



# The Educational Center

## 2013 FACTS AND STATS

### RESOURCES

The Educational Center creates, publishes and distributes the weekly subscription-based **BibleWorkbench (BWB)** and **TeenText (TT)**. Our subscribers are further supported through:

- The Educational Center website: <https://www.educationalcenter.org/>
- Blog: <https://www.educationalcenter.org/blog/bibleworkbench-blog>
- Facebook: <https://Facebook.com/BibleWorkbench>
- The CenterLine Newsletter: <https://educationalcenter.org/centerline-news/centerline-2>
- More information: <https://www.educationalcenter.org/about/what-we-do/resources-for-the-spiritual-journey>

### SUBSCRIBERS

**BWB** is used by discussion groups, seminar and Sunday school classes, neighborhood/community groups, individuals for study, seminary students and ministers for sermon preparation across the U.S., Canada and Central America. Among the named and unnamed faiths in the subscriber base:

<b>United Church of Christ (UCC)</b>	Unitarian Universalist
<b>Baptist</b>	Jewish
<b>Episcopal</b>	Quaker
<b>Lutheran</b>	Methodist
<b>Presbyterian</b>	Agnostic
<b>Catholic</b>	Atheist

**TT** subscribers include churches for age appropriate Sunday schools, youth fellowship and Vacation Bible Schools.

### **PRICING AND DELIVERIES**

**BWB** is \$130 annually for a subscription; \$75 half year; \$30 an issue. Weekly hardcopy materials are bundled and mailed in six print issues per year. An abbreviated version (outside copyrighted materials not included) is available electronically for \$100 annually.

**TT** is delivered electronically monthly with lectionary-based lessons. Versions for grades 6-8 and 9-12 are each \$75 annually. They are delivered 12 times a year.

Both subscriptions may be ordered online, by email or by phone.

### **TRAINING**

**The Educational Center** staff and writers facilitate training for **BibleWorkbench** group leaders as requested. Both **BWB** and **TT** group processes adhere to a set of best practices group guidelines and norms, which are included in the BWB materials and often posted in a group's meeting space. [Click here to learn more about our method.](#)

### **LEADERSHIP**

**The Educational Center** employs two full-time employees ([click here for more information on staff](#)) and works with 14 freelance writers and editors ([click here for more information on writers and editors](#)). A volunteer Board of Directors governs **The Educational Center**. [Click here for more information on our board.](#)



**BWB's** focus is that of story, in three particular aspects:

- What is happening in the text?
- How might the story be happening in the world around us?
- How is this story your story?

A discussion group will spend the first third of their time together discussing the “story” presented in the weekly scripture. Who are the characters and what is going on?

Once the group fully explores how the story is going on in today’s world, they will reflect on how this story might be happening in their own lives. The process of study is truly about the questions, as there are no “right” answers.

The leader is not a teacher or lecturer in the sense of most traditional Bible studies. Experiencing multiple groups using the identical weekly scripture will result in experiences as distinctive as each group. The exploration, conversation and personal transformations change as each person in a group shares his or her unique story. [Click here for a sample week of BibleWorkbench and our Leader Guide.](#)



**TEENTEXT**

Go Deep. Be Real. Let Go.

**TT** is designed for grades 6-8 and 9-12. Some classes are clergy-led, but most are conducted by parents or volunteers. All materials are delivered electronically each month.

Materials for the leader include:

- The weekly lectionary scripture (the Old or New Testaments) from the Revised Common Lectionary, usually the version from The Message or the New Revised Standard Version.
- Contextual background information regarding the scripture text.

- Suggested discussion questions and activities related to the text centering on three aspects of story:
  - Go Deep. What's happening in the story?
  - Be Real. What connections can you make between the story and the world around you?
  - Let Go. Be open to discovering how this story is happening in your own life.
  - Links to other media resources including artwork, movie clips, music and lyrics and more.
  - Between Sundays: thoughts, questions or events for the students to ponder and consider during the week. Deliverable at the church's discretion through Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, blog or simply pronounced in class.

For a sample of TeenText and a copy of our Leader Guide: [Click here](#).



## HISTORY

**The Educational Center** got its start in 1843 when an infant was left at the door of an Episcopal Church in St. Louis. The Association of Ladies for the Relief of Orphaned and Destitute Children was formed. Later land was given for The Orphan's Home, and in 1929, the name changed to The Episcopal Home for Children. Research for Religious Educational Studies for children was added to the charter.

Later, under the direction of The Reverend Dr. Charles Penniman, The Educational Center Method —using narrative and questions — was developed. Several groundbreaking curricula for adults and children were developed for use in church education. The Rev. Dr. William Dols, then Executive Director, launched **BWB** in 1993. **TT** became available in 1998.



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