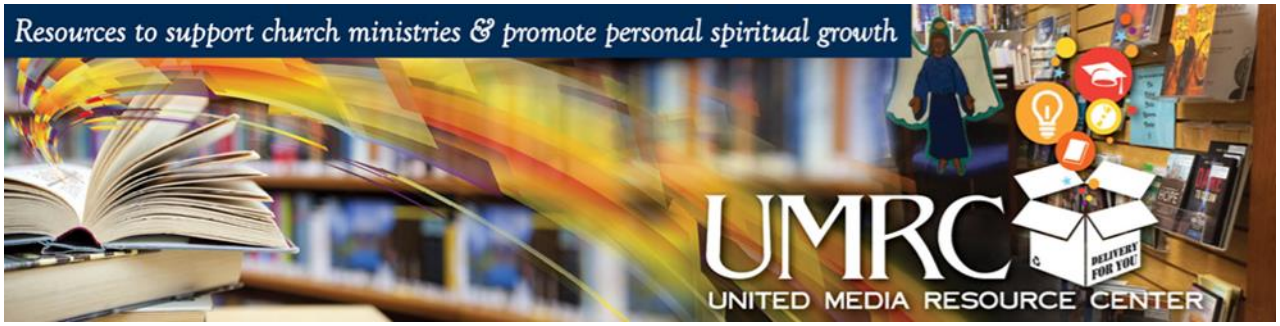


Advent and Christmas resources for use with children and youth

available to borrow from the **United Media Resource Center** http://www.igrc.org/umrc
Contact us by e-mail at umrc@igrc.org
or search for and request items using the online catalog

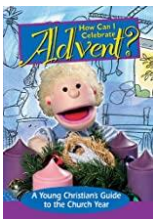
DVDs:



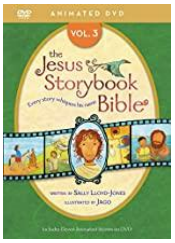
ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: THE KING IS BORN (101021) Animated story of Jesus' birth beginning with Simeon awaiting the Messiah in the temple of Jerusalem. Concludes with Mary and Joseph's return from Egypt to Nazareth where Jesus grew up. Copy 5 provides optional Spanish and English soundtrack and subtitles.
NOTE: There is an activity book to accompany this DVD:
ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: THE KING IS BORN ACTIVITY BOOK (810085) This reproducible resource and activity book includes coloring pages, puzzles, matching games, word searches, and more. Activities are designed in three levels of difficulty -- easy, intermediate, advanced. Age: Preschool – Upper elementary. 60 Pages



BEDBUG BIBLE GANG: CHRISTMAS SHOW! (102005) Join the fun and lively bedbugs and learn the stories of Mary's Surprise, Follow the Star, and The Shepherds of Bethlehem. Each story includes the Bible story told in rhyme, a song, and an on-screen puzzle. Also includes the fun story of 'Freezy the Bedbug,' a story of kindness and unselfishness. Age: Preschool – Early elementary



HOW CAN I CELEBRATE ADVENT? (108011) A Young Christian's Guide to the Church Year. Beth and her brother, Digger, can hardly wait for the Christmas celebration to come, so they are excited to learn about and take part in the season of Advent. Beth explains to him the meaning behind the five Advent candles: 1) Prophet's candle (hope), 2) Bethlehem candle (prepare), 3) Shepherd's candle (joy), 4) Angels' candle (believe), and 5) Jesus candle. They also discuss Advent wreaths, Advent chains, Advent calendars, and 'Emmanuel.' Includes short rhyming versions of the following Bible stories: Adam and Eve, Isaiah, John the Baptist, the angel visits Mary, the angels visit the shepherds, the shepherds visit baby Jesus. Age: Preschool – Early elementary. 27 Min.

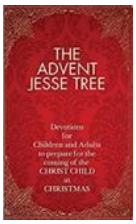


JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE: VOLUME 3 (110053) Using illustrations from 'The Jesus Storybook Bible,' this DVD includes eleven short New Testament Bible stories: 1) He's here! (Birth of Jesus); 2) The Light of the whole world (Story of the shepherds); 3) The King of all kings (Three wise men); 4) Heaven breaks through (Jesus is baptized); 5) Let's go! (Jesus in the desert); 6) A little girl and a poor frail lady (Jairus' daughter); 7) How to pray (The Lord's Prayer); 8) The Singer (Sermon on the Mount); 9) The Captain of the storm (Jesus calms the storm); 10) Filled full! (Feeding the 5,000); 11) Treasure hunt! (Story of the hidden treasure). Segments are 4 - 5 minutes long. Age: Preschool – Early elementary.



STORY OF ADVENT: SPEED SKETCH BIBLE STORIES (119135) This DVD contains four Bible stories told in 'speed sketch' style which are appropriate for use with all ages. Each story is told in two versions: 1) an easy-to-understand narrated paraphrase; 2) narrated directly from the NIV 1984 translation of the Bible. Likewise, each story in both forms is available with either English or Spanish audio. Stories (paraphrase time/NIV scripture time): 1) Isaiah's vision (5 min./5 min.); 2) The magi (5 min./2 min.); 3) The annunciation (5 min./5 min.); 4) Jesus' birth (5 min./3 min.). Lesson plans and coloring pages are available online at https://resources.wesleyan.org/speed-sketch-bible-stories. All ages.

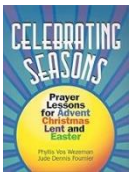
Books:



ADVENT JESSE TREE (814054) Devotions for Children and Adults to Prepare for the Coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. Designed as a 25-day devotional guide, this book includes a short devotion each day for both children and adults. Suggestions for making an Advent Jesse Tree with ornaments are included, an activity appropriate for both children and youth. 96 Pages.



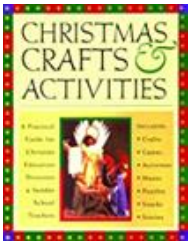
BEFORE AND AFTER CHRISTMAS (805212) Author: O'Neal, Debbie Trafton. Activities and Ideas for Advent and Epiphany. This book provides a variety of activities, service projects, crafts, Bible readings, reflections and family worship ideas, and fascinating facts and histories for Advent and the 12 days of Christmas. 64 Pages.



CELEBRATING SEASONS: PRAYERS LESSONS FOR ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, LENT, AND EASTER (822052) Author: Vos Wezeman, Phyllis and Fournier, Jude Dennis. This book is a guide that teaches about the most significant seasons of the liturgical year through 20 prayer 'lessons.' Each lesson helps upper elementary children to explore, experience, and enjoy a variety of approaches to prayer. Chapters: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter. 73 Pages.



CHILDREN'S DRAMAS FOR THE CHURCH YEAR: REPRODUCIBLE DRAMAS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (814218) Author: Miller, Linda Ray. A collection of skits, readings, poems, and simple songs for use with children of all ages. Most selections take less than ten minutes to perform and props and scenery are minimal. 59 Pages.



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES (805213) A Practical Guide for Christian Education Directors and Sunday School Teachers. This book includes craft, game, activity, story, and snack ideas for teachers of preschool, lower elementary, and upper elementary children. 203 Pages.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING! BUT WAITING IS HARD! (816211) Author: Whiting, Karen. Family Activities and Devotions for Advent. This Advent book contains family devotions that focus on connecting Jesus and the symbols of Christmas. Each day includes a devotional, prayer, questions to discuss, the meaning of a Christmas symbol, and suggested activities to put the scriptures into action. Reproducibles are included to help with the symbol activities. 112 Pages.



CHRISTMAS MOCCASINS (899911) Author: Buckley, Ray. A story by Native American author Ray Buckley about forgiveness. After being robbed by three young men, a grandmother makes them very special moccasins, delivering them on Christmas Eve. She explains to her grandson on this journey that they are doing the Creator's work and he experiences the freedom of forgiveness. Age: Early elementary - Adult. 26 Pages.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPE: AN ADVENT EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN (812068) Authors: Flegal, Daphna and Stoner, Marcia. 'The Christmas Shoppe' is an event where children of all ages hear the Christmas story, create Christmas symbols to be sold to support a mission project of the church's choice, and prepare and participate in a worship service with parents or with the entire congregation. Includes plans for a one-day, weekend, or four-week option. Children rotate through six departments: angel, manger, candy cane, star, card, and bakery. In each department, children hear part of the Christmas story and make items for the sale. The second portion of the event deals with preparing for a closing worship presentation and setting up for the sale. An accompanying CD-ROM includes PowerPoint slides and a variety of printable materials. Age: Adult. 112 Pages.



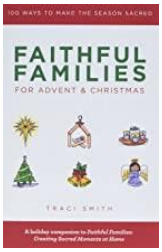
DEEP BLUE YEAR OF FESTIVALS: INTERGENERATIONAL CELEBRATIONS (816165) Eight intergenerational celebrations organized to include worship, fun, and faith formation. Each plan includes schedules, activities, worship outlines, event setups, and suggestions for advertising and outreach into the community. Includes: Harvest jamboree; Fall festival; Reverse Advent celebration; New year praise and prayer; Lenten community pilgrimage; Pentecost planting -- salad in a pot; Summer fun progressive picnic; Costume party. 48 Pages.



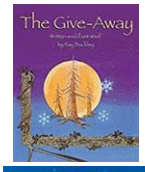
FAITH AT HOME: A HANDBOOK FOR CAUTIOUSLY CHRISTIAN PARENTS (817057) Author: Barrie, Wendy Claire. The author, a member of the Episcopal church, discusses how to give children a foundation of faith through practices and rituals in the home. Chapters: Talking about God; Talking with God; Bible stories; Why church?; Seasons and celebrations (discusses Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Martin Luther King Jr., Valentine's Day, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Summer saints -- Holy Women, Holy Men, Fall saints -- Saint Francis, Martin of Tours, Halloween, All Saints Day, All Souls Day); Making home holy (special days, rituals, milestones); Finding God in difficult times; Meeting God in others; A note to clergy and church educators. Includes glossary and bibliography. 146 Pages.



FAITHFUL CELEBRATIONS: MAKING TIME FOR GOD FROM ADVENT THROUGH EPIPHANY (818133) Author: Pearson, Sharon Ely. Designed to meet the need for generations to learn together, this book provides activities (crafts, recipes, discussion, worship, drama, games) that will bring families together and build strong communities of faith, whether it is in the home or a congregational setting. Chapters: Advent; The Annunciation; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Las Posadas; Christmas; Epiphany. 151 Pages.



FAITHFUL FAMILIES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS: 100 WAYS TO MAKE THE SEASON SACRED (821087) Author: Smith, Traci. In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it's easy for families to forget the true meaning of the season. In this book of faith practices for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, parents, grandparents, Sunday School teachers, pastors, and anyone who cares about kids will find 100 easy, fun, and meaningful ideas for bringing the sacred back into the season. Divided into three sections of prayers, practices, and lessons, this book offers families an abundance of ideas for making the Christmas season sparkle with faith and spirit. Chapters: Beginnings; Decorating; Family time; Giving; Telling the story; Advent values; Difficult moments; Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; The 12 days of Christmas and Epiphany; Endings. Age: Adult. 103 Pages.



GIVE-AWAY (899922) Author: Buckley, Ray. A story by Native American author Ray Buckley about God's gift to humankind. Realizing that people have lost their sense of identity, the birds and animals offer their most precious gifts, even at the cost of their own lives. However, the Creator explains that 'It is I who must give myself away' in the form of a humble baby. Age: Upper elementary - Adult. 32 Pages.



JOEY AND THE SHINING STAR: AN OWLEGORIES TALE (817282) Author: Boto, Thomas and Julie. In this full-color book for young children, Joey and his owl friends are walking home from the annual Christmas pageant. Joey is confident he knows a shortcut. But it doesn't take long for Joey to realize he and his friends are lost. Nervous and unsure, Joey tries to remember how to find his way home before his friends discover the truth. Soon, it's clear Joey needs their help. Like the three kings in the Christmas play, the friends realize that the shining stars can point them toward home. The stars remind them that God is always with them, helping them find their way, a message of assurance for the whole year, not just Advent. Includes 'family time' suggestions for discussion, prayer, and a craft. Illustrated by Andrea Werntz. Age: Preschool – Early elementary. 30 Pages.



LOOK! A CHILD'S GUIDE TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (821067) Author: Alary, Laura. This full-color book for children presents Advent as special time for waiting and watching—paying attention—to the ways God comes to us. It weaves together familiar Advent traditions like the Jesse tree and the Advent wreath, biblical stories and characters, and reflections on what these stories call us to do and be. This book reassures children of the

presence of God in all times and places and invites them to become part of the holy work of making Christ present in the world. Illustrated by Ann Boyajian. 32 Pages.



MESSY CHRISTMAS (817265) Author: Moore, Lucy and Leadbetter, Jane. Designed for use with intergenerational groups, this book includes three complete sessions and a treasure trove of ideas for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Chapters: Advent Messy Church; Christmas Messy Church; Epiphany Messy Church; Creative Christmas prayers; Christmas extras; Go for a green Christmas; Messy activity ideas; Global action and justice at Christmas; Christmas games; Christmas food crafts; Messy moments sheets. Includes index. 95 Pages.



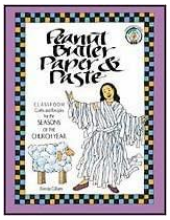
MOMENTS & DAYS: HOW OUR HOLY CELEBRATIONS SHAPE OUR FAITH (816248) Author: Van Loon, Michelle. This book explores the gift of time and takes a look at holidays in the Jewish and Christian calendars -- their stories, structures, and histories -- and offers suggestions on how you, your family, and your congregation can ponder their significance. Chapters: Measuring time, being measured by time -- the calendar; In the beginning -- introduction to the Jewish calendar; Day of yes, day of rest -- the Sabbath; Into freedom -- Passover, unleavened break, first fruits; Fifty days and first fruits -- Shavuot; May you be in scribed in the Book of Life -- Rosh Hashanah, Feast of Trumpets; Atonement and mercy -- Yom Kippur; God with us, us with God -- Sukkot / Feast of Tabernacles; Stones of remembrance -- Jewish history's holy days; From here to there -- introduction to the Christian calendar; Longing for home -- Advent; Welcoming the Word made flesh -- Christmas; The Light to the world -- Epiphany; Ashes to ashes -- Lent; Walking toward the cross with Jesus -- Holy Week; Living in resurrection time -- Easter; Signs, wonders, and new community -- Pentecost; Right here, right now -- Ordinary Time; Conclusion -- it's about time. Includes glossary and recipes. 213 Pages.



MOUSE TALES--THINGS HOPED FOR: ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY (805209) Author: Boling, Ruth. Set in the fictional town of Hillsborough and its church, the Church of the Least of These, church mice live, work, and play together. This collection of stories, which take place during the Christmas season, shows the community--and especially six memorable children in one Sunday School class--learning how to care for one another, welcome outsiders, disagree in love, forgive their friends, and love as Christ loves. Includes full-color illustrations. Age: Preschool – Upper elementary. 80 Pages.



PASSING IT ON: HOW TO NURTURE YOUR CHILDREN'S FAITH SEASON BY SEASON (815174) Author: Oliver, Kara Lassen. Providing plans for four units (Advent -- preparing to receive the gifts of Christmas, Lent -- living in the awkward season, summer -- turning ordinary into extraordinary, and back-to-school -- growing fruit of the Spirit) this book provides plans for weekly family gatherings with age-appropriate activities. A leader's guide for parent groups using the book together is also provided. *2018 UMW Reading Program: Nurturing for Community 94 Pages.



PEANUT BUTTER, PAPER, AND PASTE (805224) Author: Gilliam, Brenda. Classroom Crafts and Recipes for the Seasons of the Church Year. Contains activities for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. 88 Pages.



RUFUS AND THE VERY SPECIAL BABY (817141) Author: Barnhill, Carla. In this full-color picture book for children, Ava gathers her friends to bring gifts to the baby sent by God. Can a prayer help Rufus share something special, too? In Frolic picture books, lovable animal characters encounter problems that kids 3-5 can relate to and learn that prayer can help! Each picture book includes a simple prayer that parents and kids can say together. Part of the 'Frolic: Little Steps. Big Faith.' series. Age: Preschool. 31 Pages.



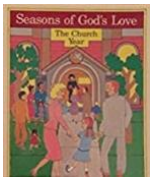
SACRED HOLIDAYS: LESS CHAOS, MORE JESUS (818208) Author: Kiser, Becky. Holidays are meant to be more than chaos with glimpses of grace; they are meant to draw us closer to God and one another. This book helps you avoid what has tripped you up in the past and gives you insights, tips, and tools to make your holidays less chaotic and more about loving Jesus and others. Don't let your holidays be marked by regret, whimsy whirlwinds, or survival mindset. Let's celebrate every holiday together purposefully and worshipfully - loving Jesus and others well in every moment. Chapters: Regrets, better ways, and baby steps; Social experiments and all things whimsy; Holidays (read 30-60 days before holiday): New Year's, Valentine's Day, Lent and Easter, Summer, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, Happy Birthday; Common struggles (read as needed): How to not be THAT Christian; Realistic expectations; Conflict, drama and all the feels; Budgets and generosity; Schedules and plans; Grief; Santa and the Easter Bunny; P.S. - be yourself and be with others. Appropriate for teachers and grandparents as well as parents. 242 Pages.



SEASONAL SPECIALS FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (814158) Celebrate 13 popular holidays with preschoolers through preteens, all from a Christian perspective. Each session includes a snack, craft, devotion, game, and more. Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas have extra activities to inspire, educate, and celebrate. Includes: New Year's Day; Valentine's Day; St. Patrick's Day; Palm Sunday; Easter; Earth Day; Mother's Day; Memorial Day; Father's Day; Independence Day; Halloween; Thanksgiving; Christmas. Includes index of activities by age-level. 158 Pages.



SEASONS OF FAITH: TEACHING THE CHRISTIAN YEAR (805055) Author: Stoner, Marcia Joslin. A study of the Christian year can be a fun way to unite the generations. This book contains crafts and activities for all ages on special days throughout the year. Includes ideas for service projects. 160 Pages.



SEASONS OF GOD'S LOVE: THE CHURCH YEAR (826390) Author: Fogle, Jeanne S. This full-color picture book for children explains the special days and seasons in the Christian church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost. Age: Early elementary. 32 Pages.

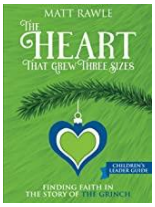


SIX SEASONS OF FUN! ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, AND MORE (822053) Author: Finegan, Katherine and Von Wezeman, Phyllis. This book is a collection of seasonal crafts, activities, and various resources that provide churches and families with a variety of ideas to use throughout the church year. In each chapter, you will find crafts, seasonal activities, and resources for pre-elementary, lower elementary, upper elementary, combined age groups, intergenerational age groups, and worship/education/music helps. Chapters: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost. 80 Pages.

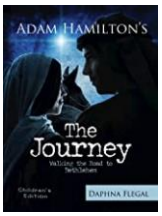
Study guides for use with children:



GIFT OF THE NUTCRACKER: CHILDREN'S LEADER GUIDE (918035) Author: Hoelscher, Sally. Based on the Matt Rawle adult study, this study contains ideas for younger (grades K-2) and older (grades 3-6) children. Children will explore the story and themes of 'The Nutcracker' and what they can teach us about Christmas and the coming of Christ into the world. Sessions: 1) Clara - waiting and expectation; 2) Drosselmeir - God is with us; 3) The Mouse King - hope in a fearful world; 4) The nutcracker - Jesus is God's gift to the world. For reference only: do not photocopy pages from this book. Age: Elementary. 63 Pages.



HEART THAT GREW THREE SIZES: CHILDREN'S LEADER GUIDE (921029) Author: Floyd, Erin. Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch. Based on the Matt Rawle adult study, this study contains ideas for younger (grades K-2) and older (grades 3-6) children. Children will explore the faith themes in the story and the way the Grinch's transformation and redemption point us to aspects of the Christian faith. Sessions: 1) When everything is wrong; 2) When Christmas isn't Christmas; 3) When light shines; 4) When joy is our song. For reference only: do not photocopy pages from this book. Age: Elementary. 63 Pages.



JOURNEY: WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM -- CHILDREN'S EDITION (911019) Author: Flegal, Daphna. Five sessions: 1) Mary; 2) Joseph; 3) Elizabeth; 4) The journey to Bethlehem; 5) The shepherds. Age: Preschool – Upper elementary. 64 Pages.

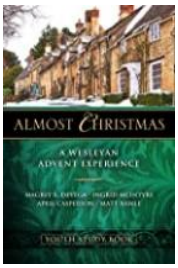


MORE SONGS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY (113087) This four-session curriculum reintroduces kids to the story of Christmas through beloved carols. Kids will explore song lyrics and discover surprising stories behind these carols: 1) What Child Is This?; 2) Go, Tell It on the Mountain; 3) O Little Town of Bethlehem; 4) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. Includes complete Bible-based lessons, take home family pages, and a DVD with a child-friendly arrangement of each carol. Age: Elementary.

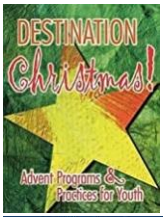


SONGS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY (119166) This four-session curriculum reintroduces kids to the story of Christmas through beloved carols. Kids will explore song lyrics and discover surprising stories behind these carols: 1) Joy to the World; 2) Silent Night; 3) Angels We Have Heard on High; 4) O Come, All Ye Faithful. Includes complete Bible-based lessons, take home family pages, and a DVD with a child-friendly arrangement of each carol. Age: Elementary

Study guides for use with youth:



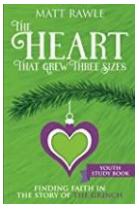
ALMOST CHRISTMAS: A WESLEYAN ADVENT EXPERIENCE - YOUTH STUDY BOOK (919042) Author: Tinley, Josh. Based on the adult study of the same name, this four- or five-session study will help youth in grades 6-12 explore their commitment to Christ with the traditional Advent themes of peace, hope, love, and joy. Sessions: 1) An altogether peace; 2) An altogether hope; 3) An altogether love; 4) An altogether joy; 5 - optional) An altogether commitment. This youth book also acts as the leader guide. Age: Middle school – High school. 61 Pages.



DESTINATION CHRISTMAS! ADVENT PROGRAMS & PRACTICES FOR YOUTH (826800) Author: Echols-Richter, Laura and Billy. Follow the Star! Programs include: A look at Isaiah, John the Baptist, Joseph (and Mary), Jesus at birth, the Magi, Herod, Ourselves. Practices include: the Advent wreath, shopping--a new look at values, a quiz, Christmas caroling, nativity scavenger hunt, decision to care, a covenant service. Includes reproducible materials. Age: Middle school - Adult. 96 Pages.



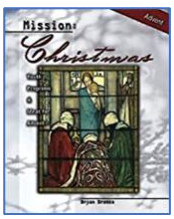
GIFT OF THE NUTCRACKER: YOUTH STUDY BOOK (918034) Author: Tinley, Josh. Based on Matt Rawle's adult study, this four-session study will help youth in grades 6-12 examine the story and characters in 'The Nutcracker' and better understand our relationship with Christ. Sessions: 1) Clara - waiting for Christmas; 2) Drosselmeir - a godfather's love; 3) The Mouse King - changing perspective; 4) The nutcracker - the greatest gift. This youth book also acts as the leader guide. Age: Middle school – High school. 63 Pages.



HEART THAT GREW THREE SIZES: YOUTH STUDY BOOK (921028) Author: Tinley, Josh. Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch. Designed for use with grades 6-12, this book is primarily for leaders. Youth are encouraged to read the main book by Rawle. Based on Matt Rawle's adult study, this four-session study interprets the Grinch, his struggles, and his redemption in a way that youth can relate to and understand, using humor, discussion, and examples from contemporary culture. Sessions: 1) When everything is wrong; 2) When Christmas isn't Christmas; 3) When light shines; 4) When joy is our song. Age: Middle school – High school. 61 Pages.



JOURNEY: WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM -- YOUTH EDITION (911020) Author: Gant, Jason. Five sessions: 1) Mary's story; 2) Joseph of Bethlehem; 3) Mary and Elizabeth; 4) From Nazareth to Bethlehem; 5) This will be a sign to you. Includes leader helps. Using the "Journey" book and DVD with this study is recommended, but not required. Up to seven copies available. Age: Middle school – High school. 79 Pages.



MISSION: CHRISTMAS -- YOUTH PROGRAMS AND IDEAS FOR ADVENT (805270) The purpose of this book is to provide youth leaders, Christian education directors, and Sunday school teachers with programs and ideas they can use in a variety of settings throughout the Advent season. It includes: five programs, one for each of the four Sundays in Advent and one for the Sunday after Christmas; an easy-to-perform play for the Advent season; a variety of worship ideas; creative service project ideas; and plans for a Christmas party and a New Year's celebration. 80 Pages.