

## LIFE GROUP RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM

The following studies are designed to help your group establish a deeper biblical understanding and language as you explore books of the Bible and other foundational studies. All studies can be ordered online through **Amazon.com**.

### **How to Read the Bible for all it's Worth by Gordon Fee**

The primary task of Bible study is to determine what the Scriptures meant at the time they were written and how that meaning applies to us today. This vital guide focuses on the historical contexts of the Bible and explains differences between the Old Testament narratives, the Epistles, Gospels, Parables, Psalms and more. It's a practical approach to Bible study -- one that makes good sense and is easy to understand. This new edition includes, among other changes, a new section on the Song of Songs and an updated list of recommended commentaries and resources.

Get the accompanying study guide [here](#)

### **John: A 12 - Week Study by Justin Buzzard**

The Gospel of John reveals an unmatched portrait of Jesus and is arguably the most theologically and philosophically profound account of his life, death, and resurrection in the New Testament.

From revealing Jesus' cosmic identity as being with the Father "in the beginning," to recounting the many miraculous signs attesting to his mission and divinity, this guide encourages us to worship Christ as Lord and to follow him on mission in the world.

### **Spiritual Parenting: An awakening for today's families by Michelle Anthony**

It's hard enough to train kids to behave, but good behavior isn't what Jesus calls for in the Bible. God wants hearts and souls that are shaped in vibrant faith and love toward Himself and others. In Spiritual Parenting, Michelle Anthony calls us as parents to depend upon God for our children's spiritual and moral development, urging us toward a heart posture of surrender and faithfulness. The end goal is a vibrant faith that is passed on from one generation to another. Please purchase through Amazon.com or ask Shannon in Children Department if they have copies.

### **The Bridges DVD Study/Seminars**

Bridges is a curriculum developed by Crescent Project that is meant to introduce Christians to Islam and pave the way for building relationships with the Muslims in your community. Bridges content is now available to you in both a [live seminar](#) and [DVD Study](#).

## **The Bible 30-Day Experience**

The Bible 30-Day Experience DVD Study is a five-week study for individuals and Life Groups based on some of the epic stories of the Bible, with an emphasis on God's plan of redemption for mankind through Jesus Christ. It features video clips from *The Bible*, a powerful miniseries that recently aired on the History Channel.

Also included is The Bible 30-Day Experience Guidebook, which contains 30 lessons and daily readings, related to the foreshadowing of Jesus in the Old Testament, pertinent Scriptures, *Did You Know?* facts, application exercises, weekly message recaps, as well as Life Group study and discussion questions.

## **Understanding the Books of the Bible**

This series moves groups away from a typical Bible study format into a new way of experiencing the Bible together. Instead of following artificial chapter and verse divisions, these study guides lead groups through whole books, following their natural outlines and flow. They pose engaging questions for discussion with personal implications throughout, leading to a community Bible experience.

The 22-lesson format is ideally presented for group studies and is adaptable to any study situation. It will evoke deep conversations about the tough realities Job speaks about. It will bring personal growth and life change through a new level of understanding and engaging God's Word.

## **A Deeper Look at Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World**

For more than two decades the innovative and insightful LifeGuide studies from IVP have helped people learn about the Bible and comprehend the Christian life more fully. Now, the next step in the development of LifeGuide resources is available. *Life Guide In-Depth Bible Studies* are biblically focused studies that will help you look deeper into critical themes of the Bible's individual books than you have ever before. As you see new connections between the Old and New Testament, you'll gain an understanding of the historical and cultural background of passages, engage in creative exercises, and concretely apply what you've learned. You'll be amazed at the breadth of knowledge and wisdom you gain and the transformation God can work in you as you meet Him in His Word.

## **Knowing God, with study guide by J.I. Packer**

This guide takes readers through the essential truths of Packer's book. Individuals can stretch their understanding and allow the material to change their lives. Small groups can see God more clearly through rich and transforming discussions. In this guide are twenty-two studies, one for each chapter of the book.

A Sunday-school class, neighborhood study or campus group will find it breaks conveniently into two eleven-week units. Start your adventure today.

### **EXPERIENCING GOD IN A FRESH WAY**

The Christian life is meant to be a vibrant relationship in which God speaks, we listen and respond in a lifestyles of worship. These studies will help your group discover ways of expressing and relating to God together.

### **Seven-Mile Miracle Participant's Guide: Experience the Last Words of Christ As Never Before**

In this seven-session, video-based study, pastor Steven Furtick explores the last words of Christ from the various Holy Land locations where they were spoken. Standing on the Mount of Olives, in the Garden of Gethsemane, at Golgotha, Furtick unpacks the drama, power, and deeper meaning of Jesus' final hours before His Crucifixion. Not only a Bible study, *Seven-Mile Miracle* provides an experience of worship at the end of every session, designed to make for an extraordinary experience. Perfect for families, small groups, churches, and individuals.

### **The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love With the God Jesus Knows**

What does being Christ-like really mean? Smith believes we need a pattern for transformation. He encourages us to re-examine what we think about God (our narratives), how we practice (the spiritual disciplines), and with whom we interact (our social context) to discover the life Jesus lived and to grow in the knowledge of a good and beautiful God.

### **Radical by David Platt**

Take a transforming journey in authentic discipleship. As the pastor of a large and wealthy congregation, David Platt began to see a discrepancy between the reality of his church and the way Jesus said His followers lived. In *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*, Platt examines how American Christianity has manipulated the gospel to fit our cultural preferences and challenges readers to rediscover the path.

### **The Jesus I Never Knew Study Guide by Phillip Yancey**

Author Phillip Yancey peels away popular stereotypes to present a brilliant and fascinating portrait of Christ. Now individuals and groups can join Yancey in this probing look at Jesus Christ--his teachings, his miracles, his death and resurrection, and ultimately, who he was and why he came.

This study guide helps readers press beyond the traditional picture to uncover a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying. Each chapter begins with Yancey's reflections on rediscovering Jesus and follows with questions that stimulate journaling and provoking discussion.

### **The Reason For God by Timothy Keller**

Why are Christians so hypocritical? Why does God allow suffering? Captured live and unscripted, Pastor Timothy Keller meets with a group of people to address their doubts about Christianity. In this six-session study, he uses literature, philosophy, real-life experiences, and the Bible to teach you how to respond when confronted with skeptics' objections to your beliefs. Includes DVD and participant's guide.

### **Forgotten God DVD Study**

In this dynamic companion to the book *Forgotten God*, breakthrough author Francis Chan reminds us of the true source of the church's power—the Holy Spirit. Chan contends that we've ignored the Spirit for far too long, and that without Him, we operate in our own strength, only accomplishing human-sized results.

This seven-session video resource offers a compelling invitation to understand, embrace, and follow the Holy Spirit's direction in our lives. It is designed to initiate and facilitate discussion, interaction and practical application of the message of *Forgotten God*. Francis' thought-provoking teaching makes this a valuable resource for small groups, churches, youth groups, and college campus ministries.

## **THE MISSIONAL LIFE**

As Disciples of Christ we have been called to live lives of fearless mission that point to God's Kingdom and salvation. The following studies will help your group gain a biblical understand and practice for what it looks like to live on mission in every area of life.

### **The Good and Beautiful Community: Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, and Demonstrating Love**

Acknowledging that Christians tend to emphasize personal faith over social justice, or vice versa, Smith shows how to bring spiritual formation and community engagement together—learning to live in relationship with others as apprentices of Christ and impacting the world in which we live.

## **S.E.N.T. // A Practical Guide For Living On Mission**

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Jesus' words in John 20:21 remind us of our call to live as sent missionaries in our world. This four-week group study is designed to help your group embrace and live out the call of sent people on mission.

## **Total Church by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis**

"Church is not a meeting you attend or a place you enter," write pastors Tim Chester and Steve Timmis. "It's an identity that is ours in Christ. An identity that shapes the whole of life so that life and mission become 'total church.'" With that as their premise, they emphasize two overarching principles to govern the practice of church and mission: being gospel-centered and being community-centered. When these principles take precedence, say the authors, the truth of the Word is upheld, the mission of the gospel is carried out, and the priority of relationships is practiced in radical ways. The church becomes not just another commitment to juggle but a 24/7 lifestyle where programs, big events, and teaching from one person take a backseat to sharing lives, reaching out, and learning about God together. Get the accompanying study guide [here](#)

## **Galatians For You by Timothy Keller**

Timothy Keller's *Galatians For You* is a group curriculum that walks you through the book of Galatians, showing how the gospel message changes the whole of our lives. Combining a close attention to the detail of the text with Timothy Keller's trademark gift for clear explanation and compelling insights, this resource will both engage your mind and stir your heart.

## **Love Without Walls**

It's all around us: Poverty. Unemployment. Crime. Hopelessness. Anger. Disenchantment. Injustice. We want to respond. We want to do something.

According to author Laurie Beshore of Mariners Church, we have good intentions, but our efforts at helping others can sometimes make things worse. And many communities are already suspicious of the church and its motives. So how can churches effectively serve the needs of their communities in ways that communicate the love and grace of God?

## **Right Here Right Now // Everyday Mission For Everyday People**

You have concern for others. You want to be involved in solutions. You want to live your life for Jesus. You want to be a missional Christian. But what does that really mean? How can you live out God's mission in the world, right here, right now?

In this inspiring yet practical book, Alan Hirsch and Lance Ford show you how to live missionally regardless of your situation, vocation, or location. Touching on issues of discipleship, spirituality, and church at every level of experience, *Right Here, Right Now* calls you to be the person God has made you to be.

Get the accompanying study guide [here](#)

### **Chase: Chasing After the Heart of God**

David was reckless, sinful, passionate, and humble. What can we learn from his broken life? Jennie Allen's interactive study highlights seven events in David's life to help you move beyond the appearance of godliness and open up your deepest self to God's love. Includes eight teaching videos, a seven-week study guide, leader's guide, and conversation cards.

### **40 Days of Community: What on Earth Are We Here For?**

In this six-session DVD study, Rick Warren teaches you how to fulfill God's five purposes for your life. According to Warren, from the beginning, God planned for you to fulfill His purposes in community with other people---people in your church family, Life Group, and in the world around you. *40 Days of Community* will deepen your understanding of how God uses other people for your good and your growth. It will also show you how God can use you to bless others and cultivate deeper relationships with them. This *40 Days of Community* Study Guide three-product pack contains: *one 40 Days of Community* Study Guide, *one 40 Days of Community* DVD, and *one 40 Days of Community* Devotional.

### **The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ**

"I have never met a person whose goal it was to ruin his or her life. We all want to be happy and we want it all the time." So begins James Bryan Smith in *The Good and Beautiful Life*. He tells us the problem is that we have bought into false notions of happiness and success. These self-centered decisions lead us further into the vices that cause ruin: anger, lust, lying worry and judging. Eventually we find ourselves living a beautifully packaged life of self-destruction. Following the *Sermon on the Mount*, this follow-up to the *Good and Beautiful God* guides us to look behind these character flaws and to replace our false beliefs with Jesus' narratives about life in the kingdom of God.

### **Beyond Boundaries by Dr. John Townsend**

Painful relationships violate trust and close hearts. But God designed us to experience freedom and love, and to live this way we need to take risks. After six books on boundaries, bestselling author Dr. John Townsend realized that, though people who experienced tough relationships may put up an emotional wall to protect themselves, they often have no idea

how to reconnect with the person who has violated their trust or forge a fresh connection with someone new.

In this six-session, video-based study, Townsend takes participants beyond the pain of the past to re-enter a life of intimate relationships. *Beyond Boundaries* walks through the process of healing broken trust in a relationship or beginning a new relationship in a healthy way. Starting over is possible. You can find the intimacy that you long for, and do it in a way that honors God.

### **Fathered by God**

Men, do life's changes seem perplexing? Using biblical examples, best-selling author John Eldredge shows how God guides your spiritual and personal growth through six stages of manhood--beloved son, cowboy, warrior, lover, king, and sage. You'll discover how to love freely and mentor your *own* sons.

### **Sacred Marriage**

The title expresses a radical thought for today's marriages! Chapter by chapter, discover how marriage works to develop Christ-like character - forgiveness, love, respect, and perseverance. This book will enrich your marriage in unexpected ways.

**SmallGroup.com Resources: Click [HERE](#).**