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What is Hearts Alive?

Hearts Alive is a new Sunday school curriculum that follows the lectionary, offers lessons for multiple age groups, and focuses on Bible stories. The program is published by **Bible Study Media**, and written by a team of authors from several denominations. Bible Study Media previously published the Christian Life Trilogy for adults, under the leadership of Episcopal priest Charlie Holt.

As the introduction states, Hearts Alive is “evangelical in its interpretation of Scripture and contemporary in its teaching style.” This curriculum may therefore provide a new option for mainline congregations that hold a traditional understanding of scripture, salvation, and the Christian life.

What Ages?

Hearts Alive is for pre-K through 6th grade. For each Sunday, there are individual lessons for:

- Pre-K/Kindergarten
- Lower Elementary (grades 1-3)
- Upper Elementary (grades 4-6)
- Children’s Church (an additional lesson for each Sunday)

Who Will Enjoy Hearts Alive?

This curriculum provides a comprehensive and engaging program for Sunday school with multiple age groups. In addition, the children’s church module is an excellent resource for churches that do children’s chapel. The curriculum follows the lectionary, with one story chosen each Sunday from either the Old Testament or the New Testament.

The theology of Hearts Alive will appeal to churches who hold a “high view of scriptural

authority and a gospel focus” (Hearts Alive introduction). The curriculum focuses on teaching children Bible stories, while sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and God’s plan to save the world through him. Themes of salvation, new life, sin, and Baptism are emphasized.

Strengths

- Well organized and easy to follow layout
- Children’s church component
- Emphasis on Bible stories and sharing the Gospel
- Each lesson contains activity ideas, worksheets, snack ideas, etc.
- Attractive and informative take-home summary sheets for parents
- Created with mainline churches in mind (lectionary, creed, liturgy, seasons, Eucharist, etc)


Things to Keep in Mind

- The lessons provide scripted questions and answers for the teacher. You may find this confining and choose to add some open-ended prompts.
- For lessons with younger children, you may wish to supplement with additional movement/games, etc.

Samples

For a full sample packet (in digital form) go to the [Hearts Alive](#) website. Here are two small images below.

<p>PRE-K-K SUNDAY SCHOOL <small>Year 8 Spring Week 5</small> <small>Fifth Sunday in Lent</small></p>	
<h2 style="color: #9C27B0;">Jesus's New Covenant</h2> <p>Jeremiah 31:31-40</p> <p>Big Idea: Jesus brought in a new covenant; now his Spirit lives within us. He is our God, and we are his people, forever.</p> <p>Memory Verse: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people." Jeremiah 31:31 NIV</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>	<p>Lesson Overview</p> <p>Jesus made it possible to have a perfect relationship with God. Through his life and death, he brought in a new covenant that solved humanity's problem of sin and guaranteed our eternal connection with God. In this lesson, children will explore facets of the promised new covenant, hear how Jesus described the new covenant at his Last Supper, and realize that Jesus is at the center of both the new covenant and our relationship with God. Jesus brought in a new covenant; now his Spirit lives within us. He is our God, and we are his people, forever.</p>
<small>Pre-K-K Sunday School Year 8 Spring Week 5</small>  53	

<p>CHILDREN'S CHURCH Year B Spring Week 1 First Sunday in Lent</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Passing through the Waters to New Life</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Peter 3:18-22</p> <p>Big Idea: God saved Noah through the waters of the flood, a picture of our baptism in Christ.</p> <p>Memory Verse: "By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life." Romans 6:4</p>	<p>Lesson overview</p> <p>The lesson begins with an interactive review of the story of Noah and the ark. The focus is on God's rescue of Noah from the flood because of his faith. Then, through visual and hands-on activities, children will come to understand the connection between Noah, Jesus, and our own salvation and baptism into the family of God. Just as God rescued Noah because of his faith, God rescues us from sin because of our faith in Jesus. Baptism is a powerful symbol of this rescue. We pass through the waters and rise to new life. The small group portion focuses on our new, resurrected life in Christ.</p>
<p>Children's Church Year B Spring Week 1 HEARTS ALIVE 9</p>	

Learn more at [Bible Study Media: Hearts Alive](#)

Looking for more curriculum options? Check out the [Building Faith curriculum center](#)!