

# ***FIRST CHURCH***

**MAKING DISCIPLES**

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# ***Leaders Resource List***

***Revised November 2008***

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## **APOLOGETICS**

Experiencing the Passion of Jesus—A Discussion Guide on History’s Most Important Event, by Lee Strobel and Gary Poole—can be used either with or without Mel Gibson’s movie, *The Passion of the Christ*. Recommended by Cindy Peck and D.G. Giordano.

Jesus Among Other Gods, by Ravi Zaccarias, video curriculum available through Discovery Place. The four presentations will provide help for individuals and groups that wish to explore the uniqueness of Jesus Christ in a world that seems more and more crowded with competing ‘gods’— the study also explores other religions.  
—recommended by George Stauffer, Susan Wheeland, and D.G. Giordano.

Know WHAT You Believe, by Paul Little (updated and expanded edition, 2000). Publisher: Cook Communications. Book with study questions  
Apologetics book dealing with what the Bible teaches about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, as well as what angels, Satan, and demons have to do with reality. 10 chapters. Billy Graham recommends it as being scholarly articulate, and simple. A good follow-up to Know Why You Believe. Also recommended by D.G. Giordano and Cindy Peck.

Know WHY You Believe by Paul Little (updated and expanded edition, 2000). Publisher: Cook Communications  
An easy-to-read apologetics book. Carol Fausnaught and Amy McGovern used with Senior High SS class and had great success. Also recommended by D.G. Giordano and Cindy Peck, who used it with adults. There are 12 chapters.

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis— this classic book has brought untold numbers to faith in Christ. Some find the style to be challenging to read. It is an excellent study for a small group. “The Mere Christianity Study Guide” is readily available for free on the internet. A copy of it is also located in the Church Library. Recommended by D.G. Giordano, Cindy Peck, and Barb Lynn.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

A Life God Rewards Video Series, Bruce Wilkinson - Video available in the church library.  
Some questions never seem to go away---such as: What will life be like when we step into eternity? In this 8-part series, Bruce Wilkinson offers a fresh, biblical view of heaven and shows why it's vital to serve God wholeheartedly now so you can enjoy the hereafter. Recommended by Pam Cunningham.

Bible Basics—an excellent study by Mona Otto, taught and expanded by Mona Otto and Lorrie Dean. Gary Moyer has also taught this class. See any of them for more information. Lorrie’s comments:

“This is not quite ready for anyone to pick up and go. The basic lesson content is written out, and works well as long as you have a knowledgeable leader who understands the flow of Scripture, and a group who needs the Basics.”

Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby and Claude King

Experiencing God identifies and explores seven aspects of relating to God in a richer, more personal way: knowing, loving, hearing, joining, believing, obeying, and experiencing. In the workbook, each unit in this 12-unit study provides 5 days of readings and questions. The workbook provides a strategy for and impetus to apply the central ideas presented in the book. The 12 units are: God’s will and your life; Looking to God; God pursues a love relationship; Love and God’s invitation; God speaks, part 1; God speaks, part 2; The crisis of belief; Adjusting your life to God; Experiencing God through obedience; God’s will and the church; Kingdom people; Continue fellowship with God. Highly recommended by Gerry Fausnaught, Janet Durrwachter, and D.G. Giordano.

### That the World May Know/Faith Lessons

Host Ray Vander Laan (a teacher and historian) will transport you to the Holy Land and reveal the Bible's intriguing historical context and its significance to modern believers, illuminating life-changing 'faith lessons' that will ignite your faith, strengthen your convictions and inspire you to confront your world. Recommended by Bill and Cindy Peck, Bob and Sandy Krise.

Available from a variety of sources

About \$30 per video. Pecks have many in the series.

### **BIBLE STUDY - ADVENT**

The Amazing Prophecy of Names, based on the predicted names of Messiah in Isaiah 9:6. A Bible study guide written by D.G. Giordano, based on a Discovery Series booklet put out by Radio Bible Class ministries. Available in the Church Library, or by contacting D.G. Giordano. Recommended by D.G. Giordano and Rick Waters.

While We Wait –“We enjoyed the study, with qualifiers. There were precious few studies available at the time for Advent and we chose the one that looked the best. There is leader material in the back that makes teaching/leading very easy. It did ask for some hands-on preparation, getting some things together ahead of time, etc., but nothing difficult or overly time-consuming. While it is a unique way of looking at Advent, she does have some quirky ideas in there, which demanded some evaluation. Where she was off-base in her comments, we discussed and threw out what didn't fit for us or match up with our idea of Scripture's teachings. But even with that, there were also some valuable thought-provoking ideas that were worth the effort”. (Lorrie Dean)

### **BIBLE STUDY – LENT/EASTER**

Jesus' Greatest Moments: The Week that Changed Everything, Mark Ashton

Never has one week made such a far-reaching difference. As you relive the dramatic highs and lows of this unparalleled week, you will discover why Jesus was far more than a great moral teacher - and why, among all other religious leaders, Jesus stands without equal. The creative ice-breakers, stimulating questions, and real world applications allow both novice and experienced seeker small group leaders to create a safe, judgment-free environment to provide answers to the most common and difficult questions raised by those interested in learning more about God. Six lesson study guide.

### **BIBLE STUDY – NEW TESTAMENT**

Bible study of the book of James by John MacArthur— (12 weeks) recommended by Barb Lynn, Beth Dahlgren and Suzanne Waters. Barb's comment: This is an excellent study of James. All MacArthurs' studies include the text being studied, numerous footnotes and explanation in the column beside Bible text and then very thought provoking questions. Each lesson also has an extension, which picks up another related Bible passage from another book. He does reference other scripture throughout the study. When Beth and Suzanne taught it, they typed up this text for everyone. It was very helpful but time consuming. I would suggest to anyone using his future studies, to either copy these scriptures from an electronic Bible or just look some up during class period.

He Chose the Nails, video study by Max Lucado, available through Discovery Place.

A 12-lesson, in-depth study of the cross. This series includes comprehensive leader's guide containing the complete text of the participant's workbook; an interactive workbook with daily assignments and weekly group meeting activities; and dramatized video vignettes featuring discussion starters by Max Lucado. Recommended by Desiree Bower.

James: Live Wisely, Bill Hybels

This 6-week study challenges participants to walk the talk when it comes to being followers of Christ. The topics covered include Developing Perseverance; Overcoming Destructive Desires; How Good is Good Enough; Developing Christian Confidence; The Power of Words; The Power of Prayer. Recommended by Kay Braunegg.

### Parables from the Backside

Offers a new understanding of twelve of Jesus' parables by viewing them through the eyes of a minor or unsympathetic character – 12 sessions. Rick Waters describes this as an “excellent study of parables.” Chuck Garner has also used in the Semper Fidelis class.

Revelation—The Lamb Who is The Lion, by Gladys Hunt; Fisherman Bible Studies, Random House. The Book of Revelation is about Jesus Christ, the sacrificial Lamb who is also the living, victorious Lion. This final book of the Bible brings into focus the age-old conflict between the forces of good and evil and inspires us to anticipate the final outcome. 13 studies for individuals or groups. Recommended by Scott Taylor.

Romans—Encountering the Gospel's Power by John Stott; 20 studies with commentary for individuals or groups. Intervarsity Press. 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. Recommended by D.G. Giordano, Barb Lynn, and Cindy Peck.

### Sermon on the Mount, John Stott, (A LifeGuide Bible Study)

What does it mean to seek first the kingdom in our relationships, values, ambitions, finances and commitment to God? Jesus' answer to these questions amazed those who first heard the Sermon on the Mount. In this study, you will also be amazed and challenged by the greatest sermon ever preached. The 12 sessions are: unexpected blessings, God's way to make a difference, the importance of obeying God's law, what's wrong with private sins, faithfulness in marriage and speech, how to really love your enemies, how not to be religious, a pattern for dynamic prayer, what God thinks of my ambitions, relationships that encourage, detecting the lies of our world, making the choice of a lifetime.

The Applause of Heaven, by Max Lucado. A book based on the Beatitudes, with a study guide in the back. Recommended by Desiree Bower, who said it was led by Mona Otto, and “was very popular and the discussions were priceless!”

The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey—video study available through Discovery Place. 14 sessions—A look at the teachings, person, and life of Jesus Christ. Recommended by Desiree Bower, Beth Dahlgren, and Barb Lynn.

### **BIBLE STUDY – OLD TESTAMENT**

Chasing Daylight by Erwin Raphael McManus—DVD format, 10-week Bible study on the life of Jonathan, based on the book of the same name. Put out by Bluefish TV. Owned by First Church. (See D.G. Giordano to borrow.) Matt and Stacey Anderson led this. Matt's comment, “*Unique study; message is both simple and complex, good video for discussion.*”

Daniel: God's Control Over Rulers and Nations by John MacArthur, recommended by Beth Dahlgren, Suzanne Waters, and Barb Lynn. Combined comments: *John MacArthur's studies are very good. Daniel was a very interesting and thought provoking book. There is not a leader's book, but is doable with a good commentary as a resource. We learned a lot from this study; it is best for people who have studied the Bible before and want a deeper Bible study. Every Old Testament lesson also has a cross reference to a New Testament scripture so the new and old tie together.*

### Exodus: Journey toward God, John Ortberg (New Community Bible Study Series)

This 6-week study focuses on the life of Moses and takes participants on a journey toward God. Through Moses' experiences, you can grow to know God better, trust Him even when situations seem hopeless, and learn to see people with God's eyes.

Old Testament Characters, Peter Scazzero

A LifeGuide Bible Study - 12 sessions

This 12-week study uses discussion questions to help the group learn Old Testament stories. Life application comes from identifying with the characters and seeing how little nature has changed. Recommended by Rick Waters.

Psalms: Deepening Your Relationship with God by Bill Hybels (Interactions Small Group Series)

In *Psalms*, you will learn about God's heart toward you—and what He looks for in your heart toward Him. You will find a road map for life. Discover a source of courage in the face of fear. Expand your heart with a fresh realization of God's greatness. In addition, deepen your relationship with a present, personal Creator. The six sessions are the road to blessedness, people matter to God, reasons for praise, God only, freedom from fear, the greatness of God.

The Bible Jesus Read by Philip Yancey, video curriculum borrowed from Discovery Place. It helps a Christian to really understand the importance of knowing the Old Testament as well as the New Testament.—highly recommended by Barb Lynn, Beth Dahlgren and Suzanne Waters. Suzanne's comment: *"Very good study and easy to teach because of the awesome leader's book. You didn't have to read the book to do the study either"*

**BIBLE STUDY – OLD & NEW TESTAMENT**

Disciple: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study (updated 2005)

Audience: Adults      Cost: \$30      Study Manual      Publisher: Abingdon Press

This study is a discipline. It is a plan to guide your private study in preparation for the weekly meeting. This is a 34-week class provides an overview of the entire Bible. Participants commit themselves to at least 3-4 hours per week of independent study and preparation and one class meeting (2 hours) per week. **All leaders are strongly encouraged to take this class.** Many participants are amazed by how this class enables the Scriptures to come alive and become more relevant and powerful in their lives.

Disciple 2: If you have taken Disciple I, you may take Disciple II, a 32-week class that takes an in-depth look at Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts. Several hours of weekly study in addition to the two-hour class meeting are required.

Disciple 3: If you have taken Disciple I, you may take Disciple III, a 32 week class that covers Paul and the Prophets. The only prerequisite for Disciple III is Disciple I; you do *not* need to have taken Disciple II in order to take Disciple III. This excellent study requires about the same amount of study time as Disciple I.

Jesus' Jerusalem

This 50 minute DVD shows the temple mount in Jerusalem as it is today, and does an excellent job teaching about the temple and how it would have looked in Jesus' day. Topics covered include the role of Jerusalem in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; Jesus' righteous anger (Robinson's Arch); Passover and the sacrifices; New Jerusalem (Revelation 3 and 21); Living Water (Hebrews 9 and Romans 9), and prophecies about Jerusalem. Use portions of this DVD as you lead Disciple classes, Lenten studies, Exodus (Passover), Romans, the synoptic gospels (Herod the Great, the Bethesda Pool, the pool of Siloam, the Garden of Gethsemane), the prophets, dealing with anger, or Revelation. Owned by the church. See D.G. Giordano to borrow. Recommended by D.G. Giordano and Barb Lynn.

Spiritual Warfare, A LifeGuide Bible Study

This study addresses questions like: What is spiritual warfare? What does it look like? How does it affect us? It deepens our understanding of supernatural struggles and directs us to sources of power and hope. A LifeGuide Bible Study. Recommended by Rick Waters

## **CHRISTIAN LIVING**

Attitude is Your Paintbrush, James W. Moore

This study seeks to inspire participants to transform negative, pessimistic attitudes into positive, optimistic attitudes centered on the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Each of the 13 sessions covers one of the following attitudes: gratitude, compassion, confidence, determination, humility, perseverance, open-mindedness, joy, faith, trust, commitment, ownership, and hope. Used by Kathy Choate.

Commitment – Developing Deeper Devotion to Christ, Bill Hybels

This study explores six different passages from “The Sermon on the Mount.” The units include: Hang on for Heaven; Developing a Heart of Faith; Fixing Broken Relationships; Looking, Lusting, or Loving; An Audience of One; Why Worry.

Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby and Claude King

Experiencing God identifies and explores seven aspects of relating to God in a richer, more personal way: knowing, loving, hearing, joining, believing, obeying, and experiencing. In the workbook, each unit in this 12-unit study provides 5 days of readings and questions. The workbook provides a strategy for and impetus to apply the central ideas presented in the book. The 12 units are: God’s will and your life; Looking to God; God pursues a love relationship; Love and God’s invitation; God speaks, part 1; God speaks, part 2; The crisis of belief; Adjusting your life to God; Experiencing God through obedience; God’s will and the church; Kingdom people; Continue fellowship with God. Highly recommended by Gerry Fausnaught, Janet Durrwachter, and D.G. Giordano.

God’s Playbook for Life by Reggie White. It’s out of print, but as of October 2007 it is still readily available through Amazon.com and alibris.com. Taught by Kevin Choate and Mo Richards-- youth guys and men. Also recommended by Desiree Bower. Her comment: “I HIGHLY recommend it...just LOVE it. Lots of great stuff in there!”

Intercessory Prayer, Dutch Sheets

Description: If you’ve ever felt that your prayers don’t count, “Intercessory Prayer” will show you just how vital your prayers are. Pastor and teacher Dutch Sheets explains the nuts and bolts of prayer, with wisdom, gentleness, and humor. This book will inspire you, give you the courage to pray for the impossible and help you find the persistence to see your prayers to completion. Discover your role as a prayer warrior. Includes end-of-chapter questions and a leader’s discussion guide. Recommended by Pam Cunningham.

Intercessory Prayer, Dutch Sheets

Video Study, available in the Church Library. In this “video study” based on his best-selling book, Dutch Sheets provides solid biblical teaching on the many facets of intercessory prayer. Combining sound theological teaching with real-life stories, Sheets explains how and why prayer is effective, answers frequently asked questions, and calls on the church to use the power of prayer to move Heaven and Earth! 4 hours. Recommended by Pam Cunningham.

Life on the Edge—“video curriculum for teens from Focus on the Family, but we taught it for parents of teenagers, and supplemented with materials from books and websites of FOF, and other youth and youth leader books and materials. I own the curriculum-- the video segments are powerful. Good discussions from the group.” --- Desiree’ Bower  
Desiree also has notes/worksheets that she used. They’re user-friendly.

NOOMA—short DVD clips by Rob Bell. Great discussion starters on topics that impact Christians. They're hard to describe....the best thing to do is to go to [nooma.com](http://nooma.com) and view some of the clips. Many of them were donated to the church. Spencer Sweeting owns the rest. He keeps all them in his office. See Spencer to borrow them for use with a discipleship group. Matt and Stacey Anderson's comments: *"I led a small study of the NOOMA videos. I really like them and think that they appeal to ages. Simple 20 minute video with 30 minutes of discussion, nice layout. (Matt.) Good for middle school on up. (Stacey.)"*

Prayer: Does it Make any Difference?

In this six-session DVD curriculum, award-winning author Philip Yancey probes the very heartbeat—the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing, and deeply rewarding aspect of our relationship with God: -prayer. - What is prayer? - How does it work? -And more importantly, does it work? In theory, prayer is the essential human act, a priceless point of contact between us and the God of the universe. In practice, prayer is often frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery. *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* is an exploration of the mysterious intersection where God and humans meet and relate. Recommended by Paul and Pat Braunegg.

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation Series: Fully Devoted

This 7-session study gets at the heart of what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. It provides an introduction to the foundational values and practices of Christian growth. Through personal study and small group interaction, you'll gain a fresh perspective on what it means to be a "spiritual" person. The 7 topics covered are: what is true spirituality; grace; growth; groups; gifts; giving; and we will know Him well.

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation Series/Gifts: The Joy of Serving God

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation Series/Giving: Unlocking the Heart of Good Stewardship

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation Series/Grace: An Invitation to a Way of Life

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation Series/Groups: The Life-Giving Power of Community

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation Series/Growth: Training vs. Trying by John Ortberg. Zondervan, 2000. Seven lesson study guide with Leader's Guide included.—recommended by Cindy Peck and Matt Anderson. Matt's comments: *"My favorite class taught, easy to teach, good basic concepts for all ages, would recommend every year, good for ages from high school to adult."*

Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People, John & Nancy Ortberg

Cost: available for free rental from Discovery Place [www.discovery-place.org](http://www.discovery-place.org)

This is a 6-part video series with discussion guides. Each video segment is approximately 25 minutes long. The topics are entitled: 1) The Spiritual Life. 2) Spiritual Disciplines. 3) Quiet Time With God. 4) Meditating On Scripture. 5) Living the Spiritual Life. 6) Developing a Rule for Life. John and Nancy Ortberg are teaching pastors at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago. Sitting in a comfortable living room, they discuss spirituality, spiritual disciplines and living spiritually transformed lives. Carol Fausnaught loved this series but recommends that a spiritual gift assessment be done along with the series and that the series be preceded by a study on spiritual disciplines because they are not addressed in detail.

The Life You've Always Wanted, John Ortberg

If you're tired of the status quo. If you suspect that there's more to Christianity than what you've experienced, John Ortberg points to a road of transformation and spiritual vigor that anyone can take. A fresh look at time-tested spiritual disciplines. Recommended by Diane Konieczny. She describes it as "written with real life examples...applicable and relevant."

40 Days of Purpose, Rick Warren, based on his book, The Purpose Driven Life. Studied by all the small groups in the church, fall, '04. An excellent study for individuals or outreach groups. Zondervan Publishers Book with study questions 2002

The Workbook on Becoming Alive in Christ, Maxie Dunnam (upperroom.org)  
The understanding of Christian living as persons being "alive in Christ" has been grossly ignored according to the author. This workbook helps users experience the indwelling Christ as the shaping power of their lives. Like other studies by Dr. Dunnam, this is a seven-week small group experience. Recommended by Bob Close.

The Workbook on Coping as Christians, Maxie Dunnam (upperroom.org)  
Every day we are confronted with stressful situations, broken relationships, or other problems that threaten to undo or defeat us. Some of these problems cannot be solved completely but are, instead, recurring. They keep coming back and we have to deal with them again and again. This six-week program will help participants cope with these problems that constantly occur in life. Using guidance from scripture and prayer, this workbook lifts up these experiences so that we can look at them through the light of God's grace. Recommended by Bob Close

The Workbook on Spiritual Disciplines, Maxie Dunnam ([www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org))  
This workbook is to help persons focus on making their Christian lives more effective, vital, meaningful, fruitful, and joyful. While providing daily personal reflection, the workbook offers a weekly format for small-group use, which makes it a particularly helpful resource in the local church. Recommended by Bob Close.

The Workbook on the Christian Walk, Maxie Dunnam ([www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org))  
This workbook is about Christian discipleship and pilgrimage. It is about striving to be faithful in the way of following Christ. It is ideal for individual study and for groups during any time of the year. Recommended by Bob Close.

What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey—10 week video curriculum available through Discovery Place. Based on Yancey's book of the same title. Recommended by Rick and Suzanne Waters, D.G. Giordano, Beth Dahlgren, and others. A description: "It's one thing to talk about grace; it's another to taste its power. This series takes you and your study group for interactive, gut-level encounters with radical, life-changing grace. Yancey offers you intimate glimpses of God's power to forgive the most horrible deeds, love the unloving, and redeem the seemingly irredeemable."

When God Weeps by Joni Eareckson Tada, six week video curriculum available through Discovery Place. Deals with learning to trust God in the face of suffering.--recommended by Mona Otto, Lorrie Dean, and D.G. Giordano.

Why Would a Good God Allow Suffering?—Discovery Series put out by Radio Bible Class—Recommended by Cindi Reilly.

Workbook of Living Prayer, Maxie Dunnam (upperroom.org)  
This 6-week study provides daily readings, questions for reflecting and recording, and "During the Day" activities. Group meetings focus on sharing your exploration of prayer the following week. Requires 20-30 min. to complete the assignments. The potential reward is a deeper prayer life that is part of your everyday life experience. Recommended by Dennis Otto and Rick Waters.

Wrestling with Angels, 6 week video curriculum available through Discovery Place—Ordinary people wrestle with issues of faith from a variety of real-life situations. Each topic is hosted by a Christian speaker or author, including Philip Yancey, Madeline L'engle, and Tony Campolo. Study guide included. Recommended by George Stauffer, D.G. Giordano, and Lorrie Dean.

### **CHRISTIAN LIVING - MEN**

Wild at Heart, John Eldredge

Very popular book that answers the questions that haunts every man: Do I have what it takes? It exposes the battle for a man's heart, leads men on their path to understanding what God intended for them to be, and shows men they have an adventure to live, a battle to fight, and a beauty to rescue. Recommended by Tim Fausnaught and Kevin Choate.

### **CHRISTIAN LIVING - WOMEN**

Embracing Forgiveness, Women of Faith Series

Participants will experience the healing, inner peace, hope for the future, and true joy that comes with forgiveness. The 6 units include: Forgive and Forget; Hey, That's Not Fair; An Eye for an Eye; Fire Up the Barbecue; Drop the Rock; The Kiss of God.

Experiencing God's Presence, Women of Faith Series

This 6-week study for women will enable you to experience God's presence by hearing his voice, recognizing his work in your life and responding to his leading. The 6 units include: Celebrate Him; Solitary Refinement; Giving Your All; Grappling with God; Hidden Places of the Heart; Astonishing Grace.

Finding Joy, Women of Faith Series

This study invites women to experience genuine joy through a revitalized passion for God. The 6 units include: Joybusters; Don't Sweat the Small Stuff; Don't Sweat the Big Stuff Either; Get a Grip on Gripping; Remember When; Joyboosters.

The Organic God by Margaret Feinberg

Please don't dismiss this excellent study because of the unusual title. This 6 week DVD study focuses on the essentials of Who God is. Some of His attributes that are covered include His bigheartedness, His beauty, His kindness, and His wisdom. The study is well geared to women's emotions. Lots of scripture, beautiful scenery in the DVDs. The helpful Leader's Guide includes suggested answers to the questions in the participants' workbooks. (order from Bluefish.) The materials include the author's book, 1 teacher's guide, 3 DVDs (shot in Alaska) covering 6 lessons, and a promotional poster. Owned by the church. (see D.G. Giordano to borrow). (New in March 2008, put out by BlueFish TV) Recommended by Barb Lynn and Sandy Krise.

### **EVANGELISM**

Evangelism from the Inside Out is a workbook study put out by The Philip Center. The Philip Center is all about introducing men and women to Jesus in the context of relationships -- and helping other people do the same. See [www.thephilipcenter.org](http://www.thephilipcenter.org) to order the workbook studies. Used and recommended by Todd Fausnaught.

### **FINANCES**

Discovering God's Way of Handling Money, video curriculum from Crown Financial Ministries (owned by the church – available in DG Giordano's office) with workbook.

*"God's Way of Handling Money" - Solid class, good concepts, well-developed curriculum—  
recommended by Matt Anderson and Steve Johnson.*

### **RELATIONSHIPS**

Life at Work on Leadership: Enduring Insights for Men and Women of Faith, by Stephen Graves and Thomas Addington, workbook study recommended by Steve Johnson and John Best.

An excellent book on leadership from the Christian perspective. Facilitates great discussion, but is dependent upon the leader developing the agenda, lesson plans, etc. Good course for those in some type of leadership position--even if it's a stay-at-home person who is active in the church or community. Could be used with young adults or older groups, but a mixed age group is probably ideal as discussion of each of the chapter topics is what makes the course valuable to those who participate in it.

Love Language Arts-- based on the Love Languages books by Gary Chapman. Desiree Bower's comment: "We taught for any relationships... parents, spouses, dating relationships, siblings, friends, etc. A bunch of great stuff--- easy to use and lots of great discussions! More than a few people have suggested that this should be taught again." Desiree has user-friendly worksheets for Love Language Arts that she will be glad to share with you.

### **RELATIONSHIPS - MARRIAGE**

Building Your Marriage, Dennis Rainey (HomeBuilders Couples Series)

The HomeBuilders Couples Series is designed to strengthen marriages and develop supportive relationships with other couples. This 7-session small group study will guide you to study God's Word together, share your challenges and successes, and build a marriage that will last.

Sessions include: Overcoming Isolation; Creating Oneness; Receiving Your Spouse; Constructing a Relationship; Fitting Together; Building in the Spirit; Building a Legacy.

Love and Respect, video class by Emerson Eggerichs, resource owned by Matt and Stacey Anderson, who are willing to lend it. Matt's comment: *Best marriage book and DVD I have done, really appeals to men, DVD series a little long and not easy to break up. Would spend time with book before DVD. I would offer this every year.*

Making Love Last a Lifetime, study on marriage available through Discovery Place or by contacting D.G. Giordano at First Church, which also owns the materials.—recommended by Janet Durrwachter, Dave and Carol Spearly. Dave's comment: Making Love Last a Lifetime by Adam Hamilton was outstanding. The stories he related were excellent, with ready application to the lives of the participants. The format was DVD, discussion and questions. Class discussions were lively.

### **The Masterpiece Marriage**

Discover God's plan for your marriage as a reflection of His glory to the rest of the world rather than the world's view that marriage is the way to happiness and self-fulfillment. The four themes are: God's purpose for marriage; the 3-way relationship between a man, a woman, and God; God's instructions to married couples; and how sin mars a marriage and what to do about it. Recommended by Ken and Janet Durrwachter. Recommend doing as an 8-week or longer study.

### **RELATIONSHIP – PARENTING**

Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours by Kevin Lehman—video curriculum owned by the church— recommended by Dave Spearly and Tom and Barb Wallace. Comments by some who have taught it: "Lehman has a great sense of humor and his delivery and his stories of being a child and a parent are extremely funny. It is geared toward **parenting of children**. By that I mean his advice and case studies were from toddlers through six grade. His material fits that age span very well. It doesn't relate that well to raising teenagers." Also, "I think it is a good class but it would be helpful to have the actual book, not just the workbook. I also think (as expressed in the class) that it would be better as a 12 week class rather than six."

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Ted Tripp. A classic. This book will teach you what your goals as a parent out to be, and how to pursue those ends practically. It teaches you how to engage children about what really matters, how to address your child's heart by your words and actions. It teaches you how to talk to children and what to talk about. It teaches you how communication and discipline work together when parents love wisely. It teaches you how your objectives shift as infants grow into children and as children grow into teenagers. Shepherding a Child's Heart will humble you. It will inspire you to become a different kind of parent. Recommended by Carol Fausnaught for Parents of infants – teenagers.

### **RELATIONSHIPS – SINGLE**

Singleness: A Life Grounded in Love by Ruth Goring (part of the LifeGuide Bible Study series). Recommended by Lorrie Dean. It is 10 weeks and has leader's guide in the back of the book. A good starter for a singles small group, as it gets people talking about their singleness, both joys and struggles.

### **RELATIONSHIPS - WOMEN**

Celebrating Friendship, Women of Faith Series

Celebrate, pray, and share your faith with other women while experiencing deep and fulfilling relationships with them. The 6 units include: Wanted – A Few Good Women; Nobody's Just Like You, Thank God; Hugs and a Good, Swift Kick; Putting Your Feet to the Fire; Friendship Flops and Fizzles; Come On, Get Happy.

### **Great Resources for Choosing or Getting Curriculum for your Group**

Curric-U-Phone 1-800-251-8591

This is a free service of Cokesbury. You can call the toll-free number and talk to a representative familiar with curriculum resources who will recommend something suitable for your group's needs and interests.

[www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org) (lots of stuff besides the devotional)

### **Websites for Christians**

[www.discovery@cpcumc.org](mailto:www.discovery@cpcumc.org) or 1-800-682-2615

Discovery Place-- lending library of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. Has a large selection of books, DVDs, videos, and curriculum for all ages. Resources can be borrowed free of charge. Only cost involved is return postage. Resources can be reserved and can be borrowed for multiple weeks. You can also borrow them to preview for a week or two. The staff is extremely helpful and reliable. Highly recommended.

[www.family.org](http://www.family.org) website of Focus on the Family—has something for everyone at any stage of life.

[www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com) -- this too has something for everyone.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/>--this excellent link has a huge variety of Bible and topical studies. You can purchase a download of any study, which entitles you to photocopy up to 1000 copies for use in your group or church.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/parenting/>-- useful link for parents.

[www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org) -- website of this national women's ministry dedicated to nurturing every mother or preschoolers by meeting her distinct needs to the glory of Jesus Christ.

[www.christianity.com](http://www.christianity.com) -- another excellent resource, great links.

[www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org) -- website of Crown Financial Ministries – ministries designed to teach people God's financial principles.

[www.bible.oremus.org](http://www.bible.oremus.org)--website for looking up scripture passages in different Bible versions as well as in different languages.

[www.oneplace.com](http://www.oneplace.com) -- mega website with links to Christian ministries – a great place to start.

[www.gospelcom.net](http://www.gospelcom.net) -- excellent guide to online Christian resources, as well as great links.

Bible atlas online [www.anova.org/sev/atlas/htm](http://www.anova.org/sev/atlas/htm)

The Oremus Bible browser—You can find the Bible in several different translations at <http://bible.oremus.org/>

The Illustrated Bible is an interesting website that displays artwork, much of it great artwork, that goes with various Bible passages. You can click on the passage you're studying and get a visual for it that you might find useful to print up for your groups, since many people are visual learners. [http://perso.orange.fr/maurice.lamouroux/Jesuschrist\\_en.htm](http://perso.orange.fr/maurice.lamouroux/Jesuschrist_en.htm)

### **Devotionals**

A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants, Rueben P. Job, Norman Shawchuck  
Audience: Leaders Daily devotional

UpperRoom Books ([www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org))

This classic devotional and prayer book includes thematically arranged material for each week of the year as well as themes and schedules for 12 personal retreats. The authors have adopted the following daily format for this prayer book: daily invocations, readings, scripture, reflection, prayers, weekly hymns, benedictions, and printed psalms. Also available in paperback. (Note: although less expensive, it tends to fall apart with daily use). Recommended by Dennis Otto, Rick Waters, and Janet Durrwachter

A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God by Reuben P. Job, Norman Shawchuck

Each day offers guidance for an opening affirmation, a petition of prayer, and daily scripture selections. The "Readings for Reflection" reach back to early Christian classics and include voices from recently published works. Excerpts from writers such as Frederick Buechner, Joyce Rupp, Henri Nouwen, Mother Teresa, Howard Thurman, C.S. Lewis, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, John Wesley, and many others are arranged in weekly themes.

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers—a timeless classic devotional.

Discipleship Journal

Cost: \$23.97/year

Bimonthly magazine

The Navigators/Nav Press ([www.discipleshipjournal.com](http://www.discipleshipjournal.com))

The mission of Discipleship Journal is to help believers develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, and to provide practical help in understanding the Scriptures and applying them to daily life and ministry.