

Introduction to *We Believe* Elementary curriculum

Let's take a look at the *We Believe* curriculum for elementary-age children.

We Believe Elementary is a quarterly curriculum that has four parts: a Teacher's Book; black and white resource pages inserted in a back pocket of the Teacher's Book; a Color Pak with 3 large poster sheets and 16 full-color resources; and a Director CD. *We Believe* Elementary is available for three age groups:

- Younger Elementary (grades K–2)
- Older Elementary (grades 3–5)
- Multiage Elementary (grades K–5)

The Teacher's Book has thirteen six-page lesson plans. The lesson plans include background and planning information for the teacher and activities that follow the *We Believe* A, B, C, and D worship-oriented organization plan:

Page 1: Lesson Information

Scripture, Main Idea, Something to Remember (useful as a memory verse), Catechism Question (taken from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*), and Background for Teachers

Page 2: Planning Information

- Session Planning Boxes allow teachers to scan the session content and make choices regarding activity options. The planning boxes include a list of activities and the supplies needed as well as noting what items may need special preparation.
- "Heart of the Lesson" activities are marked with a heart symbol that indicates activities that take you through the main focus of the session. Additional activities are provided as options for every session.
- Multiple intelligence designations are listed for each session activity to aid in planning.

Pages 3–6: Assemble, Bible Study, Claim, Depart, Evaluate, and Future

- These headings mark the flow of each session.
- **A, B, C,** and **D** mirror the flow of worship: **Assemble** in God's name, study the **Bible, Claim** and respond to God's Word, **Depart** into God's world.
- **Depart** activities are often repeated over a period of sessions for continuity and ritual.
- **Evaluate** and **Future** invite the teacher to reflect on the session and prepare for future sessions.

Black and White Resource Pages are used during the sessions and are found inside the back pocket of the Teacher's Book. You will find instructions, scripts, patterns, puzzles, games, work sheets, pictures, maps, and more. Photocopy the copies you need for your class week to week – no waste!

The Color Pak is where you will find color pages and posters for use in the sessions. There are three large (approximately 17" x 22") two-sided poster sheets. One side of each poster is printed in color; the other side is printed in black and white. There are also 16 full-color resource pages (8 two-sided color pages). Each classroom needs at least one Color Pak. It is purchased separately from the Teacher's Book.

The Director CD is intended for use by a Christian Education leader or volunteer who supports multiple elementary classes. The CD includes For the Home sheets (to be e-mailed or sent home); MP3 files with instrumental and vocal music tracks; all of the black and white resource pages from the Younger Elementary, Older Elementary, and Multiage Teacher's Books; and Supplemental Teacher Helps.

- For the Home sheets written in a one-sided "newsletter" format to help families make connections to what's learned in the classroom. For the Home engages parents or caregivers with what happened in class, provides questions for conversation, and suggests activities connected to the session that families can do together. These pages can be e-mailed to homes, or printed, photocopied, and sent home with the children.
- Music: Download songs from the MP3 files to your computer and burn them to a music CD to use in class. Song lyrics to the vocal tracks are included.
- Black and white resource pages for Younger Elementary, Older Elementary, and Multiage sessions that the Christian Education leader can print or e-mail to the homes of teachers
- Supplemental Teacher Helps: Stock Your Closet lists, Hints for Substitute Teachers, an Evaluation Form, and more!