
Small Group Resources Hilliard UMC Owns

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Staff: Beth Palmer, Director of Adult Spiritual Formation
bpalmer@hilliardumc.org; 876.2403 (church office)
Hilliard United Methodist Church

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Notes:

- No study will perfectly meet your group's needs, and most studies can be adapted to suit your group's needs. For example, most studies offer more material than there's time to discuss, or include activities that won't interest your group, so pick and choose — omit sections that don't appeal to your group, or add in your own knowledge and study as needed. Depending on the material, you could take two group meetings to discuss one session of the study, or discuss two sessions per week. Use your best judgment, and use the material in the way that best suits your growth in Christlikeness.
- In some cases, reading the original book on which a study is based isn't necessary; your group can have fruitful discussion and growth just discussing the DVD teaching. Reading the original book deepens the study and enriches lives, to be sure, but it's not always necessary. Some groups like to read and do "homework" between group meetings; others don't. Either way is a great way to do a group.
- It's not always necessary for every group member to buy their own copy of the book or discussion guide — if there's one copy for the group leader to use for leading discussion, that often works.
- Feel free to disagree with the teacher! Just because we've purchased a study doesn't necessarily mean we agree with everything they teach.
- Most studies are designed for one- to two-hour sessions. Adapt as needed for how much time your group has.
- The church is happy to order materials for you. The church will cover the cost of leader materials (kits, DVDs, leader guides, leader book) and shipping. We ask participants to pay for their books if they're able. We never want the cost of a book to keep someone from participating in a group, so if someone doesn't have the money this time, it's on us, happily.

Recommended Websites (where you can find more resources)

The church is happy to order materials for you, which saves you money (the church is a tax-exempt organization). Contact Beth Palmer. You're of course welcome to order materials on your own, too.

Bluefish tv: bluefishtv.com/Home. "Creating videos to help you teach."

Cokesbury studies for adults: cokesbury.com/forms/curriculum.aspx?lvl=Adult.

- Publishing ministry of The United Methodist Church.
- Books of the Bible series (various). Topics series. Huge selection and variety.
- Includes FaithLink series of one-session studies, of which we already own 26 titles, such as Teach Us to Pray, Peace with Justice Sunday, Love, Greed, Evolution & Creation, Afghanistan, Violence Toward Women, etc.

Group Publishing: group.com. Look under Adult Ministry section, under Small Group Ministry.

Living the Questions: livingthequestions.com.

Renovare: renovare.org.

- "We seek to resource, fuel, model, and advocate more intentional living and Spiritual Formation among Christians and those wanting a deeper connection with God."

SparkHouse: wearesparkhouse.org.

- A division of Augsburg Fortress Publishing, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- "Sparkhouse develops faith formation resources for children, youth, and adults. We strive to spark new life in Christian communities." "At sparkhouse, we're creating a whole new class of faith formation resources created for today's Christians. We meet people where they are: using technology, language, and active learning concepts that match our 21st-century lifestyles. Every day we strive to make creativity, collaboration, and even humor synonymous with thought-provoking, Bible-based learning."

The Thoughtful Christian: thethoughtfulchristian.com.

- Extensive selection of one-session studies (some free!) to download and print at home (or ask Beth to purchase and provide), including titles in Bible and theology, Christian living, church life, contemporary issues (politics, world issues, etc.), parenting, popular culture (movies, TV, books, etc.), Spanish studies, and spirituality.
- Multiple-session curriculum and a wide variety of books available, too.
- Produced by The Presbyterian Church USA.

Upper Room Books (division of The United Methodist Church)

- Books and resources: bookstore.upperroom.org.
- Small Group Ministry support: upperroom.org/ministry-areas/small-groups.

Yale Bible Study: yalebiblestudy.yale.edu.

- Video and print resources for studying Acts, Luke, John, 1 Corinthians, Romans, 2 Isaiah, and Mark.
- Produced by Yale University Divinity School and The Congregational Church of New Canaan, Connecticut.

Zondervan Publishing: zondervan.com. Under Study tab, see listing of Bible Book Studies and Video Bible Studies.

Zondervan ChurchSource Publishing: churchsource.com. At bottom of home page, click on “View ChurchSource catalog.”

Some Recommended Authors

Maya Angelou

Karen Armstrong

Ruth Haley Barton

Diana Butler Bass

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Marcus Borg

Frederick Buechner

John Burke

John Dominic Crossan

Bill Easum

Rachel Held Evans

James Finley

Leighton Ford

Richard Foster

Darrell Guder

Phillip Gulley

Adam Hamilton

Alan Hirsch

Bill Hybels

Reuben P. Job

E. Stanley Jones

Jon Kabat-Zinn

Sue Monk Kidd

Anne Lamott

Max Lucado

Brian McLaren

Brennan Manning

Ched Myers

Kathleen Norris

Henri Nouwen

John Ortberg

Parker Palmer

John Perkins

Eugene Peterson

Richard Rohr

Mike Slaughter

James Bryan Smith

John Shelby Spong

Leonard Sweet

Barbara Brown Taylor

Desmond Tutu

Frank Viola

Jim Wallis

Dallas Willard

N. T. Wright

Philip Yancey

DVD Studies

Teaching is via video, usually with an accompanying discussion guide. Optional or no prose book to read between sessions.

Batterson, Mark. *Facing the Unknown: A Modern Look at the Life of Abraham*. Bluefish tv.

- 4 sessions with discussion guide.

Bell, Rob. *Nooma* series. Flannel/Zondervan. Complete list with descriptions at Nooma.com.

- 24 DVDs with video teaching by Rob Bell on various topics in faith and theology, such as:
 - “Rain”: Where is God when life isn’t going like we want it to?
 - “Sunday”: Do we get so wrapped up in religion that we miss out on what’s important to God?
 - “Noise”: Why are we so afraid of silence?
 - “Rhythm”: Are our lives in tune with God’s plan for the world?
- Length varies, roughly 10-13 minutes each. Each is a self-contained discussion starter, so watch as many as you want in any order. Discussion questions in booklet with each DVD.

Borg, Marcus, with Tim Scorer. *Embracing an Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What It Means to Be Christian*. Morehouse Education Publishing, 2010.

- 5 sessions with discussion guide and DVD discussion starters.

Briscoe, Pete. *A Savior is Born: Experience the Wonder of the First Christmas*. Bluefish tv, 2009.

- 4 sessions with DVD teaching, leader guide, and participant’s workbook.
- Hope; Peace; Love; and Joy.

Claiborne, Shane, Ben Cohen, & Friends. *Jesus, Bombs, and Ice Cream: Building A More Peaceful World*. Zondervan, 2012.

- 6 sessions with DVD & participant study guide.

Claiborne, Shane, and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. *The Awakening of Hope: Why We Practice A Common Faith*. Zondervan, 2012.

- 8 sessions. Original book (214p) with discussion guide at the back, including ideas for putting the ideas into practice.
- DVD teaching for 6 of the 8 chapters.
- “Why Christians do what we do.” The authors “communicate the hope that Christianity offers through the discipline of six ancient practices. In addition to exploring core truths, your group will learn what it means to build community among believers by nurturing a faith that leads to action.”

Cloud, Henry, and John Townsend. *Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No, to Take Control of Your Life*. Zondervan, 1992.

- 9 sessions with discussion guide; leader guide in DVD box.
- Prose book.

Cloud, Henry, and John Townsend. *Boundaries with Kids: When to Say Yes, When to Say No, to Help Your Children Gain Control of Their Lives*. Zondervan, 1998.

- 8 sessions with DVD teaching, leader guide, and participant's guide.
- Prose book (223 pages).

Cloud, Henry, Bill Donahue, and John Townsend. *ReGroup: Training Groups to Be Groups*. Zondervan/Willow Creek Association, 2007.

- 4 sessions plus 13 extra video tips and 3 extended tips.
- Participant's guide.

Danielson, Alan. *What If Our Small Group Made a Difference In Our Lives?* Bluefish tv, 2009.

- 4 sessions with DVD and discussion guide.
- What if we cared? What if we were honest? What if we failed? What if we got off the couch?

DeSilva, David A., and Emerson B. Powery. *Invitation to the New Testament*. Short-Term Disciple Bible Study Series. Abingdon Press, 2005.

- 8 sessions with video teaching & leader guide.
- Participant book with daily Bible reading.

Disciple Bible Study. Abingdon Press.

*All: DVD teaching, daily Bible reading and reflection homework, leader guide; some have extra resource/study books and/or materials.

- Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study (34 weeks): whole Bible.
- Disciple II: Into the Word, Into the World (32 weeks): Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts.
- Disciple III: Remember Who You Are (32 weeks): Old Testament Prophets and Letters of Paul.
- Disciple IV: Under the Tree of Life (32 weeks): Ruth, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, and Daniel; Gospel of John, the letters of John, and James, Jude, and Revelation.
- Christian Believer (30 weeks): Church history and doctrine, why we believe what we do.
- Jesus in the Gospels (30 weeks): Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Group's Dinner and A Movie. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2005.

- Prepare or provide a meal for your group around a movie theme, then show a movie and discuss it. Meal and décor ideas, discussion questions, and activities provided. Provide movie on your own.

- Other books in this series: *Dinner and a Movie: G-Rated*; *Dinner and a Movie: Chick Flicks*, *Dinner and a Movie: Chick Flicks 2*; *Dinner and a Movie: Adrenaline Rush*

Hamilton, Adam. *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009.

- 7 sessions with DVD & leader guide. DVD sessions filmed in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, where the events took place.
- Original prose book (133 pages).
- “The aim of this book is to help you better understand the events that occurred during the last 24 hours of Jesus’ life, see more clearly the theological significance of Christ’s suffering and death, and reflect upon the meaning of these events.”

Hamilton, Adam. *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*. Abingdon Press, 2015.

- 6 sessions with DVD & leader guide.
- Prose book (222 pages)

Hamilton, Adam. *Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

- 6 sessions with DVD & leader guide.
- Prose book (132 pages).

Hamilton, Adam. *Christianity’s Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.

- 8 sessions with DVD teaching on Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism (14-18 minutes each).
- Prose book (130 pages).

Hamilton, Adam. *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009.

- 4 or 5 sessions with DVD & leader guide.
- Prose book (110 pages).

Hamilton, Adam. *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go*. Abingdon Press, 2012.

- 4 sessions with DVD & leader guide.
- Prose book (160 pages).

Hamilton, Adam. *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things The Bible Doesn’t Say*. Abingdon Press, 2016.

- 5 sessions with DVD & leader guide.
- Prose book (169 pages).

Hamilton, Adam. *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.

- 5 sessions with DVD teaching & leader guide. DVD sessions filmed on location in the Holy Land and Jerusalem, tracing the steps of those involved.
- Original prose book (133p).
- Devotional booklet, 4 weeks, 158-page mini book.

Hamilton, Adam. *Making Love Last a Lifetime: Biblical Perspectives on Love, Marriage, and Sex*. Abingdon Press, 2004.

- 8 sessions with DVD & leader guide.
- Prose book (125 pages).

Hamilton, Adam. *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*. HarperOne/HarperCollins, 2014.

- 6 sessions with DVD (Abingdon Press) & free downloadable leader guide.
- Prose book (337 pages).

Hamilton, Adam. *Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem*. Abingdon, 2014.

- 5 sessions with DVD & leader guide.
- Prose book (132 pages).

Hamilton, Adam. *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White: Thoughts on Religion, Morality, and Politics*. Abingdon Press, 2008.

- 5 sessions with discussion guide (subtitle on discussion guide is *Where Faith & Politics Meet*). Leader guide in DVD box.
- Original prose book (242p), with a few discussion questions in the back.

Hamilton, Adam. *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*. Abingdon Press, 2011.

- 4 sessions; leader guide in DVD box.
- Small prose book, no participant's guide.

Job, Rueben P. *Three Simple Questions: Knowing the God of Love, Hope, and Purpose*. Abingdon Press, 2011.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching & leader guide, by Pamela C. Hawkins.
- Original 78-page mini book.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Story of the Bible*. The Great Courses / The Teaching Company, 2006.

- 24 30-minute academic lectures on audio CD with transcript, on how the Bible came into being.

Jones, Scott J., and Arthur D. Jones. *Ask: Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age*. Abingdon Press, 2015.

- 8 sessions with DVD and leader guide.
- Prose paperback (125 pages).

- Can only one religion be true? Why is there suffering and evil? How can I believe in science and creation? How can I believe in a God I can't prove? Can I trust the Old Testament? Are marriage, sex, and family life religious issues? Was Jesus' resurrection real? Why do Christians disagree about so many things?

Kysar, Robert D. *Invitation to John*. Short-Term Disciple Bible Study Series. Abingdon Press, 2007.

- 11 sessions with video teaching & leader guide.
- Participant book with daily Bible reading.

LaGrone, Jessica. *Namesake: When God Rewrites Your Story*. Abingdon Press, 2013.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching. Participant workbook with some daily reading and homework.

Langford, Andy, and Mark Ralls. *Beginnings: An Introduction to Christian Faith*. Abingdon Press, 2003.

- 12 sessions with DVD teaching, participant's guide, Small Group Leader Guide, and Director's Manual.
- Also available: *Along the Way*, participant's companion (prose, 211 pages).

Living the Questions. Living The Questions, 2010 (livingthequestions.com, LLC).

- 21 20-minute teaching segments on DVD, presented by over thirty highly acclaimed scholars, theologians and other experts in a video exploration of an open, inclusive, broad-minded, progressive Christianity.
- We own the Home Edition but could upgrade to the public-use version, which offers downloadable participant and leader resources for small group study.
- Prose companion book also available (I don't think you need to read the prose book to do this study; and I think you can do this study just using the prose book, without the DVD segments; I'm not sure yet whether the book is a direct transcription of the DVD teaching segments or whether it's different): David M. Felton and Jeff Procter-Murphy, *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. HarperOne, 2012. Reader's Guide at the end with discussion/reflection questions.

Lucado, Max. *3:16: The Numbers of Hope*. Thomas Nelson, 2007.

- Participant's guide & leader guide all in one.
- 12 DVD teaching segments.
- Prose book (219 pages).
- In-depth look at John 3:16.

Lucado, Max. *Cure for the Common Life: Living in Your Sweet Spot*. Nashville: W Publishing Group / Thomas Nelson, 2005.

- Prose book (142 pages) with "Sweet Spot Discovery Guide" (pages 145-214).
- DVD called "DVD Special."

Mathison, John Ed. *Treasures of the Transformed Life: Satisfying Your Soul's Thirst for More*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

- 6 sessions with DVD with leader guide, participant's workbook (55 pages), and original book (311 pages with very short daily-reading chapters).
- Foundations of discipleship, focusing on one's relationship with God, a deeper understanding of self, and finding one's place in the kingdom: preparation/commitment, prayer, community, giving, servanthood, and faith sharing.

McKnight, Scot, Mike Metzger, Tim Keller, and Jon Tyson. *The Kingdom Way of Life: Restoring What It Means to Follow Jesus*. Q Group Studies. Zondervan/Q, 2011.

- Explore what it means to follow Jesus and accept his gospel message, not just in our minds and heart, but also in our very lives—to embrace the kingdom way of life.
- 5 sessions hosted by Gabe Lyons.
- Participant's discussion guide.

Meyer, Joyce. *Battlefield of the Mind: Winning the Battle in Your Mind*. FaithWords, 1995.

- Prose book (276 pages), with accompanying Study Guide, 3 parts / 25 chapters.
- 4 DVD teaching segments, with leader guide to watch the 4 teaching segments over 7 sessions; also includes identical teachings on audio CD.

Meyer, Joyce. *Fruit of the Spirit: How to Water God's Word in Your Life & Relationships*. Joyce Meyer Ministries, 2012.

- 7 audio CD teachings plus 1 bonus video session on DVD.

Miller, Donald. *Let Story Guide You: Life is a Story, Make Yours Count*. Bluefish tv, 2009.

- 2 DVD sessions with leader guide.

Moon, Gary. *God Views: Seeing Clearly the One Who Loves You Most*. Renovare/LifeSprings, 2003.

- Explore 6 common misconceptions of the nature of God. Experience God's true nature. Enter into a journey of authentic transformation." (box cover)
- 12 sessions with DVD teaching segments. No prose book.
- Participant's discussion guide. Extensive leader guide, giving many ideas for study.

Moore, Beth. *David: Seeking a Heart Like His*. LifeWay Press, 2010.

- 11 sessions with DVD teaching (about 60 minutes/segment). Disc 4 is lost, which includes sessions 7 & 8, but we can probably borrow from Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, 451.3736. See their online library catalog at www.ualc.org.
- Participant's workbook & leader guide.

Moore, Beth. *Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman*. Lifeway Press, 2008.

- 9 sessions with DVD teaching (about 60 minutes/segment).
- Participant workbook & leader guide (we don't own either but can order).

Moore, Beth. *Here and Now... There and Then: A Lecture Series on Revelation*. Living Proof Ministries, 2009.

- 11 sessions with DVD teaching (60& minutes each), with participant's workbook.

Moore, Beth. *James: Mercy Triumphs*. LifeWay Press, 2011.

- 8 sessions with DVD teaching, with participant's workbook & leader guide (we do not own the DVDs, but we have a few copies of the workbook & a leader guide, and we can probably borrow the DVDs from Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, 451.3736. See their online library catalog at www.ualc.org).

Nasser, David. *Paul the Apostle: What Culture Doesn't Want You to Hear*. Bluefish tv, 2009.

- 4 sessions with DVD & leader guide.
- Filmed on location in Rome.
- Culture & Faith in Conflict; Not Good Enough?; Keep the Faith; and A Picture of Your Life.

Ortberg, John. *All the Places You'll Go: How Will You Know?* Tyndale House, 2015.

- 6 sessions with DVD & leader guide.
- Prose book (265 pages).
- "How to recognize divine opportunities in daily life, overcome the fear of missing out or of making the wrong choice, and walk through open doors with confidence."

Ortberg, John. *God Is Closer Than You Think*. Zondervan, 2005.

- Prose book (168p) (optional).
- 6 sessions with DVD discussion starters. Participant's guide with discussion questions and activities. Personal exploration to do at home.

Ortberg, John. *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. Zondervan, 2003.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching on learning to trust God. Participant's guide. Leader guide.
- Prose book (224 pages).

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*.

Zondervan, 2002.

- Prose book (272 pages) (optional).
- 6 sessions with DVD discussion starters. Participant's guide with discussion questions and activities. Personal exploration to do at home.

Ortberg, John. *The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You*. Zondervan, 2010.

- Prose book (254 pages) (optional).
- 5 sessions with DVD discussion starters. Participant's guide with discussion questions and activities. Personal exploration to do at home.

Ortberg, John. *Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching and participant's guide.
- Prose book (194 pages).

Ortberg, John, and Ruth Haley Barton. *An Ordinary Day with Jesus: Experiencing the Reality of God in Your Everyday Life*. Zondervan, 2001.

- 8 sessions with video teaching and participant's guide. (We just own participant's guide but can order video.)

Parrott, Drs. Les & Leslie. *Real Relationships: An Open and Honest Guide to Making Bad Relationships Better and Good Relationships Great*. Zondervan, 2011.

- 6 sessions on DVD, with workbook.
- Prose book (336 pages). (We don't own the workbook or prose book but can order.)

Phillips, Todd. *No Plan B: Your Part in God's Remarkable Plan to Rescue the World*. Bluefish tv, 2009.

- 4 sessions with DVD teaching and discussion guide.
- 2000 Overlooked Scriptures; Plan A; Biblical Compassion; and What Can We Do?

Reisman, Kimberly Dunnam. *Knowing God: Making God the Main Thing in My Life*. Sisters Bible Study for Women Series. Abingdon Press, 2003.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching, leader guide, and participant's guide.

Saving Jesus Redux. Living the Questions, 2010 (livingthequestions.com, LLC).

- "Kidnapped by the Christian Right. Discarded by the Secular Left. Jesus needs saving." Exploration of a credible Jesus for the third millennium. "Join a host of experts for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus for the 21st century."
- 12 segments on DVD.
- We own the home edition but could upgrade to the public-use edition, which includes downloadable resources for small group study and a participant reader. We do have a printout from First Community Church of 12 participant guide handouts.

Schultz, Thom (executive producer). *Friendship First: The 1 Thing You Can't Live Without*. Group Publishing, 2005.

- 13 Get-Together ideas in Leader Guide to facilitate lasting friendships with one another and with God. DVD video illustrations and music/audio CD.
- Small *Friendship First* participant booklet.

Seaton, Michael, with Ashley Wiersma. *Start: Becoming a Good Samaritan*. Zondervan, 2009.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching hosted by John Ortberg.
- Participant's guide.

Sjogren, Steve, and Dave Ping. *Outflow: Outward-Focused Living in a Self-Focused World*. Group Publishing, 2006.

- 5 weeks with at-home reading (5 short sections per week), with DVD discussion starters.
- A few reflection questions at the end of each daily reading.

Slaughter, Mike. *Shiny Gods: Finding Freedom from Things that Distract Us*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013.

- Small prose book (141 pages).
- 4 sessions of DVD teaching. Free leader guide to download at AbingdonPress.com/LeaderGuides.

Spong, John Shelby. *Jesus for the Non-Religious*. Living the Questions, 2007.

- 1 "68-minute distillation of Bishop Spong's understanding of the God-presence in Christ."
- Prose book (318 pages).

Stevens, Becca. *Finding Balance: Loving God with Heart and Soul, Mind and Strength*. Sisters Bible Study for Women Series. Abingdon Press, 2004.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching, leader guide, and participant's workbook.
- Video-based study of New Testament women.

The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People. Third edition. Zondervan, 2011.

- Abridged version of the Bible, New International Version.
- 31 sessions (or do 2/week and meet 16 weeks), with DVD discussion starters.
- Discussion questions starting on page 473 of *The Story*. Separate participant's guide (optional).
- Companion resource (optional): *Exploring the Story*. Contains background information, archeological references, interpretive resources, etc.
- Versions for young children, older children, and youth (with separate youth DVD).
- Set of audio CDs, unabridged version of *The Story*.

Vander Laan, Ray. *FaithLessons Series*. Zondervan/Focus on the Family. 12 (?) volumes, all with leader guide in DVD box and separate discussion guide, of which the church owns:

- Vol. 1, *On the Promised Land: Crossroads of the World*, 5 sessions.
- Vol. 2, *Prophets & Kings*, 6 sessions.
- Vol. 3, *Life & Ministry of the Messiah*, 8 sessions (VHS tapes).
- Vol. 4, *The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah*, 10 sessions.

- Vol. 5, *Early Church*, 5 sessions.
- Vol. 6, *In the Dust of the Rabbi*, 5 sessions.
- Vol. 7, *Walk as Jesus Walked*, 5 sessions.
- Vol. 8, *God Heard Their Cry*, 5 sessions
- Vol. 11, *The Path to the Cross*, 5 sessions.
- Vol. 12, *Walking with God in the Desert*, 7 sessions.

Walsh, Sheila. *The Shelter of God's Promises*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011.

- 10 sessions with DVD teaching (25-minute segments), participant's guide, and prose book (185 pages).
- Prose book contains discussion questions for each chapter in the back of the book.

Warren, Kay. *Choose Joy: Because Happiness Isn't Enough*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revel/Baker Publishing Group, 2012.

- 4 sessions with DVD teaching, participant's guide, and prose book (254 pages).
- Prose book includes a couple reflection/application questions at the end of each chapter.
- 2 DVDs. Disc One has 4 short sessions (25 min each); Disc Two has 4 long sessions (approx. 1 hour each).

Warren, Rick. *Better Together: What On Earth are We Here For? 40 Days of Community Workbook*. Edition 2.0. PurposeDriven Publishing, 2004.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching. First 3/4 of workbook is a daily devotional with journaling space. Last 1/4 is small group discussion guide. No prose book.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Life*. Zondervan, 2002.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching. Discussion questions at end of book.

Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*. HarperOne, 1988.

- 6 sessions with DVD teaching (roughly 26 minutes each) by Dallas Willard and John Ortberg (2010). DVD case includes Leader Guide with session plans.
- Participant's guide, *The Divine Conspiracy: Jesus' Master Class for Life*, by Kevin and Sherry Harney (Zondervan, 2010). Reading original book is optional (448 pages).

Willard, Dallas. *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. Renovare/Formatio/InterVarsity Press, 2012.

- 6 sessions with 30-minute teaching segments featuring Dallas Willard, Richard Foster, and John Ortberg.
- Leader guide in DVD box with discussion questions.
- Prose book (304 pages) (optional).

Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ*. NavPress, 2002.

- 13 sessions with DVD teaching by Dallas Willard presenting summaries of his book, *Renovation of the Heart*, followed by an unscripted “coffee-cup conversation” among Willard, Larry Crabb, and John Ortberg.
- Participant’s guide & leader guide.

Wolfe, Lisa. *Uppity Women of the Bible*. Living the Questions, 2010.

- 4 volumes: Ruth, Song of Songs, Esther, and Judith.
- Discussion questions and resources available at uppitywomenofthebible.com.

Yancey, Philip. *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* Zondervan, 2007.

- 6 sessions on our relationship with God with DVD discussion starters (we don’t own the DVD but can order).
- Original prose book (351 pages).

Yancey, Philip. *What’s So Amazing About Grace?* Zondervan, 2000.

- 10 sessions with DVD with leader guide. Participant’s guide.
- Prose book (304 pages; don’t own but can order) (optional).

Discussion-Guide Studies

No DVD teaching. Discussion guide has everything you need — some have a bit of reading between sessions, but not as much reading as books listed in the next section here; most have no reading between sessions.

Ascending Leaders. *Prayer: Listening to God's Voice*. (Formerly *Listening Prayer*.) Ascending Leaders, 2009.

- 6 sessions. Participant guide & leader guide all in one.
- Other titles we own from this publisher:
 - *Thriving Love*.
 - *Fulfilling Faithfulness*.
 - *Your Pathways: Strong Connection with God*.

Ball-Kilbourne, Gary L. *Get Acquainted with Your Bible*. Abingdon Press, 1993.

- 8 sessions; participant's guide & leader guide. This is the book we use for our foundational class, Exploring the Bible (formerly Bible Foundations).

Borg, Marcus. *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith. How We Can Be Passionate Believers Today*. HarperSanFrancisco, 2003.

- 12 sessions.
- Discussion Guide / Companion: Borg, Marcus J, and Tim Scorer. *Living the Heart of Christianity: A Guide to Putting Your Faith into Action*. HarperSanFrancisco, 2006. Includes both participant's guide and leader guide.

Brisco, Bruce, and Lance Ford. *Missional Essentials: A Guide for Experiencing God's Mission in Your Life*. The House Studio, 2012.

- 12 sessions on cultivating a missional life.

Bugbee, Bruce, and Don Cousins. *Network: The Right People, in the Right Places, for the Right Reasons, at the Right Time*. Second edition. Zondervan/Willow Creek Community Church, 2005.

- "Discover your spiritual gifts, personal style, and God-given passion for serving in the Body of Christ." This is the curriculum we use for our foundational class, Exploring Spiritual Gifts (formerly Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts).
- 4-6 sessions with homework. A couple weeks include DVD clips to foster discussion, but the homework and small group discussion are primary.

Dawson, Gerrit Scott, et al. *Companions in Christ: A Small-Group Experience in Spiritual Formation*. Upper Room Books, 2006.

- Available in 2 formats:
 - 1 volume, 28 sessions, or
 - 5 volumes, 5 or 6 sessions each.

- Embracing the Journey: The Way of Christ; Feeding on the Word: The Mind of Christ; Deepening Our Prayer: The Heart of Christ; Responding to Our Call: The Work of Christ; and Exploring Spiritual Guidance: The Spirit of Christ.

Eisenbaum, Pamela M. *Invitation to Romans: A Short-Term Disciple Bible Study*. Abingdon Press, 2006. (100 pages)

- 8 sessions with leader guide.

Finley, Jeanne Torrence. *What's in the Bible About God? What's in the Bible, and Why Should I Care? Series*. Abingdon Press, 2008.

- 4 sessions.

Griggs, Donald L. *The Bible from Scratch: The Old Testament for Beginners*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

- 7 sessions. Participant's and Leader Guides combined in one book.

Griggs, Donald L. *The Bible from Scratch: The New Testament for Beginners*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

- 8 sessions. Participant's and Leader Guides combined in one book.

Hamilton, Adam. *Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspective on Tough Issues*. Revised edition. Abingdon Press, 2005.

- 7 chapters on separation of church and state; creation and evolution in public schools; death penalty; euthanasia; prayer in public schools; abortion; and homosexuality.
- 157 pages with discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

Harnish, James A. *A Disciple's Path: Deepening Your Relationship with Christ and the Church*. Abingdon Press, 2012.

- 6 sessions. Daily Workbook by Harnish and Justin Larosa, with homework.
- Leader Program Guide with CD-ROM.
- Companion Reader (74 pages).

Hybels, Bill. *Too Busy Not to Pray: Slowing Down to Be With God*. Second edition. InterVarsity Press, 1998.

- 6 sessions, participant's guide, with guidelines for leaders at back.
- Prose book (180 pages) with questions for reflection and discussion at the back.
- Also: Hybels, Bill, with Bill and Sandy Larsen. *Prayer: Too Busy Not To Pray*. Christian Basics Bible Studies Series. IVP Connect/InterVarsity Press, 1994. (Six-session small group study; reading original prose book is optional.)

Indermark, John. *The Way of Grace*. Companions in Christ Series. Upper Room Books, 2004.

- 9 sessions. “Travel with 8 biblical characters ... who discover God’s grace through their encounters with Jesus.”

Indermark, John. *Luke*. Immersion Bible Studies Series. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.

- 8 sessions, leader guide at back of book.

Jones, Sheila, ed. *Finding Balance from the Inside Out: Combining Spiritual Insight with Practical Input for Christian Women*. Discipleship Publications International, 2002.

- 10 chapters with reflection/discussion questions for each.

Kalas, J. Ellsworth. *Matthew*. Immersion Bible Studies Series. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010.

- 8 sessions, leader guide at back of book.

Miller, Carol J. *John*. Immersion Bible Studies Series. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.

- 8 sessions, leader guide at back of book.

Ortberg, John, Laurie Pederson, and Judson Poling. *Grace: An Invitation to a Way of Life*. Pursuing Spiritual Transformation Series. Zondervan, 2000.

- 7 sessions. Leader guide included in participant guide.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006.

- 9 sessions with separate Study Guide by Peterson and Peter Santucci.

Poole, Garry. *The Three Habits of Highly Contagious Christians*. Zondervan / Willow Creek Association, 2003.

- 3 sessions on sharing your faith with people you know.
- This is the book we use for our foundational class, Exploring Faith Sharing (formerly Sharing Your Faith).

Serendipity House. *Becoming a Disciple: Time for a Checkup*. Third edition. Serendipity House, 2003.

- 7 sessions on discovering wholeness and purpose in every area of life: spiritual, physical, vocational, emotional, relational, and volitional dimensions.
- Several other titles in this series at SerendipityHouse.com.

Serendipity House. *Intentional Choices: Discovering Contentment in Stressful Times*.

Serendipity House, 2003.

- 13 sessions on the stress of anxious anticipation; making mistakes; relationships; loss; labor (work); excess demands; crisis; anger; negative evaluation; change; unfulfilled expectations; decision making; and monotony.

Simmons, Carl. *Growing in Leadership*. Season (Book) 5 in *The Growing Out Series: From Disciples to Disciplers*. Group Publishing, 2010.

- 13 sessions.
- Discussion guide & leader guide in same book.

Slaughter, Carolyn. *Following Jesus: Steps to a Passionate Faith*. Abingdon Press, 2008.

- 12 sessions with leader guide and participant's guide. Minimal homework.

Smith, James Bryan, with Lynda Graybeal. *A Spiritual Formation Workbook: Small Group Resources for Nurturing Christian Growth*. A Renovare Resource for Spiritual Renewal. HarperOne, 1991, 1993.

- 8 sessions, 9 weeks: Discovering a Balanced Vision of Christian Faith and Practice; Practicing the Prayer-Filled Life; the Virtuous Life; the Spirit-Empowered Life; the Compassionate Life; the Word-Centered Life; the Sacramental Life; and Discovering a Practical Strategy for Spiritual Growth.
- Guidelines for developing an ongoing spiritual formation group, through an introduction to the basics of Christian discipleship, as seen in the life of Jesus Christ: prayer, virtue, empowerment, compassion, proclamation, and wholeness. Learn how to practice the spiritual disciplines that flow from the life of Jesus, and incorporate them into one's own life at home, individually, between sessions.

Stroble, Paul. *What's in the Bible About Jesus? What's in the Bible, and Why Should I Care?* Series. Abingdon Press, 2008.

- 4 sessions.

Terkeurst, Lysa (& others). *Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

- 12 sessions.
- We own the Study Guide but not the accompanying DVD.

Thompson, Marjorie J. *Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey*. The Companions in Christ Series. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2005.

- 7-week introduction to the Christian spiritual life.
- Learn spiritual practices in the group and then practice them at home (journaling, sharing faith journeys, meditating on Scripture, breath prayer, holy listening, and the daily examen).

Upper Room Books. *Meeting God in Scripture: Entering the New Testament*. Upper Room Books, 2008.

- 9 sessions. Participant's workbook & leader guide. Daily Bible readings at home.
- Also available (though we don't own): *Meeting God in Scripture: Entering the Old Testament*.

- This book is more about devotional reading of scripture, allowing the Bible to transform participants, rather than studying the Bible for information.

Wright, N. T. *John: 26 Studies for Individuals and Groups*. N. T. Wright For Everyone Bible Study Guides. IVPConnect/InterVarsity Press, 2009.

- 26 sessions on the Gospel of John.
- Wright is a noted scholar of the New Testament who has taught at several prestigious universities (Cambridge, Oxford, and McGill).
- Series includes studies on every New Testament book/letter, of varying numbers of sessions.

Books

Reading between group sessions is primary. Group sessions are for discussing what you've read at home on your own. Some of these books have some discussion questions built in; some don't.

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence*. Second edition. IVP Books/InterVarsity Press, 2010.

- Prose book (139 pages), with ideas for practice at the end of each chapter and a Guide for Groups at the end.

Borg, Marcus J., and John Dominic Crossan. *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon*. HarperOne, 2009.

Borg, Marcus J. *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—and How They Can Be Restored*. HarperOne, 2011.

- A few discussion questions provided at the end of the book.

Donigian, George Hovaness. *A World Worth Saving: Lenten Spiritual Practices for Action*. Upper Room Books, 2013.

- A few reflection/discussion questions at the end of each chapter, and a few activities for personal growth with each chapter. Some tips for leaders at the back.

Felton, David M., and Jeff Procter-Murphy, *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. HarperOne, 2012.

- Reader's Guide at the end with discussion/reflection questions.
- DVD: 21 20-minute teaching segments. See full description under *Living the Questions* in the DVD Studies section here.

Finley, James. *Christian Meditation, Experiencing the Presence of God: A Guide to Contemplation*. HarperOne, 2004.

Foster, Nathan. *The Making of an Ordinary Saint: My Journey from Frustration to Joy with the Spiritual Disciplines*. Baker Books, 2014.

- Foreword and reflections by Nathan's dad, Richard J. Foster.
- "More than thirty years after his father's classic book brought them to the masses, Nathan Foster took his own unique path into the spiritual disciplines. As he sought day by day to develop habits that would enable him to live more like Jesus, he encountered problems both universal and personal. Along the way, he found creative new ways to practice the disciplines and discovered that a vital, conversational relationship with God was truly within his grasp. Now he invites you to join him on the journey. You may just find that holy habits are truly possible for all." (back cover)

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. Revised edition. San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1988.

- An in-depth look at the inward spiritual disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting, and study; the outward spiritual disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission, and service; and the corporate disciplines of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration.

Fretheim, Terence E. *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions*. Revised and Expanded edition. Augsburg Books, 2009.

Hybels, Bill. *Holy Discontent: Fueling the Fire That Ignites Personal Vision*. Zondervan, 2007.

- “What is the *one aspect* of this broken world that, when you see it, touch it, or get near it, you just can’t stand? What reality is so troubling that it thrusts you off the couch and into action? This is what Bill Hybels refers to as *holy discontent*: a personal ‘firestorm of frustration’ that, although sparked by that which is terribly wrong, can catalyze fierce determination to set things right.... Hybels invites you to consider the dramatic impact your life will have when you willingly convert the frustration of your holy discontent into fuel for changing the world.” (from back cover of book jacket)

Joyner Jr., F. Belton. *United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers: Exploring Christian Faith*. Revised edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007, 2014.

Long Jr, Edward LeRoy. *Facing Terrorism: Responding as Christians*. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2004. (117 pages)

Manning, Brennan. *The Ragamuffin Gospel*. Multnomah Books, 1990, 2000, 2005. (258 pages).

- “Are you bedraggled, beat-up, and burnt-out? Most of us believe in God’s grace -- in theory. But somehow we can’t seem to apply it in our daily lives. We continue to see Him as a small-minded bookkeeper, tallying our failures and successes on a score sheet. Yet God gives us His grace, willingly, no matter what we’ve done. We come to Him as ragamuffins -- dirty, bedraggled, and beat-up. And when we sit at His feet, He smiles upon us, the chosen objects of His ‘furious love.’ Brennan Manning’s now-classic meditation on grace and what it takes to access it -- simply honesty -- has changed thousands of lives.” (back cover)

Meyers, Robin. *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*. Jossey-Bass, 2012. (256 pages)

Muller, Wayne. *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives*. New York: Bantam Books, 1999.

Parrott, Drs. Les & Leslie. *Trading Places: The Best Move You'll Ever Make in Your Marriage*. Zondervan / HarperCollinsPublishers, 2008.

- Also available: *Workbook for Men* and *Workbook for Women*.

Smith, James Bryan. *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows*. IVP Books/InterVarsity Press, 2009.

- “This is not just a book to read. At the end of each chapter you’ll find an opportunity for soul training, engaging in spiritual practices that reinforce the biblical messages on your mind and heart.” (book jacket)
- Discussion questions and practical soul-training exercises accompany each chapter.
- First book in series. Book 2: *The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ*. Book 3: *The Good and Beautiful Community: Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love*.

Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ*. NavPress, 2002.

- 255 pages with some reflection/discussion questions at the end of each chapter.
- See also the companion DVD study (listed in DVD section), as well as *Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice* (next in this section), which is a very accessible way to get at Willard’s original book.

Willard, Dallas, and Jan Johnson. *Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice: Experiments in Spiritual Transformation*. Original material from Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*, NavPress, 2002. Devotions by Jan Johnson, NavPress, 2006.

- 61 short sections from Willard’s *Renovation of the Heart* (1-2 pages), with short reflections by Jan Johnson, each followed by a “Today’s Experiment” activity.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.

Willimon, William H. *United Methodist Beliefs: A Brief Introduction*. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2007.

Yancey, Philip. *Reaching for the Invisible God: What Can We Expect to Find?* Zondervan, 2000.

Resource UMC. 65,538 likes · 1,189 talking about this. The place for United Methodist leaders to find resources for the local church. This six-session resource for Sunday schools and small groups has been designed for participants to develop their own perspectives on the Bible's passages related to homosexuality. It creates a safe space to navigate through this complex issue, relying on the biblical-interpretation approach of Methodism's founder, John Wesley. Serving Beyond Hilliard UMC. Resources. Featured Events. Full Calendar. Be in a small group / continue your Christian formation. serve within the walls of the church. serve beyond the walls of the church. give proportionately of your income, working toward a tithe (10%). Sharing in small groups: What has led you to this place in your spiritual journey? And what's your next step of faith? discover hilliard umc. Looking for an informal gathering for conversation and connection, to meet our pastors and some other newer folks and learn about the DNA of HUMC, before considering membership? Click [HERE](#) for the details and schedule.

