (Herald Press, 2010). This book can be purchased at <http://store.mpn.net>.

What is an Anabaptist Christian?

A three-part study booklet by Palmer Becker exploring: “Jesus is the center of our faith. Community is the center of our lives. Reconciliation is the center of our work” (Mennonite Mission Network, 2008). Student materials and leaders’ guides are available in print or for free download from www.mennonitechurch.ca.

VI. Worship Service Aid

Going Deeper: Guidance on Six Key Themes in Anabaptism (2010)

Written by EMCers, these six chapters provide preaching, teaching, and worship materials on discipleship, believer’s baptism, community, hermeneutics (interpreting Scripture), the church and state, and peace. **Cost: \$2.**

VII. Pamphlets on Family Topics

Close to Home

This pamphlet series, put out by MennoMedia, is well-written and practical with a focus on many issues that hurt Christian families. For a full list, check the website at www.faithandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome.

VIII. Video Resource Library

The EMC has a well-used video resource library. A catalogue is available online at www.emconference.ca/catalogue. Contact Rebecca Roman at the national office. **Cost: rental prices vary. Mailing is extra.**

IX. Vacation Bible School

MennoMedia (www.mennomedia.org), Scripture Press, and David C. Cook (www.davidccook.ca or www.davidccook.com) each produce VBS materials.

This list draws upon the contributions of:

Irma Janzen (Fort Garry)

Dr. Harvey Plett (Prairie Rose)

Terry M. Smith, Executive Secretary, BCM

Rebecca Roman, Administrative Assistant, BCM

Tim Dyck, General Secretary