

Catalog of Ideas

CAW NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2001

Curriculum FOR THE SEASON

AN ANTI-BIAS SHORT COURSE for Churches

Elsewhere in this *Catalog of Ideas* we have suggested a short reading list in Anti-bias materials. We'd like to go further and suggest a curriculum of study for the summer months or early fall. Make it a requirement for your staff, including volunteer staff (teachers, youth leaders child care personnel, etc.), encourage your vestries, musicians and committee chairs, and issue a special invitation to parents of young people. Feel free to adapt this six week curriculum to your own situation. *Children at Worship* asks that you evaluate the course and share those results with us.

Areas of Concern Spare no "ism" in this focus on bias and stereotype. Racism, sexism, homophobia, divisions by age and class, employment and education - all are appropriate subjects for this exploration. Allow yourselves to recognize bias in your churches, in your culture, in your faith and in your homes. This short course is intended to evoke discomfort at times, to provoke healthy and lively discussion, and to establish a commitment both to change bias patterns and to support one another in the effort. Each of the six sessions offers a focus, three of them church related. The remaining three will focus on faith bias, bias in the culture, bias in the home.

Format

Each of the six sessions will be framed by two stories from scripture: the story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11: 1-9) will lead the session, and the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2: 1-11) will close it.

- Part One: Read Genesis 11: 1-9
- Part Two: Personal story and reflection; recognition of bias
- Part Three: The task
- Part Four: A commitment to change and the promise of mutual support
- Part Five: Mutual support and empowerment
- Part Six: Read Acts 2: 1-11

