

ABF

Books of the Bible:

Ruth, Proverbs, Titus and Galatians. All of these were basically verse-by-verse studies where I just did a lot of prep work and had questions prepared before we met. We did not use any outside resource besides the Bible, some commentaries and maybe ye old internet.

Topics:

Similar in structure, we did studies on the Holy Spirit and the "One Another's" of the New Testament. Again, no outside sources.

RightNow Media (I used the blurbs from the website to describe each below):

"Recovery Road"

Andy Stanley

"Unemployment is up. Stocks are down. And everybody's pointing fingers. If you are like most Americans, you're wondering what's going on in Washington. And you're probably wondering what you're supposed to do while you wait for somebody to fix things. Well, here's an idea. What if we don't wait around for somebody else? What if we go ahead and start fixing it ourselves? What if "We the People" tried to get this country on the road to recovery? Sound like a good idea? Then you're ready for *Recovery Road*."

"The Ride: A Christmas Eve Parable"

"It's Christmas Eve in the suburbs of Chicago and a bored, disengaged taxi driver reluctantly accepts one more pickup. He soon realizes his passenger is troubled and prolongs the ride in an uncharacteristic attempt to connect and help. As the night progresses, grace invades the hearts of both the comfortable and the desolate."

"Acts 29"

Chris Kovac

"The story of Acts hasn't ended. It's a book about evangelism, but more than 90 percent of churchgoers don't feel prepared to share their faith. Are you one of them?"

God has chosen you to write the remaining chapters of Acts with the words and actions of your life. This video series features well-known speakers and authors such as James MacDonald, Joseph Stowell, Charles Price and Bruxy Cavey, and consists of eleven eight-to-fourteen minute sessions."

"The Truth Project"

I have a personal copy of the DVDs; not sure if the church does, but anyone can borrow from me if they want.

(from website) "The Truth Project is a DVD-based small group curriculum comprised of 13 one-hour lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett. This home study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

We believe this one project represents the possibility for exponential change within the body of Christ; millions been transformed by this curriculum. As it has been throughout history, God continues to call ordinary people to make an eternal difference in our world."

"The Family Project"

We gifted this set to the church. It should be in the library.

"Why do families work? Because God Himself designed them! Thriving families will lead to thriving communities, and thriving communities will transform the world. People will find purpose, joy and redemption; and generation after generation will create a positive legacy.

"The Family Project" is a 12 session DVD experience for couples or small groups that explores the theological, philosophical, and cultural underpinnings of the traditional family, and combines that information with inspiring stories and practical tools to help 21st-century families thrive."

"Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?" (with DVD)

Philip Yancey

"In Prayer, available for the first time in softcover, Philip Yancey probes the very heartbeat---the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing, and deeply rewarding aspect---of your relationship with God. What is prayer? Does it change God's mind or ours---or both? This book is an invitation to communicate with God the Father, who invites you into an eternal partnership through prayer."

"The Lordship of Christ: Serving Our Savior All of the Time, in All of Life, with All of Our Heart"

Vern S. Poythress

"This radical claim from the Bible has profound implications for every area of life—for every person and every facet of society. Drawing on key biblical texts, Vern Poythress explores what acknowledging the authority of Christ means for the way we should think and act. Unpacking how this authority affects spheres of life such as religion, politics, science, art, education, and the future, Poythress helps us pursue obedience to Christ as an expression of our gratitude and devotion—and our anticipation of the joy promised to us when we serve him with all of our heart."

"Freedom from Tyranny of the Urgent"

Charles E. Hummel

"Winner of the 2004 ECPA Platinum Book Award! Is the clock a slavemaster or a tool that serves *you*? Does the quantity of your responsibilities squeeze out the *quality* of your life? Are urgent things so pressing that you don't have "inner time" to sort out what's really important? How can you discern what God wants you to do? Charles Hummel's classic booklet *Tyranny of the Urgent* has sold over one million copies. Now for the first time he expands on the life-changing perspective that has transformed the lives of thousands struggling to keep from being swept away by the rush of life. Gathered in this book are proven principles taken straight from biblical teaching, from today's time-management experts and from Hummel's own life experience. You'll discover how to

- make the calendar your friend
- manage your life instead of your time
- get motivated
- stay open to God's guidance in small choices
- avoid being dragged down by past choices
- develop "inner time" for reflection and planning

and much more! If you have too much to do and not enough time to do it, this book is for you."

Bible Life Cards

Available weekly, covers the passage preached on Sunday. Has between 6 and 10 questions meant to foster group discussion about the same passage preached Sunday. The benefit of sermon based discussion is that it revisits the main idea heard by the entire church on Sunday, with a chance to delve deeper into how the passage applies to those in your group. Also, it helps decrease the load of the leader in preparation, and allows for study of the Bible with some of the interpretation ground work already laid out.

Books of the Bible

Groups can pick a book of the Bible to work through together. Leader can look ahead and divide book into to sessions that correspond to the time group meets. Groups can look over a section each week and look for major themes, repeated ideas, difficult to understand sections. After discussion of observations, then group can work towards application. It is helpful to have a commentary for book selected (Neil is glad to get that for you).

A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World

Paul Miller (book and DVD series, 11 part DVD ranging from 10-49 minutes, book has 5 parts and 32 chapters)

Carole Erickson, Neil Nelson

Author Paul Miller shares his insights and conclusions about how to connect the broken pieces of your life and allow prayer—even poorly delivered—to fill the gaps with meaning and substance. Miller's down-to-earth approach and practical nature will help you see that your relationship with God can grow and your communication with Him can get better. Parents will find Miller's family-life experiences especially helpful.

Let It Go

Karen Ehman (book, study guide, DVD, 3 parts, 11 chapters)

Missy Reinart

Many women are wired to control. You're the ones who make sure the house is clean, the meals are prepared, the beds are made, the children are dressed, and everyone gets to work, school, and other activities on time.

But trying to control everything can be exhausting, and it can also cause friction with your friends and family.

This humorous, yet thought-provoking book guides you as you discover for yourself the freedom and reward of living a life "out of control," in which you allow God to be seated in the rightful place in your life. Armed with relevant biblical and current examples (both to emulate and to avoid), doable ideas, new thought patterns, and practical tools to implement, *Let. It. Go.* will gently lead you out of the land of over-control and into a place of quiet trust.

A companion video-based study for small groups is also available.

Gospel in Life

Timothy Keller (book, dvd, 8 sessions)
Neil Nelson, Kim Collins

Join author and pastor Timothy Keller in an eight-week video-based study of the gospel and how to live it out in everyday life. In week one you and your group will study the city, your home now, the world that is. Week eight closes with the theme of the eternal city, your heavenly home, the world that is to come. In between you'll learn how the gospel can change your heart, your community, and how you live in this world.

The Gospel in Life Participant's Guide is designed to help you and your group engage with and discuss the topics presented on the *Gospel in Life* DVD.

Gospel in Life session titles:

- Session 1, City-The World That Is
- Session 2, Heart-Three Ways to Live
- Session 3, Idolatry-The Sin Beneath
- Session 4, Community-The Context for Change
- Session 5, Witness-An Alternate City
- Session 6, Work-Cultivating the Garden
- Session 7, Justice-A People for Others
- Session 8, Eternity-The World That Is To Come

The Reason for God

Tim Keller (book, DVD, book has 2 parts and 14 chapters, DVD has six sessions)
Neil Nelson

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics and non-believers bring to religion. Using literature, philosophy, anthropology, pop culture, and intellectual reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand against the backlash toward religion spawned by the Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God

DVD: This six-session small group Bible study captures live and unscripted conversations between Tim Keller and a group of people to address their doubts and objections to Christianity. Using literature, philosophy, and Scripture, Keller and the group explore the truth of Christianity.

In his New York Times bestselling book *The Reason for God*, Timothy Keller established himself as a modern-day C. S. Lewis who brings together faith and intellect, theology and popular culture, modern-day objections and historic Christian beliefs.

Now fans of the New York Times bestseller can find resources to help them engage with those same objections, drawing on recent scholarship and debates. The *Reason for God* small group Bible study can be used individually, with groups, or by any believer who is engaging with friends who don't share his or her beliefs.

Christians will be challenged to wrestle with their friends and neighbors' hardest questions, and to engage those questions in ways that will spark an honest, enriching, and humbling dialogue. Capture a live and unscripted conversation between Timothy Keller and the six panelists discussing their objections to Christianity. This study will help small groups and individuals dig deeper into the objections of the Christian faith and to learn about both sides of the issues.

Sessions include:

1. Isn't the Bible a Myth?
2. How Can You Say There Is Only One Way to God?

3. What Gives You the Right to Tell Me How to Live My Life?
4. Why Does God Allow Suffering?
5. Why Is the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice?
6. How Can God Be Full of Love and Wrath at the Same Time?

This pack contains one guide and one DVD.

The Story

(book, DVD, Study Guides 31 chapters in book, we have study guide that breaks into 15 sessions)

Linda Sweet, Esther Jacobson

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD" IS MORE THAN JUST A CLICHÉ. God goes to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what The Story is all about: the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, The Story sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Using the clear, accessible text of the NIV Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. And like any good story, The Story is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption; and this story's true! From the foreword by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee: "This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: the story of a true God who loves his children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. Each story in these 31 chapters reveals the God of grace---the God who speaks; the God who acts; the God who listens; the God whose love for his people culminated in his sacrifice of Jesus, his only Son, to atone for the sins of humanity." Learn more about this whole-church experience at TheStory.com.

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Crazy Love

Francis Chan (book, DVD, 10 chapters video sessions all under 10 minutes)

Neil Nelson

God is love. Crazy, relentless, all-powerful love. Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe—the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and E-minor—loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss. Whether you've verbalized it yet or not, we all know something's wrong.

Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts—it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis describes it, you will never be the same. Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything.

Man Alive

Patrick Morley (book 8 chapters)

Steve Ewers

Over the last four decades, I've met one-on-one with thousands of men. Most of them know that Jesus promised "a rich and satisfying life" (John 10:10), but too many are confused about what that looks like. In fact, I'd estimate that 90 percent of Christian men lead lukewarm, stagnant, defeated lives—and they hate it. When men try to put into words what's holding them back, they invariably

describe one or more of these seven symptoms:

- "I just feel like I'm in this thing alone."
- "I don't feel like God cares about me personally—not really."
- "I don't feel like my life has a purpose. In fact, it seems random."
- "I have destructive behaviors that keep dragging me down."
- "My soul feels dry."
- "My most important relationships are not working."
- "I don't feel like I'm doing anything that will make a lasting difference."

Do you see yourself in these statements? In my experience, these inner aches and pains correspond to seven primal God-given needs that all men feel deeply. And in *Man Alive*, I'll show you something surprising—God's plan to harness that raw, restless energy you feel, pull you out of mediocrity, and propel you toward the life you were meant to live. I promise you...there *is* a way. No man should have to settle for half alive. You can become the man God created you to be. You can experience a powerful life transformed by Christ. In the book you're holding, I'll show you how.

Love & Respect

Dr Emerson & Sarah Eggerichs (book and DVD, book has three parts and 24 chapters, DVD has 5 sessions)

Paul and Sue Gasser

Based upon Ephesians 5:33 and extensive biblical and psychological research, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs reveals the power of unconditional love and unconditional respect and how husbands and wives can reap the benefits of marriage that God intended.

Shepherding a Child's Heart

Ted Tripp (book, 2 parts 19 chapters)

Neil Nelson

Written for parents with children of any age, this insightful book provides perspectives and procedures for shepherding your child's heart into the paths of life. *Shepherding a Child's Heart* gives fresh biblical approaches to child rearing.

The Good Girl's Guide to Great Sex: (And You Thought Bad Girls Have All the Fun)

Sheila Wray Gregoire

Missy Reinart

Billions of people have had sex. Far fewer have made love. In the Good Girl's Guide to Great Sex, author Sheila Wray Gregoire helps women see how sexual intimacy was designed to be physically stupendous but also incredibly intimate.

Whether you're about to walk down the aisle or you've been married for decades, The Good Girl's Guide to Great Sex will lead you on a wonderful journey of discovery towards the amazing sex life God designed you for.

With humor, research, and lots of anecdotes, author Sheila Wray Gregoire helps women see how our culture's version of sex, which concentrates on the physical above all else, makes sex shallow. God, on the other hand, intended sex to unite us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Gregoire walks through these three aspects of sex, showing how to make each amazing, and how to overcome the roadblocks in each area we often encounter.

Drawing on survey results from over 2,000 people, she also includes lots of voices from other Good Girls, giving insight into how other women have learned to truly enjoy sex in marriage.

Men With No Regrets

Steve Sonderman (8 books with 8 studies in each)

The No Regrets Study Series empowers men to change their lives, their families, their community and the world. The NRSS is a 2-year, 8-book disciple-making program designed to model, teach and encourage practical application of biblical principles that build a solid foundation for living for Christ. This curriculum is a unique discipleship training program that draws on the expertise of many of the leaders in men's ministry through our study guides and supplemental books.