

# COME JOIN THE CIRCLE

At the heart of our faith are powerful stories of God's love and faithfulness. These are stories we hear, remember, and pass along to others. They remind us who God is and who we are called to be.

*Come Join the Circle* welcomes learners and leaders into the heart of the Bible's great stories. These rotation-style learning materials help create the kind of learning environment where the Bible is at the center and fun and creativity abound.

## Features of *Come Join the Circle*

### Holistic

- Relies on leading mainline theology
- Honors all people and cultures through language, music, and art
- Encourages learners to live their faith in community
- Raises awareness of the wider world

### Inexpensive

- Each unit includes all necessary materials for students and teachers
- One unit equips any size church school
- Each unit can be used for 3–5 weeks
- Resources are reproducible and reusable

### Intergenerational

- Ages 3–12 explore the same story each unit
- Reproducible newsletter shares themes with the whole congregation

### Supportive

- Each unit includes teacher training
- Come Join the Circle Planning Guide offers program overview and additional background information

### Complete

- Biblical and educational backgrounds included for leaders
- Response options organized in seven different learning centers
- Resource comes with print music, reproducible lyrics, CD, and color teaching visuals

Having everything provided allows leaders to arrive feeling prepared and leave feeling energized.



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## EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS INCLUDED



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

(SEE PAGES 37–38)

IISTP – **ICKY ICHTHYS:  
STORYTELLING PUPPET** .... \$44.95

IFTCS – **ICKY'S FISH TALES**  
..... \$19.95

#### ICKY'S SCHOOL OF FRIENDS: FINGER PUPPETS

- **Critter Set** (10 puppets): rooster, goat, monkey, butterfly, lady bug, shark, kangaroo, snake, turtle, giraffe, duck. ISFCS – \$25.95

- **Kids of the World Puppet Set:** 10 unique puppets represent children from around the globe. IKWPS – \$25.95

- **Nativity Set** (15 puppets): Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, donkey, cow, three angels, male shepherd, female shepherd, sheep, three magi, camel. ISFNS – \$38.95

FASHG – **FAITHSHAPES!®: THE  
GAME OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS**  
..... \$9.95

FSCDR – **FAITHSHAPES!®: THE  
COMPUTER GAME OF CHRISTIAN  
SYMBOLS** .....\$18.95

52952 – **52 CRAFTS FOR THE  
CHRISTIAN YEAR** ..... \$9.95

FASTB – **THE FAMILY STORY BIBLE**  
.....\$19.95

Each unit of *Come Join the Circle* is complete and self-contained. Each unit provides enough material and activities for learners ages 3–12 to explore a Bible story for 3–5 sessions – no extra resources, CDs, or music to purchase. Having everything provided allows leaders to arrive feeling prepared and leave feeling energized.

**Each unit costs just \$89.00** and includes:

- **Bible background:** leaders can deepen their biblical understanding by reviewing background related to the unit's story
- **Learning center information:** the easy and effective options are clearly labeled and age-appropriate to create excitement and stretch Bible learning
- **Materials lists:** a shopping list for each learning center saves time and frustration
- **Music CD:** sing-along songs with accompaniment tracks, plus music for movement and improvising together
- **Printed music:** words and music for leaders, plus reproducible words
- **Teaching pictures:** Bible stories come to life with full color illustrations
- **Come Join the Circle newsletter:** a reproducible unit newsletter includes the whole congregation in the learning



### COME JOIN THE CIRCLE PLANNING GUIDE

This 40-page guide offers an introduction to the resource; its approach, theological assumptions, the role of the multiple intelligences, and unit materials. It offers suggestions for leadership training, outlines staff and facility needs, and other helpful start-up information. Includes a scope and sequence chart, sample schedules, a bibliography for further reading, plus a commissioning service. **61696 – \$12.95 each.**





## LEARNING CENTERS:

- **HANDS-ON**
- **MAKING MUSIC**
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE**
- **TIME OUT**
- **SHOW AND TELL**
- **FOOD AND PEOPLE**
- **FUN AND GAMES**
- **BRAIN TEASERS**

## MAKE DEEP FAITH CONNECTIONS THROUGH ACTIVE LEARNING

*Come Join the Circle* taps into children’s God-given gifts by offering age-appropriate and meaningful story presentations in a variety of learning centers, related to the multiple intelligences (see right). The rotation model also allows leaders to use their unique gifts. As a result, learner excitement increases along with leader comfort.

*Come Join the Circle* offers these learning centers:

- **Hands-on** – creating art, building things, science experiments
- **Making music** – singing, dance, movement, making and playing instruments
- **Community service** – connections to the world through helping and serving activities
- **Time out** – reflecting on the story independently: journals, prayers, wondering, reading
- **Show and tell** – acting out stories through role plays, dramas, puppets
- **Food and people** – learning about others by making foods and exploring cultures
- **Fun and games** – active learning with your whole self
- **Brain teasers** – puzzles, writing challenges, and activity sheets

## THE MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

Over the past decades, Howard Gardner, research professor at Harvard Graduate School of Education has done pioneering work in the theory known as the “multiple intelligences.” Gardner asserts that each person possesses seven “intelligences” and uses them in learning:

- **linguistic/verbal** – using oral or written words effectively
- **logical–mathematical** – using numbers to reason well; sensitivity to logical patterns and relationships
- **spatial** – capacity to visualize and to graphically represent visual or spatial ideas
- **bodily–kinesthetic** – using one’s whole body to express ideas and feelings; using one’s hands to produce or transform things
- **musical** – perceiving, discriminating, transforming, and expressing musical forms
- **interpersonal/relational** – perceiving the moods, intentions, motivations and feelings of other people
- **intrapersonal/introspective** – being aware of one’s inner moods, intentions, and motivations; a capacity for self-understanding

These intelligences are used in *Come Join the Circle’s* learning centers.

## FLEXIBLE FORMAT

### WHAT TO ORDER (ORDER FORM PAGE 39)

- Posters, unit newsletter, print music, and music CD are included with each unit. *Come Join the Circle* is reproducible, so you only need to order one copy of each unit.
- Congregations new to rotation-style learning may also wish to purchase the *Planning Guide* (see page 10).
- **EACH UNIT \$89**
- **PLANNING GUIDE (61696) \$12.95**

## COME JOIN THE CIRCLE MEANS FLEXIBILITY

*Come Join the Circle* resources are useful in a variety of settings.

- **Workshop/rotation learning:** *Come Join the Circle* is designed using this popular educational model where a single Bible story is the focus over several weeks. Learners have the opportunity to explore and respond to the story using different approaches each week.
- **One-room or multiage settings:** In this format, a smaller group of mixed-age learners work together in a classroom that offers several learning centers.
- **Intergenerational learning:** *Come Join the Circle* can also be used to encourage learning across the ages, even in larger congregations.

*Come Join the Circle* resources can be used in any order to meet your congregation's needs and schedule. The following chart suggests a plan from September 2005 to June 2006 (assuming each unit is used from 3–6 weeks), but you can use *Come Join the Circle* units in any order you wish.

| CODE  | UNIT TITLE                    | BIBLE BASIS       |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 6170X | GOD MAKES A WORLD             | GENESIS 1–2       |
| 61718 | GOD CALLS ABRAHAM AND SARAH   | GENESIS 12        |
| 61734 | JESUS IS BORN                 | LUKE 1; MATTHEW 2 |
| 61742 | JESUS CALLS DISCIPLES         | MATTHEW 3         |
| 61750 | JESUS THE TEACHER             | LUKE 17           |
| 61769 | JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION | MATTHEW 26-27     |
| 61777 | JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD      | JOHN 10           |
| 61726 | DAVID, THE SHEPHERD KING      | 1 SAMUEL 16-17    |

