

Youth Worker Resources

1. *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus*

– This six-session video teaching series powerfully communicates the challenging but central message of the gospel that Jesus is NOT looking for fans...He's looking for followers who understand that there is no forgiveness without repentance, no salvation without surrender, no life without death and no believing without following. If you're ready to lead a movement of first century-like Christ followers, then dig deep into this material.

2. *Alpha Youth Film Series*

– Through 12 video episodes, this series explores timeless questions about life, faith and God for a new generation. The series offers compelling stories, images, questions, and discussion topics, to better engage youth, helping them think about how these issues relate to their lives.



3. *The Truth Project* – This DVD-based curriculum is comprised of 13 video lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett. It is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective as each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.



material, and much more, at live.simplyyouthministry.com.

4. *LIVE Leadership* – With a total of 60 lessons that will inspire and engage junior high, high school and adult volunteers, this material will help them discover indispensable biblical principles that are relevant both to daily life and to youth ministry. Find this

Say The Lord's Prayer

As part of a worship service, say together the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that unites all churches, instructs all people, and can be said by most ages. This is part of the "work of the people."

Repeat The Apostles' Creed

Menno Simons and other Anabaptists agreed with it. Balthasar Hubmaier used it in his baptismal confession. Peter Rideman used it as the structure for his Confession of Faith. The Swiss Brethren of Hesse used it in dialogue with Reformed leaders. The Apostles' Creed, a short confession of faith, provided common ground in

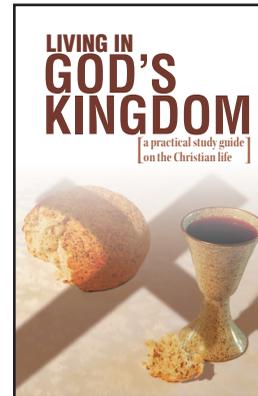
the Early Church, in the 16th century, and today. Teach it to your congregation and say it together occasionally.

Teach Singing!

Don't assume people know how to sing together. Teach them. Years ago people learned to sing in four-part harmony; less so today. Whether using chanting, four-part harmony, hymns or choruses, instruct your congregation in singing. Musicians do not automatically make good song leaders. Song leaders (or worship bands) are not to simply perform up front; they are to guide congregational singing. Music mustn't overpower the human voice. Check the volume of the sound system. No need to harm people's hearing.

Living in God's Kingdom Now Available

A fresh resource for small groups and baptism and membership classes will be available to churches in March 2016. There are six lessons: God and revelation, Jesus Christ and salvation, Holy Spirit and discipleship, the kingdom and the future, church and mission, and Anabaptist history. They draw together the classical themes of Christian theology and Anabaptist emphases. The book can serve as a group study resource for six to twelve weeks. A leader's guide is available. The book will also be available online.



Teach Them to be Christians

Is this too obvious? Yet the difference between being a Christian and a non-Christian is greater than *any* differences between Christians. The goal of Christian education is to help children, teens, and adults to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). After going through the local church's educational system, how are people to express their faith? One attempt at a description is the EMC pamphlet *Marks of a Mature Believer*, available at your church and from the national office.

Avoid "Be Good!" in Children's Stories

When leading a children's story, consider your goal. If you regularly remind children to "Be good!" then reconsider. A reminder

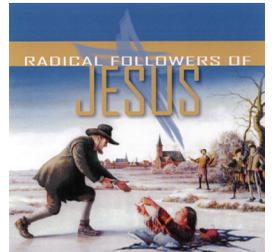
is okay, sure. But isn't a Christian about more than "being good"? Many good people think they don't need Christ or the Church. Too much stress on "being good" misleads about the heart of our faith. Ask yourself, "If the story is not about being good in some way, what's the point?" Asking that might get you closer to this truth: We are not alone. We live in Christ's world. Worship is due Christ because of Who He is and what He has done for us.

Are You Making Anabaptism Irrelevant?

Paul Martens of Baylor University says, surprisingly, that the desire to "identify" and "preserve" the "distinguishing core of Anabaptism inadvertently makes Mennonite theology superfluous." He says to define it as discipleship, the church as a brotherhood, and a "new" ethic of love and non-resistance suggests that Anabaptism focuses on human effort. Rather, he says, early Anabaptists began their confessions of faith focused on God's work, especially in Jesus' life and death (*Journal of Mennonite Studies*, University of Winnipeg, 2015). Ultimately, Anabaptism is grounded not in its distinctives, but in the Christian faith. Does your church emphasize God's *initiative* of grace in Christ? Teach historic Christian truths? Encourage well-rounded discipleship?

Radical Followers of Jesus

This video series and study guide (2003), produced by the Evangelical Anabaptist Fellowship, focuses on the history, theology, and current state of the Anabaptist movement. Each lesson is about 30 minutes. Twelve lessons: the Apostolic Church and Church Fathers, Constantine and Compromise, Voices for Reform, The Reformation, The Swiss Radicals, The German/Dutch Radicals, Migration in Europe and the Radical Vision, A Radical Approach to the Bible, Radical Discipleship, Migration to the Western Hemisphere, Missions of the Radical Followers of Jesus, and Radical Faith in a Postmodern World. For purchasing or borrowing, contact the EMC national office or EAF at 204-362-9444 or eafellowship@gmail.com.



What's in Your Order of Service?

Some possible parts are: welcome, call to worship, invocation, hymns/choruses/songs (in more than one place), sharing, pastoral prayer and the Lord's Prayer, confession and assurance of pardon, sharing the peace/greeting others, confession of faith/