

Ideas for Bible Study Groups



ROMANS

Get what you don't deserve. We all sin, so we must pay for our crimes. But then something happens: God intervenes. He not only saves us from certain death, but also makes it possible for us to live lives of eternal purpose. In this verse-by-verse study of the important book of Romans, learn how you can be transformed from a sinner on course to getting what you deserve to the saint who reflects Christ's very essence in your everyday life.

Cost: No cost, as we have this guide in our lending library



RUTH & ESTHER

Girl power. Need a role model? Here are two strong candidates. Instead of cowering in fear or simply doing what everyone else would have done, Ruth and Esther made history. By trusting God when it mattered most, these two young women changed the world: Ruth's descendants became kings, and Esther saved her people from genocide. What great things does God have in store for you?

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JOHN

Be loved. Unique to the other four Gospels, John's firsthand account serves to explain how Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the reason for the New Testament. John's narrative tells the greatest love story in history, connecting the dots from Genesis to Revelation. Learn something new from his fresh and very personal perspective.

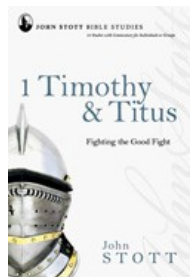
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EPHESIANS

In Ephesians, Paul informs us that "prolonged infancies" are not supposed to define the Christian life. It's important to grow--to fuse together your belief with behavior. As a young believer, put your faith, energy, and idealism to action. Learn how Paul instructed the people of Ephesus to practice the skills of a "God-fashioned life" and apply his advice in your own life.

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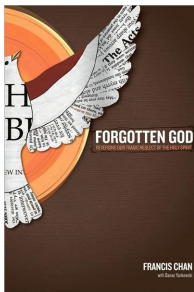


1 TIMOTHY & TITUS

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. John Stott is one of the world's leading and most loved Bible teachers and preachers. In this guide you can explore Scripture under his guidance, enhancing your own in-depth study with insights gained from his years of immersion in God's Word.

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Ideas for Book Study Groups



Forgotten God by Francis Chan, includes DVD

Today's church *admires* the gift of the Holy Spirit, but have we neglected to open it? Chan tears away the wrapping paper and the ribbons to uncover the source of the believing community's true power for witness and service. He issues a compelling invitation to understand, embrace, and follow the Spirit of the living God.

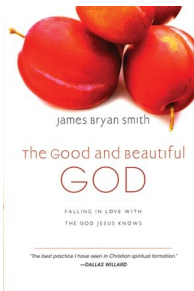
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Crazy Love by Francis Chan, includes DVD

The God of the universe is crazy about you! His love is the most powerful thing in the world and He wants to give it to you, so you can live for Him. If you have made a commitment to follow Christ, then read *Crazy Love* to be reminded and challenged in your walk. Sharing from his own life struggles and sacrifices, author Francis Chan issues a call for selfless, Christ-like living. Let the love you have received from God impact your life like never before.

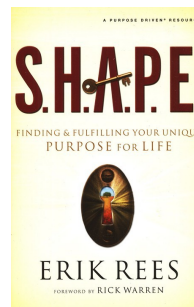
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The Good and Beautiful God by James Bryan Smith

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 whom we interact with (our social context) to discover the life Jesus lived and grow in the knowledge of a good God.

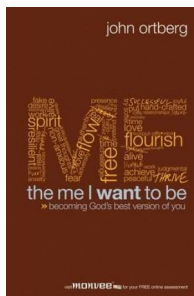
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S.H.A.P.E by Erik Rees

Do you need to get in S.H.A.P.E.? Let Saddleback's Erik Rees help you discover your unique Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences! A companion follow-up to *The Purpose-Driven Life*, this empowering guide will show you how to unlock your potential, find your spiritual goal, and explore God's plan for your life.

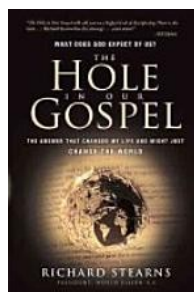
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The ME I Want to Be, by John Ortberg, includes DVD

Discover the great task---and joy---of becoming God's best version of yourself! Best-selling author and pastor Ortberg explains that Christ's vision for each of us is to grow spiritually toward a life in which his Spirit flows like a river---and assures us that this is God's project, not our own.

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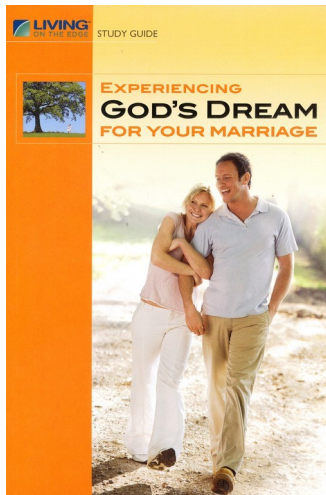


The Hole in our Gospel, by Richard Stearns, includes DVD

More than half the earth's population can't find work, feed their families, or secure adequate housing. How can we better care for the neighbor next door---or the woman across the planet? In *The Hole in Our Gospel*, Stearns explores Jesus' call to love our neighbors and shows you how to use your time, talents, and money to heal a broken world. The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) recently announced *The Hole in Our Gospel* as winner of both the Christian Life Category Award and the 2010 Christian Book of the Year.

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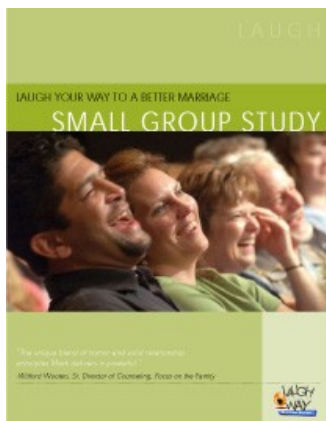
Ideas for Marriage Groups



Experiencing God's Dream for Your Marriage, DVD By Chip Ingram

Would you like a fresh breeze to blow in your marriage? Do you long for a marriage where intimacy and communication are a reality instead of a dream? "Experiencing God's Dream for Your Marriage" is a topical series by Chip Ingram examining God's design for marriage, with practical instruction to help you make your marriage what God desires it to be. CD messages are approximately 50 minutes each and the DVD has the same messages in 12-25 minutes sessions.

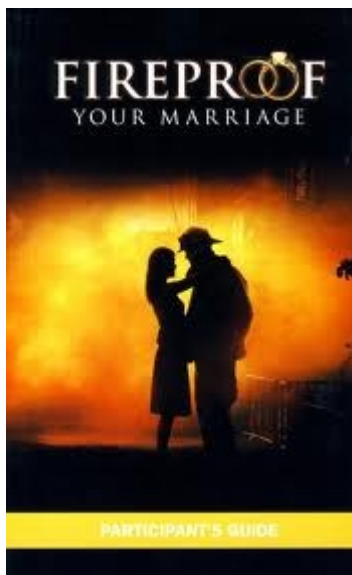
Message titles include: God's Dream for Your Marriage, What Went Wrong? Barriers to Intimacy, Communication: How to "Share Hearts" Instead of "Exchange Words", Four Keys to Intimacy, Conflict Resolution: How to "Fight Fair" in Marriage, and Men and Women: Enjoying the Difference.



Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage, DVD By Mark Gungor

Bring Mark Gungor and his Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage® seminar into your small group! Through our small group study guides, couples learn Mark's honest and hard-hitting insights, with guidance to discuss and interact with each other, and be able to make real, positive changes in their marriages.

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Fireproof Your Marriage, DVD

Based on the movie *Fireproof*, this curriculum was created to help build and strengthen marriages using biblical principles. It is designed with an easy format that integrates movie clips, key Scriptures and group discussion. Intended for couples' small groups, the kit includes an easy to follow DVD, one leader's guide, and one participant's guide.

Cost: No cost, as we have this guide in our lending library

Ideas for Parenting Groups

Your Child: Essentials of Discipline DVD Seminar By Dr. James Dobson



Looking for *workable* advice on how to raise your kids? Here it is! Through interviews and animated vignettes James Dobson and other experts tackle topics vital to 21st-century parents. You'll discover wise counsel on effective discipline, self-confidence, and safeguards for a dangerous world. Learn how to grow and lead your sons and daughters---God's way.

Twelve video segments (10 to 23 minutes each) on three DVDs
One *Leader's Guide* with directions for leading each session

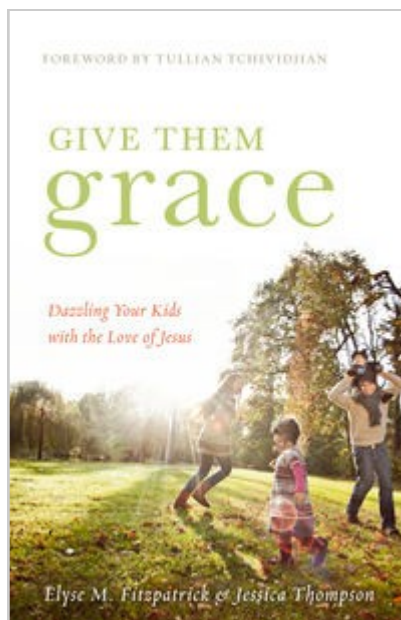
Cost: \$37 for DVD's and Leaders' Guide

Shepherding a Child's Heart, DVD By Tedd Tripp



In this *Shepherding a Child's Heart* DVD Tedd Tripp teaches sequentially through all the material in his book *Shepherding a Child's Heart*. Grounded in the Bible's divine plan for parenting, this DVD defines your goals as a parent and then provides the Scriptural methods for accomplishing them. Designed for use by Study groups or individuals, the content is divided into fifteen half-hour sessions. Also includes a bonus CD containing a reproducible course syllabus. Approx. 7.5 hours.

Cost: \$50 for DVD



Give them Grace By: Elyse M. Fitzpatrick & Jessica Thompson

How are parents to raise children so they don't become Pharisees (legalists) or prodigals (rebels)? It's all about grace-filled, gospel-driven parenting, says the mother/daughter team of Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson. Christian parents, in their desire to raise godly children, can drift toward rule-centered discipline. There is, however, a far more effective method—a grace-motivated approach that begins with the glorious truth of God's love for sinners.

In *Give Them Grace*, parents will learn how to connect the benefits of the cross—especially regeneration, adoption, and justification—to their children's daily lives. Chapters address topics such as our inability to follow the law perfectly, God's forgiveness and love displayed at the cross, and what true heart obedience looks like. Fitzpatrick and Thompson also discuss discipline, dealing with popular culture, and evangelism as a way of life. Parents will find this book a great resource for raising grace-filled, Jesus-loving kids.

Cost: \$10

Ideas for Activity Groups

What's your passion? Combine it with a Bible or Book Study and turn it into a Growth Group!

- **Jogging**
- **Knitting / Crochet**
- **BBQ'ing**
- **Exercise / Fitness**
- **Learning to Dance**
- **Board Games**
- **Walking**
- **Coffee shops exploration**
- **Learning to cook**
- **Soccer**
- **Field of Dreams Softball League**
- **Potlucks**
- **Basketball**
- **Frisbee Golf**
- **Dirt-biking**
- **Hiking or Camping**
- **Nature Trails**
- **And more! Your only limit is your creativity!**