PART 1 • WHY

Why are we talking about changing curriculum?

Gospel Project has **deep substance and solid biblical teaching** through the narrative of Scripture, but a few challenges have bubbled up to the point of **looking for solutions.**

The challenges have been:

1

Few visuals

Few or no visuals for Shepherds teaching younger children.

2

Over kids' heads

Some content **isn't developmentally appropriate** or is over the kids' heads, so it has to be reworked or rewritten. A growing number of lessons are **unusable** [skipped weeks in the scope and sequence], even though we pay for them.

3

Missing a story

Many lessons **teach a concept instead of a story**, with no actual Bible story to share. Ideas like "the people sinned; the people were discouraged" are biblical, but **kids learn best through stories, not concepts**. Without a story, the teaching resources just aren't as strong.

4

One story for all ages

Ideally, **all our kids would learn the same Bible story** in age-appropriate ways. Gospel Project has materials for every age, but they're so far above each age that we can't use them.

5

Unclear main point

The main point isn't always clear. Sometimes there are many points instead of one big takeaway for kids.

6

Hard to adjust

Because of the format lessons come in through our subscription, they're **technically cumbersome for Coordinators to adjust** for our church.

PART 2 • HOW WE LOOKED

What we were looking for

Kids Council (our Kids Ministry staff plus Katie Phillips, Kristin Wenger, Karen Hullinger, Kristin Kreider and Rachel Baker) looked at curriculum options with **these core values in mind:**

1

Developmentally appropriate, active, hands-on learning for babies through 4th grade

2

Clear main points that focus on the character of God, not on the child

3

Teaches the story of Scripture and is theologically in line with LEFC

[built on Bible stories, not concepts like “the people were discouraged”]

4

Enough structure to use in both services

ALSO CONSIDERED These were vetted too, but **didn’t fully match our core values:**

- Wonder Ink
- Gospel Story Curriculum
- Truth78
- Orange
- Show Me Jesus
- Hear Know and Go
- Foundation Worldview

Brite rose to the top.

PART 3 • WHY BRITE

Brite Pros we found are:

4/4 core values met

✓ **Core value 3**

Teaches the story of Scripture through real Bible stories, and is theologically in line with LEFC

✓ **Core value 2**

Clear main points focused on the character of God

✓ **Core value 1**

Designed for **babies through 4th grade**, with active, hands-on learning

✓ **Core value 4**

A solid structure for **both services**

Belong › **Believe** › **Become**

Every Brite lesson is built around **the 3 B's: Belong, Believe and Become.** Good news for Shepherds: **the lesson schedule stays much the same.** It's the content that's fresh.

PLUS

- ✓ **The big story of Scripture, every year.** Each year walks through God's whole story with different Bible stories, so kids see the big picture of what God is doing in a developmentally appropriate way.
- ✓ **Monthly themes and verses** that are fun to share with families
- ✓ Fits the way we do **July and August**
- ✓ Helpful, practical **Shepherd training resources**
- ✓ **Great parent resources**, including help with tough topics that come up in Scripture
- ✓ **Easy for Coordinators to adjust** for our church

The honest look at Brite cons:

1. We'd **add in Bible skills**, like kids using their Bibles and looking up Scripture, since this is a strength of Gospel Project.
2. Brite **may need more depth** at times. Since we own a full through-the-Bible cycle of Gospel Project, **we can weave those lessons in.**
3. Brite gives a solid base for two services, but since many kids stay for both, **we'll supplement with extra resources** (many are free).