Elective Curricula for Mennonite Youth

Unless otherwise stated, these resources can be purchased from http://store.mpn.net.

Adventures with the Anabaptists
Ten active sessions, adaptable to junior or senior high, introduce youth to the major personalities, events, and issues of the Anabaptist movement in Europe in the 16th century. You will also need *Through Fire and Water* the newly revised and updated overview of Mennonite history. This engaging text uses stories of men and women, peasants and pastors, heroes and rascals, to trace the radical Reformation from sixteenth-century Europe to today's global Anabaptist family.

Youth Worship Source Book
Given a chance, high school youth have a lot of ideas and energy to bring to congregational worship. How can they be encouraged, trained, and involved in worship leading?
This book brings education together with hands-on participation. Each of the 10 units introduces one aspect of worship—openings and closings, public prayer, visual art, and others—and offers curriculum modules that not only teach youth about it, but also put it into practice. Each unit includes helpful ideas for times when youth may be in charge of a service or involved in an element of worship.

Merge
*Merge* helps you lead your youth group on a service trip that is more than just an exciting outing beyond your home community. Through seven sessions of preparation, on-site reflection, and follow up, you and your youth will build a team, connect with God through spiritual exercises, learn about cultural differences, explore God's mission for the church, reflect on your experiences on the service trip and apply what you learn back in your own setting. Sessions are based on the biblical journeys of Moses. The guide offers step-by-step plans for each session, with its discussions and fun activities. 72 pages.

Body and Soul: Healthy Sexuality and the People of God
Everyone seems to be talking about sex these days—at work, at school, on the Internet, in books, in the media. Everywhere, it seems, but in the church. Which is too bad; the church should be a great place to talk about how Christians can respond biblically and faithfully to this important subject. These resources guide a celebrative, four-part congregational focus on sexuality.
Through worship and interactive Bible study, church members explore the topics Our Bodies, God's Image: Created for Intimacy; Honoring the Gift of Sex; and Holy Desires.
Purchase as a boxed set with separate guides for coordinator, worship leader, adult study leader, and youth study leader.
Generation Why Bible Studies
These studies help high school youth confront issues of violence, injustice, materialism, and hard questions as they learn to apply the Bible to real life. No student pieces required. 5 or 6 sessions each.

Tent of Meeting: A 25-day Adventure with God
A journal for youth, that helps them grow spiritually by going deeper in their friendship with God. They will learn to know God by entering into a “tent of meeting,” a sacred space where they can practice spiritual disciplines that have enriched the lives of Christians for centuries. The guided journal format invites youth to personal faith learning. An expanded edition, with tips for guiding group sessions, is available for leaders.

The Mennonite Handbook
Seriously accurate and seriously funny, here is an essential field guide for all things Mennonite. Combining reliable, historical, and theological information, alongside some fun facts, The Mennonite Handbook provides very practical tips on being a churchgoing follower of Jesus Christ. Step-by-step instructions on such things as What to Bring to a Church Potluck, How to Get to Know Your Pastor, How to Sing a Four-Part Hymn, How to Listen to a Sermon and more!

Talk About It: Youth and Depression
Covers questions and discussions such as: What is depression?, What are the symptoms?, Youth responses to depression, Where do you look for help?, What can you do to help your friend who struggles with depression? This is a brochure, but could be adapted for a group discussion. Find at www.mccstore.org.

Basic Trek...Venture into a World of Enough
The point of our Christian faith is not that we have less than we need, but that everyone has enough. A simple idea...enough for everyone. Enough food, clothes, recreation. Enough time with family. Enough quietness. Enough time with God. But what is enough? Trek is a four-week guide to help you explore this question. Includes daily reflections, discussion questions and suggested activities. An ideal resource for youth groups, young adult groups and small groups. Find at www.mccstore.org.
Faith for the Journey
Designed to help youth, pastors and other leaders journey together through Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, this resource includes a session on each of the 24 articles of faith. Each session connects the topic with life experiences of youth, probes Scripture for other connections, and invites youth to begin their personal journey. Opportunities for reflective journaling and prayer are provided throughout.

Decide for Peace
This four-session Bible study and journaling workbook is for high school youth or young adults grappling with the issue of conscientious objection. Helps youth think through their convictions on peace and prepares them to fill out the Christian Peacemaker Registration Form. Designed for individual use, mentoring, or group study. Includes a four-session leader’s guide.

Being God’s People
Each of 13 lessons emphasizes a different aspect of being the people of God, and is arranged in six sections so new believers may study one section a day. Uses Scripture texts from Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

Let’s Talk: Communication Skills and Conflict Transformation
Designed to start Christians thinking, talking, and living out effective skills in interpersonal communication, transforming conflict into personal growth. Designed for group study, Let’s Talk includes a personal inventory on conflict management style, discussion guides, personal reflection exercises, and role plays for active listening and appropriate speaking. Written for high school through adults. A leader’s guide is included at the back. 10 chapters.

How to Understand the Bible
In 13 chapters, David Ewert shares guidelines on studying the Scriptures. He explains literary forms, idioms, and figures of speech from ancient cultures so readers can understand their meanings for today. With apt illustrations, Ewert deals with many typical questions. 2000. 240 pages.
God's Story, Our Story
For those considering baptism or church membership, this book addresses essential issues of Christian faith through an engaging survey of the biblical story, and sidebars containing real conversations from believers of all ages. Suitable for group and individual study. ( Companion for leaders: Making Disciples). Please consult with your pastor before using this curriculum—many pastors use this in membership instruction classes.

Sacred Search: Encountering God During Advent
Invites youth to know God, themselves, and others in deeper ways during the Advent and Christmas season. Leader resource outlines four Advent sessions, one Christmas session.

Sacred Search: Encountering God During Lent
Invites youth to know God, themselves, and others in deeper ways by doing a kind of internal housekeeping, during a Lenten search for meaning. This leader resource outlines six Lenten exploration sessions and an Easter celebration. Ideas for preparing visual aids, adapting lessons to varying levels of computer competency or access, and connecting the learning with the congregation’s Lenten experiences are included.

Earth Trek
Subtitle: Celebrating and Sustaining God’s Creation Based on Genesis 1 story of creation, Joanne Moyer uses the seven days of creation as a basis for exploring the aspects of our created world, how it is threatened, what is being done to protect it, and further actions that individuals, households, and congregations can take to live more sustainably. Moyer also explores how ecological concern and justice relate to Christian faith, delving into the Bible and a broad range of thinkers and writers to discover and celebrate the ecological imperative of our faith tradition. 2004. 176 pages. Paper. Find at www.mccstore.org.

Peace, Just Live It!
Ten sessions address topics such as peace in the Bible, family violence, racism, criminal justice and reconciliation, conscientious objection, and more. Includes step-by-step teaching plans and reproducible student sheets. 96 pages.

Read the Book: A Reading Record for the Whole Bible
NEW! Help teens connect meaningfully with the greatest story ever told. This colorful brochure draws teens into the variety and depth of Bible literature, offering a plan for reading through the whole Bible. Order one per teen.
Leap, Twist, Spy, Listen: Doing Nonviolence
Four interactive, biblical lessons that teach the basis and skills of nonviolence. Authored by Tobin Miller Shearer, anti-racist educator and organizer in Lancaster, Pa. Youth booklet is full-color, 24-pages, only one dollar apiece. The teacher booklet is 16 pages of additional information and activities.

Being There: The Bible Through Simulation
Three Titles: Beginnings, Trying Times, Faith Takes Action
Designed for youth, but also useful for adult groups, these simulations can be used in Christian education classes, retreats, or special events. Each book contains three simulations: one from the Old Testament, one from the Gospels, and one from the early church.

Good Ground Bible Studies
Good Ground is an interactive Bible study series for Sunday school or other adult groups. All participants use the same book; leader's tips are included following each session. Studies are not dated and may be used at any time. 6 sessions each. Use with older youth or young adults. Find all 29 titles at www.mpn.net → online store → curriculum → adult.

One on One: Practical Ideas for Adults Mentoring Youth
This downloadable resource guides adults as they prepare for, plan, and participate in a mentoring relationship. An introductory section covers the basics of effective mentoring, and 12 reproducible share sheets offer practical resources to guide conversations with youth. Share topics include Alcohol, Community, Growing Up, Life Goals, Living with Parents, Motivation, Peacemaking, Peer Pressure, Possessions, Self-Esteem, Truth-Telling, and Vocation. Download at www.mpn.net.

Pax Avalon
Avalon City is a sprawling metropolis with all the problems of a big city: pollution, crime, corruption, and support systems stretched to their limits. Into this mess steps Julianna Embry, a person with an incredible gift who is dedicated to bringing peace to Avalon City.

"As a youth pastor I am impressed by the quality of this work, which will appeal to Christian kids, but can also be used to reach young people outside of the traditional church setting. Pax Avalon is creative, well drawn, and well written. The "extras" at the end of the graphic novel lend themselves to great discussion. The "think it through" questions truly help the reader think through the storyline." —Glen Guyton 2008. 120 pages. Graphic novel. See more info and order at www.mpn.net.

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