

# ***Growth Group Resources***

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***All group study resources can be checked out through the Growth Group Department.***

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## Welcome to Growth Group resources!

### **How do I checkout resources?**

Take some time to explore the tons of resources and ideas we have available.

All resources are maintained in the Growth Group office area at Crossroads. Checkout is simple and can be completed the following ways.

- Call Debbie Honzell at the church office @ 239-5566 ext. 129 or email her @ [deb@crossroadsgrace.org](mailto:deb@crossroadsgrace.org) and she will mail you the resource you identify.
- Come by the church office and see Ed or Debbie and they will assist you in checking out your resource. If we are not available, all resources are maintained in the bookshelf across from Debbie's cubicle on a shelf marked;

**“Growth Group Resources”**

Complete the checkout slip in the book and place the book card in the box identified with the same type card.

When returning a resource, we would ask that you return it to the church office in an envelope marked,

**Attention: Debbie Honzell.**

## *Table of Contents*

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Study Guides</b>	4-20
Books of the Bible	4-10
Topical Studies	11-19
Tough Questions Studies	20
<b>DVD Assisted Studies</b>	21-30
<b>Movie Based Studies</b>	30-31
<b>Children's Study Resources</b>	32
<b>Leadership Development Resources</b>	33-34
<b>Team Leader Development Resources</b>	35-36
<b>Willow Creek Small Group Conferences</b>	37-38
<b>Church Communication Network</b>	39

## **Books of the Bible Studies**

(Listed in alphabetical order)

### **Acts - Seeing The Spirit At Work**

By John Stott

18 Sessions

The Spirit moved in dramatic fashion in the early church. The gospel was preached, thousands were added to their number, many were healed, and the good news about Jesus was spread across continents. Covering the exciting action of the Spirit in years just following Jesus' life on earth, this inductive Bible study will help you dig deeply into the riches of Scripture and apply it to your own life.

### **Colossians - Discovering the New You**

By Bill Hybels

6 Sessions

In Colossians, you and your small group will discover how to place your lives in the secure hands of God. If you long to experience newness of life, this study will point the way. If you desire to see God mold and shape your spiritual life, home, workplace, church, and relationships, Colossians will teach you the pathway to a whole new you.

### **I Corinthians - Godly Solutions for Church Problems**

By John MacArthur

12 Sessions

A study that unfolds Paul's godly counsel for solving problems in the church and those in our own spiritual lives.

### **Ephesians - Building A Community In Christ**

By John Stott

12 Sessions

We long to belong. We crave unity. We want to be loved and accepted by others. Paul's letter to the Ephesians is about uniting all things in Christ. Here we learn how to break down what separates us from God, one ethnic group from another, husband from wife, parent from child and employer from employee. This study provide a vision of the new society God has planned in his Church.

## **Books of the Bible Studies**

### **Ezra & Nehemiah**

By Max Lucado

12 Sessions

Inspirational author Max Lucado guides you through God's Word with insights and applications that will encourage you and deepen your faith walk.

### **Galatians - Experiencing The Grace Of Christ**

By John Stott

12 Sessions

In Christ we have salvation as a gift of grace. But what is our responsibility? Perhaps you are confused about various requirements different Christians say accompany being a follower of Christ. Galatians raises this question of law: What rules should a Christian follow? Are we exempt through Christ? Studying Galatians helps us to understand what living out faith is all about.

### **James**

By Life Application Bible Studies

13 Sessions

"Jesus is the answer!".."Believe in God!"..."Follow me to church!"..Sometimes as Christians we great claims but are often guilty of belying them with our actions. With energetic style and crisp, well-chosen words, James confronts this conflict head-on.

### **James—Live Wisely**

By Bill Hybels

6 Sessions

In the labyrinth of life, we need practical and clear directions for making wise, Christ-honoring decisions. The book of James offers a wonderfully practical collection of wisdom and guidance. Through this study you will learn how to choose wise paths through life's maize.

## **Books of the Bible Studies**

### **Job- Wrestling with God**

By Paul Stevens

12 Sessions

Why do faithful people suffer? Job wanted to know. So he demanded an answer from God. His friends thought he was crazy, but Job persisted. Finally, God answered. This study guide is for anyone who has struggled with these perennial questions and wants to ask God, "Why?"

### **John - An Intimate Look at The Savior**

By Kevin Harney

13 Sessions

This Gospel reveals the wonder of Christ as seen through the eyes of a close friend. As you study the book of John, you will develop a deeper, more personal understanding of our Savior.

### **John**

By Max Lucado

12 Sessions

The Gospels all paint many pictures of Jesus, but the one accredited with humanizing him the most is John. John had heard him, seen him. Scenes were branded on his heart. Words seared into his soul. In studying the book of John you will develop a deeper, more personal understanding of our Savior.

### **1, 2 & 3 John - John's Letters**

By Ron Blankley

12 Sessions

When we strip away what is superficial, cultural or traditional, what is the essence of genuine Christianity? What qualities and beliefs must be present in a living and life-changing faith? John's letters focus on the three most important aspects of the Christian life. With power and simplicity, he helps us focus our attention on what really matters—both now and for eternity.

### **Books of the Bible Studies**

#### **Jonah, Joel & Amos**

By Doug & Doris Haugen

12 Sessions

It's easy to wonder away from God. Hectic schedules and the quest for success often mean that time with God gets neglected. But if we slow down long enough to listen, these three minor prophets—Jonah, Loel & Amos—can have a major impact on the quality of our lives.

#### **Luke- The Call to Follow Jesus**

By Kay Arthur

12 Sessions

Following Jesus..a habit of life for the rest of your life. Jesus made it clear: If you want to be His disciple, you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him. If you're going to follow Christ, you need to know with certainty whom you are following, what He is like, what He believed, and how He lived in this troubled world. Discovering more about Him is the purpose of this magnificent study of the Gospel of Luke.

#### **Nehemiah-Experiencing the Good Hand of God**

By John MacArthur

12 Sessions

Three major themes are seen in the Book of Nehemiah: (1) careful attention to the reading of God's word in order to do His will, (2) the constant obedience of Nehemiah, and (3) repeated enemy opposition. Through it all, God orchestrated the reconstruction of the walls of His city to accomplish His purpose and plan for then and now.

## **Books of the Bible Studies**

### **I Peter - Stand Strong**

By Bill Hybels

6 Sessions

In the book of I Peter, you and your small group will find a rock-solid basis for living in a precarious and uncertain world. God offers you hope, love, purpose, service, submission, and victory. You can stand strong against the flood as you anchor yourself to the bedrock of Jesus Christ.

### **I & 2 Peter**

By Max Lucado

12 Sessions

Peter's survival manual, he understood persecution. Beaten and jailed. Threatened and punished. He knew the sting of the false word and the angry whip. No doubt he'd seen some Christians stand and others fall. He'd seen enough to know what it takes to stay strong. His counsel may surprise you, sustain you.

### **Romans - Find Freedom**

By Bill Hybels

6 Sessions

In Romans, God points you to the path of freedom. You will discover forgiveness for all moral failures, a new future where all things are made right, and the joy of living in community with God's people.

### **Romans - Encountering The Gospel's Power**

By John Stott

20 Sessions

The gospel has power. The power to save us. The power to change the world. In Paul's letter to the Romans we find the power we need to be effective witnesses, to overcome sin, to be wholly committed to God, to handle differences in Christ's body, to understand God's view of homosexuality and to be responsible Christian citizens. Studying Romans transforms our thinking and convicts our hearts as we discover the freshness of the gospel for our lives.

## **Books of the Bible Studies**

### **Romans - Life Lessons**

By Max Lucado

12 Sessions

In this profound Epistle, Paul explores all the wrong options and takes us to the only correct one. Romans is a life-changing letter for people who are willing to admit they are sinners.

### **The Beatitudes - Developing Spiritual Character**

By John Stott

8 Sessions

Based on the a portion of Matthew, explore eight qualities that God values. They call us to be meek and merciful, poor in spirit and pure in heart, mourning and hungry, peacemakers and persecuted. These are the character traits that Jesus highlighted to describe what he looks for in all Christians. As we study them and integrate them in our lives, we will also receive the blessing that Jesus promised.

### **I & 2 Thessalonians - Living In The End Times**

By John Stott

10 Sessions

Christ has died, has risen and will come again. For centuries Christians have proclaimed these central truths. The gospel that began in space and time will ultimately be fulfilled at Christ's return. And as we wait for Christ, we find both encouragement from the gospel and a reason for hope. These studies enlighten our minds, lift our hearts and cause us to worship the God of the gospel and of time.

### **I & 2 Timothy**

By John MacArthur

12 Sessions

These books shed the light of God into such shadowy corners of church life. These issues are as vital and frustrating for church leaders today as they were for young Timothy. So this study will be like reading a letter from Paul to us that was written only yesterday.

## **Books of the Bible Studies**

### **Timothy & Titus - Do What You Have Heard**

By Pete Sommer

12 Sessions

Do you feel like the world presents you with more problems than you can handle? Timothy and Titus faced all of these tough issues as young church leaders. But Paul encouraged them to put aside timidity and insecurity, and to find strength in Christ. In 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus we also find the support we need to follow through in obedience to God's Word.

### **I Timothy & Titus - Fighting The Good Fight**

By John Stott

12 Sessions

We live in a culture where the beliefs and preferences of the individual are given final authority. Paul's firm commitment to the church as "the pillar and foundation of the truth" stands against the current. His letters to Timothy and Titus call us to reestablish the core beliefs of Christianity and affirm our convictions about the gospel. Paul's priority in these letters is to make sure that the truth of the gospel is faithfully guarded and delivered to the next generation. Through these studies, we will be challenged to carry on the battle, armed with the truth of the gospel.

### **II Timothy - Standing Firm In Truth**

By John Stott

8 Sessions

Our era is one of theological and moral confusion, even apostasy. And the apostle summons us, as he summoned Timothy, to be strong, brave and steadfast. In this way John Stott summarizes the message of Paul's second letter to Timothy. It is a book about leadership and responsibility. And the inductive studies in this guide speak to all who would stand for Christ in a world of slippery, relative truth. Our call is to bring the Word of grace to a world without hope.

## **Topical Studies**

### **As Iron Sharpens Iron**

By Howard & William Hendricks

18 Sessions

The authors show that the most dramatic spiritual and personal growth often happens through the influence of a mentor. You will learn how to: identify the kind of mentor you need, maximize your mentoring relationship, model your relationship after biblical examples, grow through shared wisdom and influence other.

### **Becoming A Contagious Christian**

By Mark Mittelberg, Lee Strobel & Bill Hybels

8 Sessions

Becoming a Contagious Christian is a proven course designed to equip believers for effective evangelism in today's world. It avoids stereotyped approaches that feel intimidating to many Christians. Instead, it shows ordinary believers how they can share the Gospel in a natural and powerful way while being the person God made them to be.

### **Character - Who You Are When No One's Looking**

By Bill Hybels

6 Sessions

But what about when no one is looking? That's where character comes in, giving us consistency when it's just between God and us. Courage. Discipline. Vision. Endurance. Compassion. Self-sacrifice. The qualities covered in this Bible study guide provide foundation for character. With this foundation and God's guidance, we can maintain character even when we face temptations and troubles.

### **Cover to Cover - Getting the Bible's Big Picture**

By Gerry Mathison

6 Sessions

What do we gain from those long Old Testament sections of law? What can we learn from Paul's letters to various churches in the New Testament? By introducing each of the major portions of Scripture, this guide helps us gain perspective on the whole message of God's Word.

### **Cure for the Common Life**

By Max Lucado

6 Sessions

This study offers practical tools for exploring and identifying your own uniqueness, motivation to put your strengths to work, and the perfect prescription for finding and living in your sweet spot for the rest of your life.

## **Topical Studies**

### **Developing a Servant's Heart**

By Charles Stanley

10 Sessions

This study will help you learn how to develop and nurture a servant's heart. Stanley explains how you can receive a clear understanding of why God saved you and what He expects of you. This study will show you the requirements of servanthood, how to develop a servant's spirit, and how to be equipped for service. You will see how servanthood is a must for those who truly want to become Christlike.

### **Discovering the Bible for Yourself**

By Judson Poling

6 Sessions

We read the Bible to understand. But how do we know that we are really getting the intended meaning? This study outlines essential principles for finding the meaning of God's Word through inductive study. We learn to look at context and culture, and then to bridge God's truth to our own lives, discovering what the Bible says to us today.

### **Discovering Your Identity in Christ**

By Charles Stanley

10 Sessions

This study provides a fresh look at your identity as a believer by turning to the one true source of wise, accurate, and eternal information about you - God Himself. You'll see how God uses life's challenges and experiences to unlock your vast potential and confirm that you truly are His masterpiece in the making.

### **Discovering The Church**

#### **Becoming Part of God's New Community**

By Don Cousins & Judson Poling

12 Sessions

When God saves you, He puts you on His team. This team is more enduring than any human institution—for it will continue to exist in heaven forever. But many Christians are unconnected to the team God has given them as a gift. In some cases their experience has left them bewildered or even hurt. This guide explores the wonder and beauty of God's plan to connect His children in the life-sustaining community called the church.

## **Topical Studies**

### **Experiencing God**

By Claude King

12 Sessions

God is inviting you to experience Him in an intimate love relationship through which He reveals to you His will, His ways, and His work. Through the biblical principles in this course, God can teach you how to; know when He is speaking to you, recognize His activity around you, adjust your life to Him and His ways, identify what He wants to do through you and how to respond to His activity in your life.

### **Experiencing Prayer with Jesus**

By Henry & Norman Blackaby

12 Sessions

It's not an activity. Nor a chore. Prayer is a way of life. Here's how you can move beyond rituals and discover new intimacy with Jesus. A thorough study of Jesus' prayer life reveals astounding truths about God's intent for prayer. You'll experience the power of heaven and earth being joined together as the King of all creation lays His heart over yours. Your will becomes aligned with His. Discover freedom from methods and formulas, the beauty of a gentle step-by-step reformation process, and let God unfold His mighty purposes for you.

### **Faithful Women & Their Extraordinary God**

By Noel Piper

6 Sessions

Noel Piper shares stories of five women whose lives declare something we have almost forgotten—what it means to be a Christian. These women trusted in their extraordinary God as he led them to do great things for his kingdom. These women will challenge you to make a difference for Christ in their families, the church and the world.

### **Grace - Invitation to a Way of Life**

By John Ortberg

6 Sessions

This study will help you make the connection between grace as a remote biblical concept and grace as a lifestyle—a reality you experience day in day out. You'll discover God's desire to make his joy your joy.

## **Topical Studies**

### **Growth**

By John Ortberg

6 Sessions

This study sets you on a path to live out the character of Jesus in this world as only you can. It happens not by trying hard, but by training. By cultivating spiritual disciplines—you'll discover the joy of being transformed by Christ and the freedom of living each day sustained by His power.

### **Impacting Your World**

By Don Cousins & Judson Poling

12 Sessions

Do you have difficulty sharing Christ with others? Do you have a hard time telling them how they can come to know God personally? God wants to help you have an impact in their lives.

### **Jesus' Secrets Revealed - Winning at Life**

By Mark Ashton

6 Sessions

A good education? A lucrative career? A loving family? Jesus had a lot to say about winning—and losing—in life. He also had a way of connecting with His listeners through stories that cut straight to the heart of their personal lives and values. This study revisits six of those stories. Some will challenge you. Some will encourage you. All of them offer a clearer vision of what life is really about.

### **John: An Intimate Look At The Savior**

By Kevin Harney

13 Sessions

John's Gospel reveals the wonder of Christ as seen through the eyes of a close friend. As you study the book of John, you will develop a deeper, more personal understanding of our Savior. You will come to know his thoughts and character. You will see him in his glory....marvel at his beauty....be changed by his wisdom....and discover the riches of following him closely and knowing him well.

### **Leaving a Godly Legacy**

By Charles Stanley

10 Sessions

In this study, Stanley reveals that the inheritance you leave is more than money, property, or items of sentimental value. You'll discover the foundation stones of a godly legacy that will equip your heirs to build loving, eternal, Christ-centered lives.

## **Topical Studies**

### **Love in Action**

By Michael Armour

13 Sessions

As Christians we know love. Our biggest problem is how love applies to any given situation. This study helps you understand the command, the actions, the situations and the application of love. The end result provides you with the spiritual tools you need to carry out Christ's command.

### **Meeting The Spirit**

By Douglas Connelly

12 Sessions

Who is the Holy Spirit? How does He change our lives? How does He work in the world? These twelve studies will help you examine these and other critical questions. The Spirit of God is eager to work in your life and draw you to God.

### **Ministry of Motherhood**

By Sally Clarkson

20 Sessions

A Mother's day is packed with a multitude of tasks that require energy and time; preparing meals, cleaning house and caring for children. These jobs are all necessary and crucially important. But in the dailyness of providing for a child's physical, emotional and social needs, vital opportunities for spiritual nurture and training can be overlooked. This study shows how you can make a lasting difference in your child's life following the pattern Christ set with his own disciples

### **Parables - The Greatest Stories Ever Told**

By John White

12 Sessions

Everyone loves a good story. But the parables of Jesus are a special kind of story. They sneak up on us, catching us off guard. The familiar suddenly takes an unexpected twist, and we find our secret thoughts exposed in the healing light of Jesus. Come explore twelve of the greatest stories ever told.

## **Topical Studies**

### **Prayer-Opening Your Heart to God**

By Bill Hybels

6 Sessions

The Creator of the universe wants to have a dynamic relationship with you. The key is prayer. Authentic, courageous, direct communication with God. Each session in Prayer will give you a new window of insight. If you long for a spiritual life that is deep, fruitful, and profoundly real, these studies will help you draw heart to heart with God.

### **Priorities-Life Application Bible Studies**

By Weidemann & Galvin

6 Sessions

Everyone loves a good story. But the parables of Jesus are a special kind of story. They sneak up on us, catching us off guard. The familiar suddenly takes an unexpected twist, and we find our secret thoughts exposed in the healing light of Jesus. Come explore twelve of the greatest stories ever told.

### **So You Want To Be Like Christ?**

By Charles Swindoll

8 Sessions

In a world bent on enticing us away from growing deeper in love with Christ, how on earth do we become more godly? Swindoll says the secret lies in our returning to the basic disciplines of Christ. Religion won't cut it! The Bible says, we must "discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness." This study presents eight essential disciplines. In the process of developing these eight essential disciplines in your life, your relationship with Christ will flourish, and you will become more godly. They go hand in hand. Workbook included.

### **Taking the Old Testament Challenge**

By Poling, Ortberg and Harney

9 Sessions

This study brings the Old Testament up close and personal as each participant takes a life-transforming journey through the first two-thirds of the Bible. The truths of Scripture will enter deep into the hearts and lives—with applications that turn lessons into lifestyles and principles into practice.

## **Topical Studies**

### **The Good Life**

By Chuck Colson & Harold Fickett

6 Sessions

In this fascinating book, Colson explores the life stories of everyone from CEOs to prisoners. Through these captivating stories, Colson illustrates and explains that how we answer the key questions about life determines our future. The book includes discussion questions designed especially to provoke intriguing conversations.

### **The Great House of God**

By Max Lucado

15 Sessions

God's greatest desire is to be your dwelling place - the home for your heart. He doesn't want to be merely a weekend getaway. He has no interest in being a Sunday bungalow or even a summer cottage. He wants to be your address...your point of reference....your home ...always.

### **The Purpose Driven Church**

By Rick Warren

20 Sessions

Every church is driven by something. The Purpose Driven Church shifts the focus away from church building programs to emphasizing a people-building process.

### **The Purpose Driven Life**

By Rick Warren

6 Sessions

Are you disoriented about your direction in life? Are decisions tough to make and steps hard to take? The Purpose Driven Life is a blueprint for Christian living in the 21st century, a lifestyle based on God's eternal purposes, not cultural values.

## **Topical Studies**

### **Thirty Discipleship Exercises**

By Billy Graham Evangelistic Association      12-30 Sessions

The Bible is filled with wisdom and sound principles which help us live the Christian life. Because God's Word is living and active, anyone who chooses to study Scripture will find practical ways to apply its truths to everyday situations. Expect to be nourished as you spend time with the Word of God.

### **Too Busy Not To Pray**

By Bill Hybels      6 Sessions

Most of us have trouble finding time to pray. There's so much going on. Someone always seems to need something from us. Time for God seems impossible to find. These studies are designed to help us slow down and listen to God. But they don't stop there! They can also help us learn how to respond. As a result, we grow closer to God and experience the benefits of spending time with him.

### **Treasuring God in Our Traditions**

By Noel Piper      10 Sessions

Treasuring God in Our Traditions presents the importance of passing along Christ-centered traditions and a Bible-saturated legacy in Christ to future generations. Noël Piper helps her readers recognize how the "everyday" routines of life and the "especially" celebrations of holidays and dates can be practically passed down to future generations. When parents and grandparents seek to pass along the treasure of God to their children and grandchildren, they will develop and deepen their love for him.

## **Topical Studies**

### **The Attributes of God-Volume 1**

By A.W. Tozer

10 Sessions

Volume 1 examines ten attributes of God and reveals how critically important it is for us to have a knowledge of the Holy One. A study guide has been added for an in depth look at each attribute.

### **The Attributes of God-Volume 2**

By A.W. Tozer

10 Sessions

Volume 2 teaches us “what God is Like” and restores our knowledge of who God is. A study guide has been added for an in depth look at each attribute.

### **Twelve Ordinary Men**

By John MacArthur

12 Sessions

This study brings you face-to-face with the disciples as you’ve never seen them. You’ll put yourself in their shoes. You’ll understand their doubts and hopes. And you’ll hear the power of Jesus’ words in a whole new way. The message is clear. If Christ can accomplish His purposes through the lives of common men like these, imagine what He has in store for you!

### **Working Families**

By Joy Jordan-Lake

14 Sessions

What if you could change the diapers, the printer cartridge and the world at the same time? Who hasn’t heard a lot about juggling, balancing and surviving? Navigating parenthood and professional life is all those things. But amidst the struggle, a life of kids, careers and busy-craziness can be a privilege and a tremendous reward. Joy shares insight, ideas, and encouragement that will help you sail through oceans of demands with confidence because you can change the world and not in spite of your children but because of them. Includes discussion guide.

## **Tough Questions Studies**

### **Tough Questions Leader's Guide**

By Garry Poole & Judson Poling

6 Sessions

You've heard them before, maybe even asked a few of them yourself. This leader's guide will help you steer your small group toward a greater understanding of the Christian faith. Together, you'll explore the power and preeminence of Jesus and the truth He brought to light.

## **Available Topics**

### **Don't All Religions Lead To God?**

By Garry Poole

6 Sessions

### **Do Science and The Bible Conflict?**

By Judson Poling

6 Sessions

### **How Could God Allow Suffering And Evil?**

By Garry Poole

6 Sessions

### **How Reliable Is The Bible?**

By Judson Poling

6 Sessions

### **Is Jesus The Only Way?**

By Gary Poole & Judson Poling

6 Sessions

## **DVD Assisted Studies**

### **A Life The Matters**

By Tell the Story Productions

6-12 Sessions

This isn't your typical DVD based Bible study. You're not watching "talking heads," you and your group will experience a movie! It will be twelve minutes that will inspire you as you open your Bibles and discover God's truth in a sixty-minute lesson that is powerful and relevant.

### **An Ordinary Day with Jesus**

By John Ortberg & Ruth Haley Burton

8 Sessions

Experiencing God's presence in your everyday life doesn't necessarily mean doing new things. It means doing the things you already do in new ways-with Him. An ordinary day with Jesus can be the greatest day you've ever had. Best of all, it can lead to an extraordinary life!

### **Battling Unbelief**

By John Piper

6 or 12 Sessions

No one sins out of duty. We sin because it offers some promise of happiness. That promise enslaves us-until we believe that God is more desirable than life itself. Only the power of God's superior promises in the gospel can emancipate our hearts from servitude to the shallow promises and fleeting pleasures of sin. In this study, you will find practical ways to sever the clinging roots of sin that ensnare us, including anxiety, pride, shame, impatience, covetousness, bitterness, despondency, and lust.

### **Beginning Life Together**

#### **God's Purpose for Your Life**

By Wilkinson, Ortlund & Farrar

6 Sessions

God never intended for you to do life alone but together in community. You will get an overview of the five biblical purposes God intends for living together in community. This study will take you on a 6 week journey through these five purposes and give you a taste of the life God created you to live.

## **DVD Assisted Studies**

### **Be Still**

By Donahue & Reinhold

4 Sessions

In hectic, busy lives, we need to learn to be still & take time to reconnect with God. During this study you will learn about & experience the peace & power of “listening” prayer.

### **Celebrate Recovery**

By John Baker & Rick Warren

25 Sessions

Celebrate Recovery was created to help the church fulfill its role as Christ’s healing agent. Celebrate Recovery draws from the Beatitudes to help people resolve painful problems in the context of the church as a whole. This program helps participants and their churches come together and discover new levels of care, acceptance, trust, and grace.

### **Connecting with God’s Family—Fellowship**

By Eastman, Wendorff & Lee-Thorp

6 Sessions

God longs for you to have rich, genuine connections with Him and a handful of other people. These six sessions will help you connect more deeply with Jesus Christ and build genuine relationships with Christian friends. Christ’s love makes it possible for you to be known and to know others, to be loved and to love, to resolve conflict effectively, and to move outward together in faith.

### **Defining Moments-What To Do When You Come Face-to-Face with the Truth**

By Andy Stanley

9 Sessions

Life is full of defining moments. Like landmarks on a road map, these moments mark key points along your life’s journey. A defining moment happens when you come face-to-face with a truth that invites you to change the way you live. It demands that you make a decision. And regardless of the choice you make, you will never be the same. Includes study guide.

## **DVD Assisted Studies**

### **Developing A Servant's Heart**

By Mark Whelchel

6 Sessions

Developing A Servant's Heart is a journey that will turn your thinking on servanthood upside-down.

### **Discovering God's Will**

By Andy Stanley

8 Sessions

God has a wonderful and fulfilling vision for your life. You determining God's will can be a difficult process, especially when you need to make a decision quickly! Designed for small groups or personal study, this study will take you through the important steps of decision making. Includes study and leaders guide.

### **Don't Waste Your Life**

By John Piper

10 Sessions

Ever fill like you were wasting your life? God created us to live with a single passion: to joyfully display his supreme excellence in all spheres of life. The wasted life is the life without this passion. This study will challenge you to live and die boasting in the cross of Christ and making the glory of God your single passion.

### **Epic**

By John Eldredge

6 Sessions

The Gospel is an Epic, in this exciting re-telling of the Gospel, you will discover why you love and connect so deeply with the movies and the stories that you do. For God has written a story on the human heart, and every other epic we love is inviting us in and telling us the true Epic—the Story that God is telling.

### **Fireproof**

By Outreach

6 Sessions

Fireproof is founded on Biblical principles for strong, God –centered, lifelong marriages. The study uses video clips from Fireproof, along with thought-provoking discussion questions and individual and couples' devotinals.

## **DVD Assisted Studies**

### **40 Days of Love**

By Rick Warren

6 Sessions

Nothing matters more than relationships—and no one understands them better than Jesus. Based on an exhaustive study of what Jesus did and said about relationships, this book guides readers on a forty-day journey that will bring new health and richness to their marriages, families, friendships, and all the relationships in their lives.

### **Go Fish**

By Andy Stanley

6 Sessions

We've all heard them. "It was this big." "You should have seen the one that got away." People love to tell stories of their fishing adventures. When it comes to faith, however, most people clam up. Why is it we can't talk about what God has done in our life as naturally as we can spin fishing tales?

### **Growing to Be Like Christ**

By Brett Eastman

6 Sessions

Spiritual maturity doesn't happen by accident. This study offers a realistic, practical path to growing strong in faith and Christian character.

### **If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat**

By John Ortberg

6 Sessions

Deep within you lies the same faith and longing that sent Peter walking across the wind-swept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus. Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone. Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God. The experience is terrifying. It's thrilling beyond belief. The choice is yours to know him as only a water-walker can. Includes Leaders and participant study guides.

## **DVD Assisted Studies**

### **It All Goes Back in the Box**

By John Ortberg

6 Sessions

Calling Christian *game players of all* ages; Using games as a metaphor, Ortberg presents carefully considered tactics for succeeding in life from God's vantage point. Each chapter weaves the rules of gaming with the Christian journey: understanding the object of the game (being spiritually rich toward God); the setup (keeping score, taking turns, preventing regret); how to play (with rules, gratitude and a mission); hazards (competition, greed, losing); and winning (choosing the right trophies). Christians will especially appreciate Ortberg's wise counsel on being the kind of player other people want to sit next to, as he exhorts readers to learn to lose with grace, win with grace and forgive with grace. Perspective is key; after all, when the game is over, it all goes back in the box.

### **Life's Healing Choices**

By Rick Warren

8 Sessions

Life's Healing Choices is based on The Beatitudes. It is designed to help everyone discover how to live a more balanced spiritual life by finding freedom from all their hurts, hang ups and habits. In other words, Life's Healing Choices is for everybody because everybody needs spiritual renewal.

### **Liquid - Crossing**

By Mariner's Church

5 Sessions

Based on the book of Joshua, Crossing shows the only way to get to the other side of life's challenges and changes is to step out in faith and cross over - just like Joshua and the Israelites.

### **Liquid - Fork in the Road**

By Mariner's Church

5 Sessions

Based on the life of King David, we all have fork in the road moments, just like King David. Sometimes he chose the road to greatness, occasionally his choices took him down the road of heartbreak. Just like us...life has a way of leading us to a fork in the road.

## **DVD Assisted Studies**

### **Liquid - Live at Five**

By Mariner's Church

5 Sessions

Based on the book of James, Live at Five teaches us how to live the Christian life, and how to live it practically.

### **Liquid - Mirror Image**

By Mariner's Church

5 Sessions

Based on some of the most famous biblical parables, such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, Mirror Image tells the story of a family who faces dramatic events and must choose to respond.

### **Liquid - Money**

By Mariner's Church

5 Sessions

Money isn't everything....if you think you have ever had issues with money, you should meet the Penders. Money is a part of all our lives, but to this California family, money is everything. Their outrageous view of money provides an amusing yet insightful reflection on struggles we all face in our consumer-driven culture. Money Talks takes a lighthearted but important look at one of the more difficult issues of our faith: stewardship.

### **Liquid - The Ten**

By Mariner's Church

5 Sessions

In The Ten, we follow the lives of five different freeway drivers, each one living out one of God's Commandments on the streets of the City of Angels. Even today, the Ten Commandments are more than a list of restrictions....they're a road to a better life.

**DVD Assisted Studies**

## **DVD Assisted Studies**

### **Lord Teach Me to Pray in 28 Days**

By Kay Arthur

4 or 7 Sessions

Many books offer tips on enhancing your prayer life—but they leave you adrift when it comes to actually praying. In this study, *Lord Teach Me to Pray*, provides intensely practical insights to help you know *how* to pray, *what* to pray, and *what to expect* when you pray.

### **Love & Respect**

By Emerson & Sarah Eggerichs

14 Sessions

A wife has one driving need - to feel loved. When that need is met, she is happy. A husband has one driving need - to feel respected. When that need is met, he is happy. When either of these needs isn't met, things get crazy. *Love & Respect* reveals why spouses react negatively to each other, and how they can deal with such conflict quickly, easily and biblically.

### **ReGroup**

By Henry Cloud & John Townsend

4-20 Sessions

Curriculum that will guide all of you...Leader and group together...into a new closeness and effectiveness. Designed to create healthy group dynamics and an atmosphere that fosters personal growth, this innovative approach equips both group leaders and members with essential skills and values for creating and sustaining truly life-changing small groups.

### **Sharing Your Life Mission Every Day**

By Eastman, Wendorff and Lee-Thorp

6 Sessions

Sharing your life mission every day just isn't that hard. You need a few friends for support, and a glimpse of God's heart for those who don't know him. These six sessions will equip you to extend love to seekers around you and talk about your experience with God in ways that people will understand. God doesn't ask you to do it alone—discover the power that comes from teaming up!

## **DVD Assisted Studies**

### **Song of Solomon (CD Series)**

By Tommy Nelson

11 Sessions

This study addresses the topics of attraction, dating, courtship, intimacy, conflict, romance, and commitment. The material is designed for both individual and group study.

### **Stepping Up-A Journey through the Psalms**

By Beth Moore

6 Sessions

Stepping Up explores Psalms 120-134. Traveling pilgrims sang these psalms both on the way to the great festivals of the Jews and as key elements of the worship at those festivals. You will gain a new appreciation for the life of faith as a journey to greater fellowship with and worship of God.

### **Surrendering Your Life for God's Pleasure**

By Brett Eastman

6 Sessions

What does it mean to surrender yourself to God? As you learn to worship Christ throughout your daily life, you will come to trust Him with the experiences of your past, the precious things of your present and the hopes of your future.

### **The Blazing Center**

By John Piper

10 Sessions

Everything revolves around Him. And as the most valuable and glorious person who exists, God is loving, not conceited, when He calls us to worship Him. His pursuit of glory and our pursuit of joy are not at odds—because God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. This study will help you place God at the center of your life.

### **The Jesus I Never Knew**

By Philip Yancey

6 Sessions

This study uncovers a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable and ultimately satisfying. "No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same," says Yancey. Your preconceptions of Jesus will be rocked and you will ask why those who bear his name don't do a better job of following him. Leaders Guide and Study Guide included.

## **DVD Assisted Studies**

### **The Last Sin Eater**

By Francine Rivers

4 Sessions

The Last Sin Eater is a film for young teens and adults. It provides an opportunity to discuss sin and God's plan for forgiveness. Understanding the themes of the film-death holds no fear; there is freedom from guilt; God is with us always; and life is new in Christ-is the reason these and other topics are addressed in the movie and why we've created this discussion guide.

### **The Life You Always Wanted**

By John Ortberg

6 Sessions

What does true spiritual life really look like? What keeps you from living such a life? If you're tired of the status quo-if you suspect there's more to Christianity than what you've experienced-Ortberg invites you to join him on a road to transformation and spiritual vigor that anyone can take. This study guides you down the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines. Include Leaders and participant's guides.

### **Wide Angle—Framing your Worldview**

By Rick Warren & Charles Colson

6 Sessions

Your worldview consists of the beliefs you build your life on. It determines how you view God, yourself, and other people. This study will examine worldviews as they relate to the most important questions of our day. It explores such key issues as truth, tolerance, terrorism, reconciliation, and the purpose of life.

## **Movie Bible Studies**

### **The Nativity Story**

By New Line Cinema

Family discussion guide available

Powerful, timeless and visually magnificent. The Nativity Story is a powerful story of Jesus' birth. The film offers contrasting pictures of those who trust in God and those who don't, presents various images of the journey of faith, and reveals God's faithfulness in keeping his promises to his people, even in highly unexpected ways.

## **Movie Bible Studies**

### **Amazing Grace**

By 20th Century Fox

The inspiring story of how one man's passion and perseverance changed the world. Based on the true story of William Wilberforce. Amazing Grace follows his courageous quest to end the British slave trade. DVD contains interactive discussion tools and study guide.

### **Elf**

By InfiniFilm

Family discussion guide available

A feel-good holiday movie about identity, belief and talent. Elf is the cheerful story of Buddy, a human raised by Christmas elves, who discovers the he is indeed, human. As Buddy embarks on a hilarious journey to discover his birth family, he wrestles with issues of identity, faith and where his unique talents fit into the scheme of things.

### **Fireproof**

By Affirm Films

Leadership kit available

This gripping story follows one man's desire to transform his life and marriage through the healing power of faith and fully embrace the fireman's code: Never Leave Your Partner Behind.

### **How Great is our God**

By Lou Giglio

Discussion guide being developed

Your life is a miracle, and the Creator of the universe knows you by name, He knows everything about you. From the smallest molecule to the situation you find yourself in right now, He's aware of your circumstances and intimately acquainted with everything you do. An He cares about you and promises to carry you through.

### **It's a Wonderful Life**

By Liberty Films

Family discussion guide available

This Hollywood classic illustrates how one man's integrity and selflessness influences an entire community of people. It's a Wonderful Life tells the story of George Bailey, a struggling businessman with dreams of greater things. After inheriting his father's business and falling (unwillingly) for the girl next door, Bailey finds himself stuck in a situation that will test his patience, his inner strength and his family's love.

## **Children's Study Resources**

### **Grapple-Preteen**

By Group

13 Sessions

Preteens are a moving target. Kids 10 to 12 are too old for children's Sunday school, but too young for youth. They need Grapple®—the Sunday school curriculum that answers real-life preteen questions and tackles the issues preteens care about most! Grapple Sunday school curriculum delivers Bible truth the way your preteens want to hear it. Each quarter you get 12 attention-grabbing preteen Bible lessons that prompt your preteens to dig into the Bible. PLUS, your preteens get their very own safe and secure online community to connect with each other—and you!

### **How to Study the Bible for Kids**

By Kay Arthur & Janna Arndt

6 Sessions

Climb up to the treehouse of the M and M Detective Agency and let Max, Molly, and Sam the Beagle put you through a special 6 week “inductive detective” training course. The agency has a big mystery to solve—the mystery of discovering for yourself what God's Word says. Wow! Sounds like an adventure.

### **Jesus in the Spotlight (John-chapters 1-10)**

By Kay Arthur

10 Sessions

Lights....Camera....Action! In this bible study, you'll pretend to be a film director who makes a movie about Jesus' life. Your movie will be about the first ten chapters of John's book, and it will be full of awesome adventures. As you read through the script, you'll learn all about who Jesus' friends were, why He came, what He did, where He went, and how you can really get to know Him.

## **Leadership Development Resources**

### **Best Bible Study Methods (Disciple Journal)**

By Melissa Munro & Judith Couchman

A unique handbook of 32 ways to study scripture. From word studies to role-playing to personal reflection, both clergy and lay people explain how to infuse study with fresh insight and without compromising the Bible's meaning or integrity.

### **Best Small Group Ideas - Vol. 1 and 2**

By Deena Davis and Susan Nikaido

Small group leaders will love this collection of articles on stimulating growth in small groups. This isn't just a book on small group theory, it's a hands on resource loaded with practical ideas that you can use in your small group this week.

### **How to Begin Your Small Group Ministry**

By Dan Lentz

God is leading you to help grow your community through small group ministry, but where do you start? Whether you're planning a new strategy or supporting an existing program, this reader-friendly, authoritative guide will help you build a ministry that serves the unique needs of your church.

### **How to Deal With Challenging Group Members**

By Pat Sikora

Difficult small group members derail discussions with gossiping, arguing, or taking the group off-topic. This reader friendly, authoritative guide gives solutions for leaders dealing with well-meaning but problematic members.

### **How to Guide An Effective Small Group**

By Michael Mack

What qualities make a good leader? Learn from the example of the best small group leader ever - Jesus! - as this step-by-step guide explores how leaders can serve and shepherd their groups.

## **Leadership Development Resources**

### **How to Lead Quality Bible Discussions**

By Terry Powell

What can you do to help engrossing Bible discussions thrive in your small group? Now that's a good question! This book is teeming with ideas and examples to help you lead group members to observe, interpret, and apply God's Word in productive, meaningful sessions.

### **Leading Life-Changing Small Groups**

By Bill Donahue

The unique, ready-reference format of this book gives small group leaders, pastors, church leaders, educators, and counselors a comprehensive guide for leading small groups.

### **New Testament Lesson Maker**

By Navpress

Create your own customized Bible studies in a fraction of the time it takes to start from scratch. Lesson Maker combines the advantages of both Off-the-shelf studies and Do-it yourself studies by allowing you to pull together customized Bible studies in a fraction of the time.

### **Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership**

By Carl George

Don't just have meetings - the elements in this book will propel you and your group to a new level of teamwork and fruitfulness for Christ. The simple truths of Scripture illustrated in these nine keys will unlock and open doors that make the difference in health, growth, vitality, energy, and life in your small group.

## ***IceBreaker Resources: (available for viewing on-site)***

### **The Big Book of Icebreakers**

By Edie West

### **1001- The Complete Book of Questions**

By Garry Poole

### **Silly Salad**

By Amy K. Bond

## **Team Leader Development Resources**

### **101 Great Ideas To Create a Caring Group**

By Thom Corrigan

People join small groups for many reasons - to know a few people well, to learn, to grow spiritually - but the single most influential aspect of any healthy small group experience is care. When we care for and are cared for by others, we are practicing the heart of the gospel. In fact, groups that learn how to care for one another in word and deed usually wind up having a deep and lasting impact on entire churches and communities.

### **Walking The Small Group Tightrope**

By Bill Donahue and Russ Robinson

Leading a successful small group is like walking a tightrope. You traverse a taut, exciting line, balancing the dynamic tensions characteristic of every group. Drawing from the concept of "polarity management," Donahue and Robinson help you understand and deal with six dynamic areas every group leader must manage in order to create genuine, transforming small group community.

### **Church Communication Network (CD's)**

#### **Groups That Grow #140 & #143**

Speaker: Bill Donahue & Dr. Henry Cloud

#### **What to do When "Life Happens" in Your Group**

Speaker: Bill Donahue & Dr. Henry Cloud

### **Other Resources;**

- **New Testament NIV Application Commentaries**
- **Bible Dictionary**
- **Systematic Theology**

## **Team Leader Development Resources**

### **Building A Church Of Small Groups**

By Bill Donahue & Greg Bowman

Our hearts were made for deep, authentic relationships. For community. And like nothing else, small groups provide the kind of life-giving community that builds and empowers the body of Christ and impacts the world. Willow Creek has gone from being a church with small groups to being a church of small groups. Sharing insights from that transition, its two chief architects tell how your church-whatever its size and circumstances-can become a place where people of all ages can experience powerful, transforming community.

### **Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders**

By Bill Donahue & Greg Bowman

Small groups transform churches - and lives. Small Group leaders often feel the weight of shepherding their members. But who shepherds the shepherd? And what are the best ways to provide that support and guidance? These are the questions answered in this book.

### **Creating Community**

#### **5 Keys to Building a Small Group Culture**

By Andy Stanley & Bill Willits

Imagine a network of small groups that actually multiply every twelve to twenty-four months. Imagine a network of small groups led by men & women who truly understand their role as shepherd & leader. Imagine a church model that quickly integrates nearly every member into a dynamic, committed small group.

### **Dramas That Teach - DVD & Discussion Guide**

By Willow Creek

Small groups transform churches - and lives. Small Group leaders often feel the weight of shepherding their members. But who shepherds the shepherd? And what are the best ways to provide that support and guidance? These are the questions answered in this book.

## **Willow Creek 2007 Small Group Conference**

### ***Breakout Sessions***

**Beyond Bible Study:  
Using Scripture for Spiritual Transformation**

Speaker: Bill Donahue

**Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders**

Speaker: Greg Bowman

**Developing Authenticity In Your Small Group**

Speaker: Steve Gladen

**Effectively Guiding a Group to Spiritual Maturity**

Speaker: Scott Vaudrey

**How Would Jesus Lead Your Group?**

Speaker: Phil Hodges

**Living the Critical Journey of a Leader**

Speakers: Janet Hagberg & Barry Thomas

**Turning Members into Leaders**

Speaker: Dave Treat

### ***Keynote Sessions***

**Brightness**

Speaker: Donald Miller

The New Testament Church is most closely defined as a small group.

**Texture**

Speaker: Randy Frazee

The power is not in the "WE" but in "Christ". Christ transforms lives and communities.

## **Willow Creek 2007 Small Group Conference**

### ***Breakout Sessions***

#### **Adding People to Your Group**

Speaker: Eric Camfield

#### **Bringing Church to the Neighborhood**

Speaker: Steve Gillen

#### **Choosing & Using Curriculum That Works**

Speaker: Kevin & Sherry Harney

#### **Extraordinary Coaching Relationships**

Speaker: Tony Stoltzfus

#### **Missional Communities: Serving and Meeting Needs in the Neighborhood**

Speaker: Nate Ledbetter

#### **Neighborhood Hospitality**

Speaker: Jon & Kelly Peacock

## **Church Communication Network**

### **March 2006**

- The Intentional Church By Randy Pope  
Develop a unique, biblically-based plan to grow your people & church.
- Mobilizing High-Capacity Lay Leaders By Reeb & Wellons  
Learn how to release the training, wisdom, experience and gifts of the high-capacity leaders in your community.
- Groups that Grow-Starting at the End By Cloud & Donahue  
Create a process for discovering the group's purpose and learn how to overcome obstacles to achieving it.
- The art of Getting Leaders to Work Together By Barna & Miller  
Learn how to release the training, wisdom, experience and gifts of the high-capacity leaders

### **April 2006**

- Ministry and Marriage: When Leaders Live Together By Ortbergs  
A gifted leader married to a gifted leader? Learn how to make it work.
- Groups that Grow-Building the Guardrails By Cloud & Donahue  
Discover and shape the ground rules and values that ensure your group's success.
- The Character of a Leader By Barna & Mannoia  
Explore key character traits of great leaders, and learn how to discover and nurture them.

### **October 2006**

- Listen to Your Life By Burton  
Help women in your church tune in to their gifts and listen for God's messages in everyday life.
- Bringing AWE into Your Marriage By Burns  
Encourage couples in your church who want to create, restore, or increase their intimacy and joy.
- Groups the Grow: Processing Transitions By Cloud & Donahue  
Assist your groups and leaders in dealing with the challenge of change in small -group life.

## **Growth Group Resources**

### **Growth Group Ministries**

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Manteca, CA 95336

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