

Curriculum Evaluation Tool

Guiding Principles for Developing or Selecting Formational Curriculum

The Evangelical Covenant Church

We affirm that Christian formation is a continuous and lifelong journey of being transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Christ, experiencing and expressing love for God and others. Continuous GROWth in Christ is our goal. Toward that end, we strive to develop and select teaching/learning experiences or materials that comply with the following principles.

General Considerations

- Material is consistent with the principles that guide our Covenant life together, as expressed in the *Covenant Affirmations* (CovChurch.org/who-we-are/beliefs/affirmations)
- There is a clear expressed emphasis and attentiveness on the abiding presence of God who speaks into our learning
- Clear attainable objectives and response elements are included in each lesson
- Integration of head, heart, and hands is central to each lesson/session
- Lessons are clearly presented, enabling the teacher/facilitator to prepare in a reasonable amount of time
- There are enough ideas and suggestions to adapt the material for longer or shorter learning sessions, large or small groups, and limited equipment

God's Word...shaping our actions and our lives

- Lessons are solidly grounded in Scripture, the Old and New Testaments, as the authoritative Word of God and designed to teach the Bible as the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct
- The overall resource points to faith in Christ as Lord and Savior and guides toward a deeper relationship with Christ
- Each lesson clearly provides an opportunity for response to God, and God's Word
- Children are given opportunity to ask questions, express doubts and struggles as well as reflect on the Bible story prior to focusing on the "point or objective"

Relationships...nurturing our growth

- Concepts, stories, and graphics are multi-ethnic and gender inclusive
- Curriculum balances relationship-building with content
- Partnership between church and home is recognized, supporting the philosophy of parents as spiritual nurturers for children

Outward Action...using our gifts in witness and service

- Materials recognize different learning styles and provide ways for learners to participate actively in the learning process
- Materials are age-appropriate, attractive, and contain a variety of approaches, including a challenge toward practical real-life response
- Teacher/facilitator is encouraged to prepare spiritually for the teaching/learning experience

Worship...interacting with and experiencing God

- Teachers/facilitators are encouraged to see themselves as working in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, and are prompted to pray as they prepare, and point to the Spirit to foster a relationship with God through the learning experience
- Learners are invited to respond in worship during the learning experience