



# Group Curriculum Guide

## Winter/Spring, 2010

*Listed here are suggestions of possible studies for your next Connection Group. This is not an exhaustive list and as we hear of other great studies we will add them to the list.*

### STUDIES TO BETTER UNDERSTAND GOD AND FAITH

#### Experiencing God

By Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby and Claude King | Workbook, 26 Sessions.

Experiencing God is based on seven Scriptural realities that teach us how to develop a true relationship with our Creator. By understanding how God is working through us even as we try to fathom His ways, we can begin to clearly know and do His Will in our life. [Click here to learn more.](#)

#### The Prodigal God

By Timothy Keller | Book, DVD and Study Guide, 6 Sessions.

[\(E-MAIL STONECREEK FOR DVD & RESOURCES\)](#)

The Prodigal God is a six-session experience for small groups based on Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son. This book, teaching film and discussion guide from New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller illustrate his core message: that the gospel is neither religion nor irreligion, neither morality nor immorality, but something else entirely. Both younger brothers and elder brothers in your church will realize that the only way home is through a prodigal God. [Click here to learn more.](#)

#### Crazy Love

By Francis Chan | Book, DVD and Study Guide, 10 Sessions.

[\(E-MAIL STONECREEK FOR DVD & RESOURCES\)](#)

It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss. God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts—it's falling in love with God. [Click here to learn more.](#)

#### WHY> 40 Days Pursuing Answers To Life's Biggest Questions

By Jud Wilhite | Book, DVD and Study Guide, 6 Sessions.

[\(E-MAIL STONECREEK FOR DVD & RESOURCES\)](#)

This study is designed to help you understand how to respond to difficult questions about faith. Discuss questions developed from a survey of the Central family, including: Why am I here? Why should I believe in God in the first place? Why should I trust the Bible? ... and more. [E-mail the church for more details.](#)

#### The Case For Faith

By Lee Strobel | Book, 11 Chapters.

This eagerly anticipated sequel to Lee Strobel's best-selling *The Case for Christ* finds the author investigating the nettlesome issues and doubts of the heart that threaten faith. Eight major topics are addressed including doubt, the problem of pain and the existence of evil. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## STUDIES ON A BOOK OF THE BIBLE

### LIFECCHANGE Bible Study Guides

By NAVPress | Study Guide, Typical Study is 13 to 17 sessions.

LIFECCHANGE Bible studies allow the Bible to speak for itself. You'll see for yourself what it says—not what someone else thinks it says—and develop the skills and desire to dig even deeper into God's Word. Studies are available for 28 different books of the Bible. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## STUDIES OF JESUS' LIFE AND MAJOR TEACHINGS

### The Parables of Jesus

By Serendipity House | Study Guide, 13 Sessions.

Jesus was the greatest storyteller of all time. His short stories not only evoked emotion, they demanded life change. This conversational study requires group members to consider the essential truths Jesus taught through parables and forces participants to consider how they'll respond. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Jesus the Teacher: Based on the Sermon on the Mount

By Serendipity House | Study Guide, 13 Sessions.

Jesus was a popular orator. In fact, He almost always drew big crowds when He spoke. This "Sermon on the Mount" undoubtedly forced His first-century audience to reconsider how they would live their lives and through this study you will be invited to do the same. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Jesus: The Greatest Life of All

By Dr. Charles R. Swindoll | Book, 20 Chapters

In this look at Jesus' life, Dr. Swindoll dives into the life of the Savior to present both theologically rich content and a straightforward, honest, and chronological journey that appeals to readers' hearts as well as their minds. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### In the Dust of the Rabbi

By Ray Vander Laan, Stephen & Amanda Sorenson, DVD and Study Guide, 5 Sessions

[\(E-MAIL STONECREEK FOR DVD\)](#)

Attend a Bible study in the Holy Land—without leaving home! Filmed in Israel and Turkey, Ray Vander Laan's powerful DVD lessons transport you to biblical sites to help you better understand the Hebrew culture and what it means to pursue life in Jesus as His disciple. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## STUDIES OF MAJOR CHARACTERS IN GOD'S STORY

### Cast of Characters: Common People in the Hands of an Uncommon God

By Max Lucado | Book with Study Questions, 23 Chapters

Some of the most powerful stories from the Bible will come alive for today's readers through these inspiring selections from the writings of Max Lucado. Max provides a compelling look at the most high-impact moments in the biblical narrative. Extraordinary stories are told about Mary, Peter, Matthew, Joseph, Nicodemus, Woman at the Well, David, Esther, Job, and more. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit

By Dr. Charles R. Swindoll | Book, 22 Chapters

Paul's life was never dull. First appearing in the New Testament as a violent enemy of Christ, he later went on to not only to put his faith in the risen Lord but to pen thirteen letters of the New Testament—in the midst of being beaten, shipwrecked, snakebitten, imprisoned and chased out of town. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## STUDIES FOR COUPLES

### Love List

By Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot | Book, 8 Chapters.

Eight simple-but-powerful, instantly usable principles that will help you transform your marriage into everything you want it to be. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Marriage: From Surviving to Thriving

By Dr. Charles R. Swindoll | Book, 8 Chapters

Best-selling author Dr. Charles R. Swindoll uses his warm, humorous and always insightful writing style to bring some much needed advice on the subject of marriage. Drawing from his own personal experience with Cynthia, his wife of 50 years, as well as showing what the bible says about marriage, Charles will give very practical and inspiring ways to building a marriage that survives the tests of time. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Love & War: Finding The Marriage You've Dreamed Of

By John & Stasi Eldredge | Book, DVD and Study Guide, 6 Sessions

**(E-MAIL STONECREEK FOR DVD & STUDY GUIDE)**

What the Eldredge's bestsellers *Wild at Heart* did for men, and *Captivating* did for women, *LOVE & WAR* will do for married couples everywhere. This book and companion study guide shows couples how to fight for their love and happiness, calling men and women to step into the great adventure God has waiting for them together. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### The Five Love Languages

By Dr. Gary Chapman | Book and Study Guide, 8 to 10 Sessions

Are you and your spouse speaking the same language? While love is a many splendid thing, it is sometimes a very confusing thing, too. More often than not, the giver and the receiver express love in two different ways. This can lead to misunderstanding, quarrels, and even divorce. Dr. Gary Chapman identifies five basic languages of love; Quality Time, Words of Affirmation, Gifts, Acts of Service Physical Touch. He then guides couples toward a better understanding of their unique language. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## EXTENDING LIFE IN JESUS TO OTHERS

### Cure for the Common Life: Living in Your Sweet Spot

By Max Lucado | Book with Study Guide, 6 Sessions

Max Lucado wrote *Cure for the Common Life* to help you find your uniqueness. Now, in *Cure for Common Life* Small Group Study, Max teams with People Management International. In this engaging and dynamic 6-week small group study, you will learn how to: pay attention to your uniqueness, unpack your life to discover your S.T.O.R.Y., strengthen and enhance your relationships, discover your career strengths, and live in your sweet spot every day of your life! [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Honest To God?

By Bill Hybels | Book with Study Guide, 14 Chapters

This analysis of the inconsistencies in the lifestyle of today's Christians is accompanied by specific examples and discussion of how Christians can restore authentic Christianity in their personal lives and thus nurture a troubled world. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### The Hole In Our Gospel: What does God expect of us?

By Richard Stearns | Book, 5 Sessions

According to Richard Stearns, CEO of World Vision, Christians have a huge hole in their lives, an emptiness that comes from ignoring the plight of the poor. He details his own quest to fill this hole by leaving Lenox Inc. to run a not-for-profit that helps feed, clothe, and educate children worldwide. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## STUDIES FOR MEN

### **Risk: Are You Willing To Trust God With Everything?**

By Kenny Luck | Book with Study Guide, 8 to 10 Sessions

Do you dare to let Jesus take control of your life? Jesus challenges God's man to throw predictability, control, safety and comfort out the window and go to the next level in their faith. By trying to eliminate risk from your life, you actually block Christ's work in your life. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Vintage Jesus**

By Dr. Charles R. Swindoll | Book with Study Guide, 12 Chapters/Sessions

Vintage Jesus introduces foundational doctrine such as the divinity of Christ, with discussion questions in each chapter to encourage thoughtful debate and an opportunity to share Christ. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day**

By Mark Batterson | Book, 9 Chapters

Ever been in the wrong place at the wrong time...several times? These memories leave you with an ill taste in your mouth, and nothing good seems to come from them. But what if the seemingly messy pieces of your life were actually strategically positioned by God? In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day will help you make sense of your past. You'll begin to connect the dots to see clearly how God has been preparing you for future opportunities. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **The Purity Principle: God's Guardrails On Life's Dangerous Roads**

By Randy Alcorn | Book, 11 Chapters

For thirty years Randy Alcorn has been encouraging people-young and old-to pursue the rewards of sexual purity. Too often we settle for a compromised Christianity that's just a baptized version of the world's sad existence, rather than the abundant life to which God calls us. This book deals with - raising children to embrace sexual purity - providing an example of purity in the home - protecting purity in dating (at any age) - and maintaining purity in marriage. Biblical, practical, and concise, The Purity Principle is a one-stop handbook for individuals, families and churches. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **David: A Man of Passion and Destiny**

By Dr. Charles R. Swindoll | Book and Study Guide, 8 to 10 Sessions

Dr. Swindoll explores the Old Testament shepherd, king, and psalmist, to answer the question, "What does it mean to be someone after God's own heart?" In many ways, David was a most extraordinary man-intelligent, handsome, abundantly gifted as a poet, musician, warrior, and administrator. Yet in other ways he was a most ordinary man-often gripped by destructive passion, rocked by family chaos and personal tragedy, and motivated by political expediency. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Waking The Dead**

By John Eldredge | Book and Optional Study Guide, 8 to 10 Sessions

Waking the Dead leads readers to understand how to live from the heart, care for their hearts like the treasures of the kingdom, and give from fullness instead of emptiness. This message also shows how living from the heart can energize people to love God and others in a way they've never experienced, revealing to them life's purpose: fighting for the hearts of others. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## STUDIES FOR WOMEN

### **Dangerous Surrender: What Happens When You Say Yes To God?**

By Kay Warren | Book with Study Guide, 8 to 10 Sessions

Surrendering to God isn't easy. It can bring both joy and heartache. But it enables you to know God in a deeper way than ever before. When Kay Warren's plans for her future were suddenly derailed by cancer, she had a choice to make. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Esther: It's Tough Being A Woman**

By Beth Moore | DVD with Study Guide, 11 Sessions

[\(E-MAIL STONECREEK FOR DVD RESOURCES\)](#)

This study looks at the Old Testament story of Esther as a profile in courage and contains many modern parallels for today's woman. Going up against heavyweights bent on her destruction, Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. Esther's destiny can be yours as you know more deeply the God who is in your corner. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Breaking Free**

By Beth Moore | DVD with Study Guide, 11 Sessions

[\(E-MAIL STONECREEK FOR DVD RESOURCES\)](#)

This study walks through key verses from Isaiah and reveals the transforming power of Christian freedom. Based on Isaiah 61:1-4, this in-depth Bible study draws parallels between the captive Israelites and today's believers and will help participants identify spiritual strongholds in your life, no matter how big or small. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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### **Every Woman's Battle: God's Plan for Sexual & Emotional Fulfillment**

By Shannon Ethridge & Stephen Arterburn | Book with Workbook, 12 Sessions

When does an affair begin? Not with the first forbidden touch...but with the first forbidden thought. Unexpectedly, you find yourself enjoying a powerful emotional bond with another man. You feel like you matter to someone again. And the door you thought was locked so firmly---the door to sexual infidelity---is suddenly ajar. The only way you can survive the intense struggle for sexual integrity is by guarding not just your body, but your mind and heart as well. Every Woman's Battle can help you learn to do that. Using real-life stories and examples from her own struggle, Shannon Ethridge helps women like you---whether married, engaged, or planning to marry someday. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Completely His**

By Shannon Ethridge | Book and Study Guide, 12 Sessions

Writing with candor and vulnerability, Ethridge shares about experiencing God's irrevocable love as a 16-year-old who caused a fatal accident. Expecting rage, she encountered an embrace that changed her life! Drawing on true stories and biblical insights, she shows how you can enter into a satisfying, vibrant relationship with the One who knows you best. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## FINANCIAL STUDIES

### The Treasure Principle

By Randy Alcorn | Book with Study Guide, 6 Sessions

Jesus told a story about a hidden treasure that, once discovered, brought life-changing joy. In *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn unearths a simple yet profound principle that will radically change your concept of stewardship. Short on guilt, Alcorn illuminates the liberating joy of giving and its impact, not only for today but for eternity as well. A perennial bestseller, this revised edition includes a new concluding chapter, "31 Radical, Liberating Questions to Ask God About Your Giving." [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Total Money Makeover

By Dave Ramsey | Book and Workbook, 13 Chapters/Sessions

Is your "owe" starting to show? Shrink your waste line, bulk up your bank balance, and get into financial shape with money expert Ramsey's comprehensive---and simple---plan for debt-free living. You'll be fiscally fit in no time! This revised edition of the bestseller features all-new success stories and Dave's answers to his critics. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Crown Financial Study

By Crown Financial Ministry | Book and Workbook, 10 Sessions

**(E-MAIL STONECREEK FOR STUDY INFORMATION)**

Crown Financial is a life-changing, in-depth, 10-week study of what Scripture teaches about financial stewardship and possessions. Group Members have confirmed that marriages are being strengthened and individuals are finding their way out of debt. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## STUDIES FOR PARENTS

### The 3 Big Questions For A Frantic Family

By Patrick Lencioni | Book, 6 to 8 Sessions

In this unique and groundbreaking book, business consultant and New York Times best-selling author Patrick Lencioni turns his sights on the most important organization in our lives - the family. As a husband and the father of four young boys, Lencioni realized the discrepancy between the time and energy his clients put into running their organizations and the reactive way most people run their personal lives. Having experienced the stress of a frantic family firsthand, he and his wife began applying some of the tools he uses with Fortune 500 companies at home, and with surprising results. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Parenting By The Book: Biblical Wisdom For Raising Your Children

By John Rosemond | Book with Study Guide Included, 12 Chapters/Sessions

Raise the standard for raising kids! Considered among America's most widely read parenting experts, nationally syndicated columnist and psychologist Rosemond presents practical principles for nurturing children of character. Arguing that respect for others - rather than self-esteem - guarantees happier, more emotionally healthy kids, he lays out a simple, Bible-based model for successful child rearing. Study guide included. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Effective Parenting In A Defective World

By Chip Ingram | DVD and Study Guide, 9 Chapters

Raising children is a tough challenge in today's world---especially when they face constant pressure from their peers and culture. Packed with practical advice and Chip Ingram's own experiences, these nine sessions will give you a vision for your children's future, a new understanding of God's principles for child-rearing, and life-changing help for today! [Click here to learn more.](#)

## STUDIES ON LEADERSHIP

### **Courageous Leadership**

By Bill Hybels | Book, 12 Chapters

In his book, Bill Hybels's vision for advancing God's kingdom will motivate you to deepen your passion for your church and its mission, develop your spiritual gifts for the glory of God and equip you to transform the world by reaching those outside the church. A must-have for every leader. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Spiritual Leadership: Moving People On To God's Agenda**

By Henry & Richard Blackaby | Book and Study Guide with 8 to 10 Sessions

Henry and Richard Blackaby wrote Spiritual Leadership to help Christian leaders in business, politics and the pastorate develop the qualities of spiritual leadership. Spiritual Leadership will help you understand God's design for leadership and will enable you to lead God's people towards the fulfillment of His purposes. Let the Blackaby's teach you biblically based principles that will enable you to lead in the 21st century.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Chasing Daylight: Seize the Power of Every Moment**

By Erwin McManus | Book, 9 Chapters

Erwin McManus uses the biblical account of Israel's war with the Philistines (1 Samuel 13 and 14) and the characters of Saul and Jonathan to demonstrate the difference between living a life of purpose and adventure, and living one of apathy and missed opportunity. Using powerful examples from his own life and ministry, along with fresh biblical teaching, McManus asserts that God crafts divine moments specific to each of us-priceless opportunities for us to actively engage in God's plan. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## SHARING YOUR FAITH (JUST ASK.)

### **Just Walk Across The Room**

By Bill Hybels | Book with DVD, 11 Chapters & 4 to 6 Sessions

Believers universally affirm that evangelism is a vital part of what God calls them to do, but very few make a practice of doing it. Bill Hybels addresses these concerns and signals the next era in personal evangelism with *Just Walk Across the Room*. Drawing on fresh perspectives from the author's own experiences, as well as time-tested and practical illustrations, Just Walk Across the Room encourages and equips readers to routinely initiate spiritual conversations with those who don't know Christ. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **Mere Christianity**

By C.S. Lewis | Book, 4 Parts over 6 to 8 Sessions Chapters

Arguably the 20th century's most influential Christian writer, C.S. Lewis sought to explain and defend the beliefs that nearly all Christians at all times hold in common. His simple yet deeply profound classic, originally delivered as a series of radio broadcasts, is a book to be thoroughly digested by believers and generously shared with skeptics. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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## STUDIES ON PRAYER

### Experiencing Prayer With Jesus

By Henry & Norman Blackaby | Book, 12 Sessions

This book takes you into what many aren't experiencing in their prayer life - intimacy with God. Experiencing Prayer with Jesus is not simply more information about prayer, but rather a leading into a life-changing encounter with Christ. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Too Busy Not To Pray

By Bill Hybels | Book and Study Guide with 6 to 8 Sessions

Hybels's classic guidebook on prayer has reached a milestone---20 years of helping Christians draw near to God! Using the ACTS formula (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication), this updated edition offers Hybels's time-tested advice and insights, plus a new introduction and a chapter on prayer and justice. A must-have resource in today's too-busy world! 208 pages, softcover from InterVarsity.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat

By John Ortberg | DVD, Book and Study Guide, 11 Chapters & 4 to 6 Sessions

Far too many of us have put our faith in a casual Christianity that never compels us to leave our comfort zones. But, deep within our hearts we know that Christ has not called us to comfort, but to an exciting, sacrificial and overwhelmingly fulfilling faith. In *If You're Going to Walk on Water* John Ortberg teaches us how to step out of the "boat" of casual Christianity so that we can faithfully follow the Lord who is calling us out onto the risky, exciting waters of the high seas. Let Pastor Ortberg teach you how to leave your comfort zone for a remarkable life of faith. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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### So, You Want To Be Like Christ

By Dr. Charles R. Swindoll | Book with Study Guide, 8 Chapters/Sessions

Best-selling author and beloved Bible teacher Charles Swindoll says, "The secret lies in our returning to the basic disciplines of Christ. Religion won't cut it! We live in a spiritual hothouse where we talk religious talk, send out religious letters, write religious pamphlets, and do religious Bible studies. It's so easy to become religious instead of godly." [Click here to learn more.](#)

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