

Editor's Note on the Breathe Curriculum

Welcome to the Breathe Curriculum. We are excited to offer CBOQ's very first junior high module, written by practicing professional youth workers and teachers, who are mindful of the unique developmental, cognitive, social and spiritual characteristics of junior high students.

In this module, we have tried to focus on conveying important biblical and spiritual truths through well-structured and thought-provoking lessons. We have also taken great efforts to write our lessons in such a way as to improve your teaching practice. Lesson flow, wording of instructions, transitions and other details have been explicitly expressed. We have also included "Notes on Teaching Practice". These brief lessons on instructional practice and teaching strategies help to model the pedagogical practice behind the lessons so that you can improvise, adapt, and create your own lessons using research-based practice. The lessons are laid out so that you know everything you need before you start the lesson.

Lesson Objectives

Spiritual growth is very difficult to track, since it does not follow the normal course of learning in the cognitive domain. Still, we are using "objectives" which list changes in behaviour you will see if your students have learned the principals in the lesson.

Minds On

A brief section to create the mental set for the lesson, and provide an effective "hook" for the ideas that will be presented.

Action

This is the main part of the lesson. Students will engage with big ideas from scripture or from theological thinking around the Christian faith.

Consolidate/Debrief

This gives an opportunity to bring all of the ideas of the lesson together and to apply them to our own lives. We have included a “Breathe In” section, which invites the students to allow God to impact their lives as they “breathe in” His Spirit, and a “Breathe Out” section, which invites the students to act, either in their own lives or the lives of others to live out the radical, world changing message of Christ.

We understand that you might not use the curriculum in the order the lessons were written. Just be aware if you use lessons out of sequence you might need to make adjustments so the lesson will flow properly. Of course if you need to change, amend or improve these lessons in any way, we encourage you to do so. We only ask that you do not redistribute either this original curriculum or any altered version as your own property.

Media Use

Please note that presenting a video in public (e.g. in a church) does require a license (similar to a CCLI license for music). You can obtain a license that will cover most distributors such as Universal, Disney and 20th Century Fox, at Audio Cine Film (www.acf-film.com) or Criterion Pictures (<http://www.criterionpic.com/>).

We suggest that you preview the movie clips suggested in each specific case. This will help you determine whether the clips are suitable for your group. Occasionally, Youtube or similar online resources may be referenced. Most of those resources are public domain, however, we encourage you to preview these to ensure the links are still active and appropriate.

Last, we pray that the Holy Spirit will literally inspire you: to fill you and your students with the presence and nature of God, to change and transform you in such a way that your lives would spill and flow onto the lives of others as you Breathe In and Out, the breath of the living God.

In Christ,

Breathe Editor, Oakville, Canada, 2012