



September 7, 2026

For Members of LEA's Parish Educators Network

First impressions matter. That's why planning a kickoff event can be rather stressful, particularly for a youth ministry. To cut through the stress and noise, focus everything you do at this event on one word: connect. Read ideas on how to accomplish this in [5 Ways to Foster Connection at Your Youth Group Kickoff](#). (Brandon Metcalf in *CPH Blog*)

Gifting children Bibles, catechisms, or hymnals and instructing on how to use them is a fantastic ministry that many churches and schools have already implemented, but others haven't thought about. Learn how to [Gift, Bless, and Equip](#) your families. (Leslie Rudzinski in *The LEarning Curve*)



Looking for a book to use in children's ministry? This week, LEA highlights:

When Spring Comes

By Kevin Henkes (past Caldecott illustrator & Newberry author)

Illustrated by Laura Dronzek

Harper Collins Publisher

2016

Spring often starts with sticks on trees, brown grass, and snow-covered fields. By waiting a brief period, one will often experience quite a change in these conditions. This book emphasizes the sensory changes in these seasonal changes as the author and illustrator use vivid sensory descriptions, striking imagery, along with written alliterations and word repetition. An enjoyable book for use with spring and Easter themes.

Don't miss these weekly LEA resources...

[WOW Video](#)

[Weekly Devotion](#) by Ed Grube

[The LEarning Curve](#)

[What Works For Me Podcast](#)

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Contact LEA: 7400 Augusta Street, River Forest, IL 60305 | 708.209.3343 | lea@lea.org | lea.org

Linking, Equipping, and Affirming