

# A Sampling of Special Needs Curriculum and Resources



## Visual Supports

**Royalty Free Photo Sites** [Unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com) and other royalty-free photo websites can help provide visual examples for lessons.

**Photos of Your Classroom and Activities** Visuals and icons can be created by taking photographs of your classroom and appropriate objects. You can print these images as part of a visual schedule or other visual activities.

**Freebibleimages.org** This website offers quality pictures for nearly every major Bible story. Photos from this site can be downloaded as jpeg files, PDF, or as a PowerPoint/Keynote slideshow. [freebibleimages.org](https://freebibleimages.org)

**Bible Box** The Bible Box includes 14 beautifully painted ceramic objects that represent many of the key stories and Biblical truths of the Old and New Testament. It comes with a user's manual (English or Spanish) that gives lesson planning suggestions and scriptural references for a minimum of 23 lessons. To purchase this resource, go to [bibleboxonline.com](https://bibleboxonline.com).

## Bible Apps

It can be a great idea to use low-cost technology to enhance your curriculum as technology is an active learning tool. Selecting apps and videos that parallel the lesson will enhance the Bible Truth being taught. If you choose to use this form of technology, please ensure that device settings are appropriate to protect your devices as well as to protect the individuals in your classroom.

**4 Soils Bible Heroes** 4 Soils has created dozens of high quality, free or low-cost, Bible story apps. Students can read the story themselves or listen to a narrator read the story and watch as a pointer follows captioning. Most stories include coloring pages, music, and games. As an added feature, tips for teachers and parent are included.

**Adventure Bible Memory App** Students can work on Scripture memory by completing verse scrambles (easy, medium, or hard). Earning prizes helps students feel rewarded for their work.

**Bible App for Kids** This *YouVersion* app is a free interactive animated Bible storybook. It includes colorful illustrations with touch-activated animation, games, and activities helpful for story review. The layout is intuitive and easily navigated by children.

**My Little Bible** This is an interactive Bible app with touch activated elements and sounds on every page. Bible stories are retold simply, focusing on the illustrations.

## Bibles and Bible Story Books

**NIRV Bible (New International Readers Version)** The authors of this translation took the New International Version and simplified it to achieve a reading level that can be easily understood by early readers or individuals with cognitive delays. This translation is available in print as well as online; some are illustrated for young students and others for teens and adults.

**Picture That! Bible Storybook** This icon/picture storybook by Tracy Harrast tells Bible stories using words and simple icons that are repeated throughout the text so that individuals who do not read can begin to retell stories based on the icon pictures. There are two volumes available covering 135 Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments. A similar resource by the same author is the *My Learn to Read Bible*. This storybook Bible follows the same style and includes 113 Old and New Testament stories.

**The Jesus Storybook Bible** This storybook tells stories from the Bible, inviting children to discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story and can be the center of their story too.

**The Action Bible** This book retells stories of the Bible in a comic book style.

## Curriculum for Children with Special Needs

**Chirp** Chirp is a highly visual curriculum designed by a speech-language pathologist for children who have intellectual disabilities or language delays. It is concept based and created in partnership with Mayer-Johnson's Boardmaker, using their icons in all of the classroom materials. Each lesson is designed to last 4 weeks, and comes in a binder that includes training for volunteers, a simply worded lesson, appealing illustrations, and activities. It is written from a child's perspective and is intentionally created to help verbal learners understand biblical truths. [chirpcc.com](http://chirpcc.com)

**Bible Studies for Life (Kids Special Buddies)** This Lifeway curriculum is easy to use, available by the quarter, and is designed for each story to be taught two weekends in a row to help lessons stick. Lifeway also provides single story lesson packets designed for students with special needs grades 1st-6th. The format is very similar to the Bible Studies for Life, but all components are bundled in a single downloadable PDF. Either of these resources can be purchased at [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com).

## Curriculum for Teens and Adults with Special Needs

**Beyond Limits** Beyond Limits I is a full-year curriculum written around *Matthew* the movie. It includes a manual with 10 units, the Visual Bible's *Matthew* movie, and 52 total lessons. Beyond Limits II is also a full-year curriculum written around John the movie and the *Jesus Film*. The materials are sent on a USB drive and includes lessons, visuals, and handouts. The videos for Beyond Limits II must be purchased separately. Videos must be purchased separately. For more information, visit [beyondlimitscurriculum.com](http://beyondlimitscurriculum.com).

**Access** This Lifeway curriculum is based on a 5-year study plan. It introduces Biblical truths and incorporates age-appropriate student activities. The curriculum began in fall 2016, the Leader Guide and Learner Guide are published quarterly as they become available. Studies from previous years can be started at any time. This curriculum places an emphasis on applying practical Bible truths to everyday life. [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com)

**See Jesus** This Bethesda curriculum is written by a special education teacher who is also a mom to an adult child with autism. Three units of curriculum are available; Compassion, Honesty, and Dependence. Each curriculum packet is user friendly, creative, and active, using all the senses. [seejesus.net](http://seejesus.net)

**Together** Together is an innovative, media-based series by Friendship Ministries. Each unit of this curriculum is available in two parallel tracks—the first is designed for use in a traditional disability ministry setting. The second is designed for the formation of small groups that include adults with and without disabilities. [togethersmallgroups.org](http://togethersmallgroups.org)

**Ability Ministry** This curriculum is created to help people of all abilities draw closer to God, equip them for works of service, and give them the tools necessary to deal with real-life everyday issues. Each curriculum series comes with a leader's study guide and customizable PowerPoint presentations. The leader's guide includes additional questions to consider, optional object lessons, optional links to videos, and other resources. Each PowerPoint presentation includes a monthly memory verse, bible lesson, visuals & large print, multiple forms of group interaction, discussion questions, and prayer focus points. [abilityministry.com/curriculum](http://abilityministry.com/curriculum)

## Curriculum Designed for Typical Learners That is Easy to Adapt

Nearly any curriculum can be adapted to meet the needs of individuals with special needs by using lesson plans based on the developmental age of the student and incorporating other small changes (see our adapting curriculum appendix). However, it is often challenging to use curriculum materials that are designed for young children when working with older students. For this reason, it is easiest to adapt curriculum designed for all ages. If, for example, you are adapting for a student who is 15 but has significant intellectual disabilities, you might use the visuals from the youth curriculum but the lesson plans from the children's curriculum that is closer to the student's development level.

**The Gospel Project** The premise of this Lifeway curriculum is that the Bible is not just a collection of stories, but one unified story—God's story of redemption. It has a clear 4-year scope and sequence. Free trial curriculum examples are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com).

**FaithWeaver NOW** This is a quarterly, age-graded curriculum for infant through adults. The three-year scope and sequence covers the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Each quarter goes through 13 sequential Bible events giving a snapshot of the Bible timeline. There are 10 different age levels in which this curriculum is available. It is a robust curriculum with multi-sensory engagement. [group.com](http://group.com)

**The Story** This curriculum is based on The Story, an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel. The Story curriculum comes in several age levels including children's, youth, and adult. [thestory.com](http://thestory.com)