

Small Group Resources Recommended by MCC

*Many resources are available to be borrowed from MCC in the Equipping/Care wing of the Office Building. To borrow one of these resources or others, please call the Assistant to Equipping Ministries or come browse for yourself. Please be sure to properly sign out & sign in all materials in the check-out binder in the office.

The church owns many DVD study kits; often the members of your group will simply need to purchase individual study guides if you wish. We do have some study guides on hand for sale; others must be ordered by the church and reimbursed or you may order them on your own.



Doing Life Together (series)-A Purpose-Driven® Group Resource)

Cultivate intimacy, depth and belonging in your Bible study group as you enjoy eye-opening talks by well-know Bible teachers. Discuss questions that bring each topic home to your lives. Take turns leading—it's so easy and important. Worship together with inspiring songs, lyrics and video images. Discover and fulfill God's purpose for your lives. Taking you on a journey through five principles behind the phenomenal growth of Saddleback Community Church, these interactive curriculums combine teaching from John Ortberg, Bruce Wilkinson, Anne Ortlund, and others with 36 in-depth lessons on connecting, growing, developing, sharing, and surrendering.

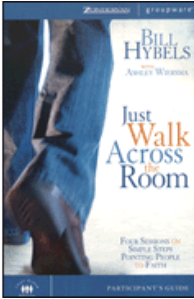
There are six volumes in this series. Each volume has a DVD and study-guide containing 6 sessions each.

- Surrendering You Life for God's Purpose—6 sessions on worship
- Beginning Life Together—6 sessions on God's purpose for your life
- Developing Your SHAPE to Serve Others—6 sessions on ministry
- Sharing Your Life Mission Every Day—6 sessions on evangelism
- Connecting with God's Family—6 sessions on fellowship
- Growing to Be Like Christ—6 sessions on discipleship



6 week DVD group study

Study Guide: \$8



Just Walk Across the Room

By Bill Hybels with Ashley Wiersma

Just Walk Across the Room is a natural and empowering approach to evangelism modeled after Jesus himself. This dynamic four-week experience will equip and inspire you to follow his lead by taking simple walks across rooms to extend care, compassion, and inclusiveness to

people who might need a touch of God's love today.

Four session DVD study

Participant's Guide: \$8

Deeper Connections (series)

Edited by Mark Williams

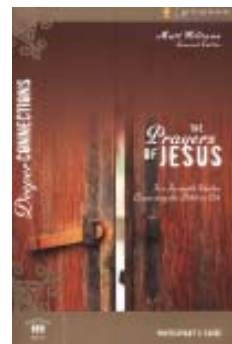
The Deeper Connections series is unique. Unlike any other Bible study, this visually stunning DVD series is written and taught by biblical experts—six professors with specialized areas of knowledge. Don't let the word deeper scare you. These engaging and accessible studies are for everyone who wants to deepen their understanding of God's Word and apply it more faithfully and effectively. Each volume consists of six fascinating sessions taught by different teachers but each containing three components: 1. Historical and Cultural background, 2. An engaging, close look at the biblical text and its meaning, 3. Accurate, encouraging, and challenging applications of the Bible's message to life today

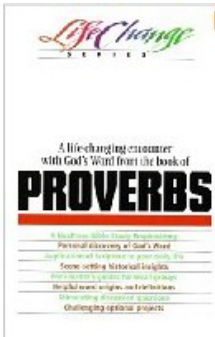
Three volumes available:

- The Parables of Jesus
- The Prayers of Jesus
- The Miracles of Jesus

6 week DVD group study

Participant's Guide: \$10





LifeChanges Series (Bible study)

By Navpress

Christians have a lifelong goal: To become like Christ. This involves change, and change isn't always easy. But the more you know of God's purposes for you, the more you can experience His joy and participate in His plan.

The LifeChange Series of Bible studies on books of the Bible can help you grow in Christlikeness through a life-changing encounter with God's Word. You'll benefit in these important ways:

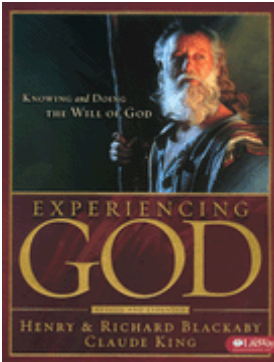
- You'll gain a firm understanding of the book—its historical context, purpose, structure, and meaning;
- You'll apply its powerful, relevant wisdom to needs and issues you are currently working through; and
- You'll acquire personal study skills and a thirst to return to the book on your own—so you can keep going deeper into its life-transforming truths.

1 Corinthians; 1 Peter; 1 Samuel; 1 Thessalonians (1); 1,2&3 John; 2 Corinthians; 2 Thessalonians (1); 2 Timothy (11); Acts (5); Colossians & Philemon (2); Ephesians; Exodus; Galatians (1); Genesis (13); Hebrews (10); Isaiah; James (6); John (3); Joshua (4); Luke; Mark (10); Matthew; Philippians (3); Proverbs (1); Revelation (1); Romans (5); Ruth & Esther

(#)=in stock at Small Group Resource Library at MCC, all others can be ordered by MCC
Number of sessions varies from 7 to 22.
\$8 each

Experiencing God (Revised & Expanded 2007 edition)

By Henry & Richard Blackaby, and Claude King



For more than 15 years, God has used *Experiencing God* in His work, showing believers how to know Him intimately while encouraging them to step out in faith and join Him in His work with miraculous results. The revised Member Book has been updated with new illustration and testimonial content that demonstrates how this study contributed to some truly miraculous results.

12 week in-depth DVD study

Member book: \$15

Uprising: A Revolution of the Soul

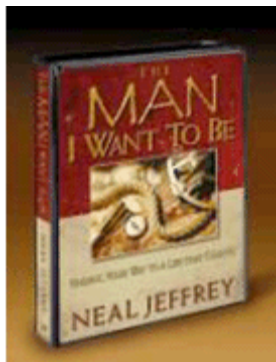
By Erwin Raphael McManus

In this dynamic small-group study based on his best-selling book, Erwin McManus shows us how to be set free from our own ego-driven desires, released by the transforming power of God. McManus boldly invites you to join the revolution. He illuminates the desperate heart cry of every human being—"I want to live!"—and then serves as a guide on a quest to answer that cry. Find your true purpose and destiny in the pursuit of the passion and character of God. Be a part of the revolution that changes a life of limitation and mediocrity into one of passion and character...a radical revolt that will forever change the world! The study includes DVD with six sessions featuring personal insights from McManus and six real-life stories and a participant workbook.



6 week DVD Bible study

Workbook \$8



The Man I Want to Be: Finding your way to a life that counts

By Neal Jeffrey

Neal Jeffrey, former All-American quarterback at Baylor University and NFL quarterback for the San Diego Chargers, delivers this powerfully, passionate “pep talk” to challenge men to “make life count where it matters most.” Sessions include:

- Ch. 1: A Man Who Believes: Making Every day Count in God’s Ultimate Plan
- Ch.2: A Man Who Builds: Leaving a Legacy of Faith for Those Who Follow After
- Ch. 3: A Man Who is Brave: Turning Disappointments of Defeat into the Joy of Triumph
- Ch. 4: A Man Who is Blessed: Reaching Your Potential When God Is in Control
- Ch. 5: A Man Who Behaves: Overcoming the Fatal Flaws That Can Take You Down
- Ch. 6: A Man Who is Beloved: Staying Plugged In to the Power of Love

6 week DVD Men’s study (40 min sessions)

Workbook: \$9

Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People

By John & Nancy Ortberg

There is a great interest today in moving beyond studying and knowing *about* God to *experiencing* God and in living spiritually transformed lives. The way to spiritual fulfillment is the way of spiritual discipline-disciplines and practices that draw us closer to God –which are available to everyone, even *ordinary people*. The Ortbergs emphasize that spiritual disciplines are a means to an end. The end is a spirit-filled life of love for, and intimacy with, God and of love and service to others. Do you want such a life for yourself?

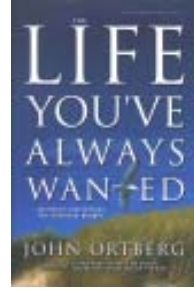
6 session study (DVD & audio CD’s)

The Life You've Always Wanted

By John Ortberg

In *The Life You've Always Wanted* John Ortberg taught us how simple spiritual disciplines can help us move beyond superficial Christianity to a life of dedicated discipleship.

Now, with the *Life You've Always Wanted Participant's Guide*, which can be used with or without the excellent *Video/DVD Curriculum*, he has provided a resource that will help us embark on the road of discipleship together. The Participant's Guide is filled with intriguing insights, provocative questions and practical applications that will challenge our communities to set superficial Christianity aside so that we can live the life of dedicated disciples.



6 week DVD small group study

Participant's Guide: \$10

God is Closer Than You Think

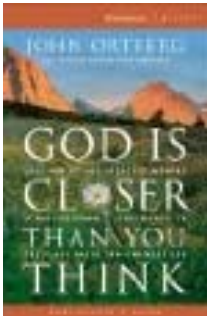
By John Ortberg with Stephen and Amanda Sorenson

Intimacy with God can happen right now—a closeness you can feel, a reality you can experience for yourself. God is closer than you think, and connecting with him isn't the exclusive domain of monks and ascetics. It's for business people, high school students, busy moms, single men, single women . . . and most important, it's for YOU. Bestselling author John Ortberg shows how you can enjoy a vibrant, moment-by-moment relationship with your

heavenly Father. Not some abstract theological concept, but the real deal—intimate connection with a deeply personal God who is waiting to be discovered in the complex mosaic of your life.

Six DVD sessions on experiencing the presence of God

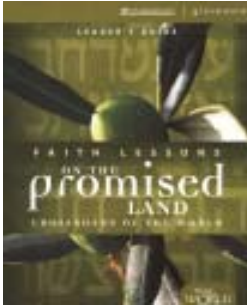
Participant's Guide: \$8



Faith Lessons series

By Ray Vander Laan

Filmed on location in Israel and Turkey, Faith Lessons are in-depth video tours of the buried, distant, or otherwise forgotten places where the stories of the Bible actually happened. By weaving together fascinating historical, cultural, religious and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals keen insights into the Scriptures' significance for believers in this day and age.



- The Promised Land, Volume 1 (5 sessions)
- The Prophets and Kings of Israel, Volume 2 (6 sessions)
- The Life & Ministry of the Messiah, Volume 3 (8 sessions)
- The Death & Resurrection of the Messiah, Volume 4 (10 sessions)
- The Early Church, Volume 5 (5 sessions)
- In the Dust of the Rabbi, Volume 6 (5 sessions)
- Walk as Jesus Walked, Volume 7 (5 sessions)
- God Heard their Cry, Volume 8 (5 sessions)
- Fire on the Mountain, Volume 9 (5 sessions)
- With all Your Heart, Volume 10 (5 sessions)

Sessions vary; DVD study.

Participant's Guide: \$7

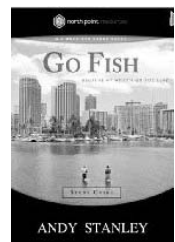
Go Fish because of what's on the line

by Andy Stanley

Why is it we can't talk about what God has done in our lives as naturally as we can spin fishing tales? In this six-session study, Andy Stanley explores the motivation behind sharing your faith. Discover God's heart for those who don't know Him and the role that we can play in introducing others to Him. Along the way you will be equipped with tools that will help you make sharing your faith a natural part of your life.

6 week DVD group study

Study Guide: \$10



When God's People Pray

By Jim Cymbala

Prayer can change lives and circumstances like nothing else can. What are the keys that unlock its power, that turn prayer from a mere activity into a vital link with God and all his resources? In *When God's People Pray*, Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, shows you and your small group truths about prayer that God has used to turn his own church from a tiny, struggling inner-city congregation into a vital thriving community of believers who pray with passion, focus, and faith.

Six session DVD study

Participant's Guide: \$10



Too Busy Not to Pray

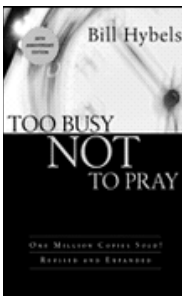
By Bill Hybels

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.

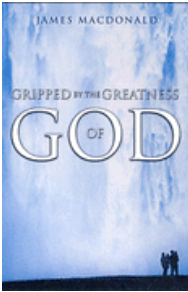
Six studies for individuals or groups.

Too Busy Not to Pray book: \$10

Prayer study guide: \$8



Gripped by the Greatness of God



By James MacDonald

MacDonald's study of the Book of Isaiah introduces you to the holding power of a holy, awesome sovereign God and provides a deeper understanding of his character. Learn to live differently because of who he is! Includes Scripture readings, personal applications, and prayer. Great for small groups.

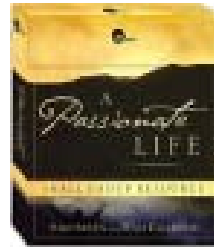
Eight week DVD study

Member book: \$13

A Passionate Life

By Mike Breen and Wald Kallestad

Believers everywhere ache to experience a passionate life, to have their faith be real and life changing. And now it's possible. Expect your group to be radically transformed—the lives of the people in your group, their relationships, and communities—because you will be living passionate lives just as Jesus did. This nine lesson course will help you and your small group



- Break new ground
- Gain personal insights from author, teacher, and LifeShapes™ creator Mike Breen
- Participate in meaningful one-on-one and group discussions
- Grow individually through homework applications
- Stop doing discipleship, and start being authentic disciples of Jesus
- Learn the basic shapes of LifeShapes™ (Circle, Semi-Circle, Triangle, etc.) that show you how to recall and follow Jesus' example in every spiritual and personal aspect of your life
- Live the passionate life Jesus led!

Eight session DVD small group study

Hardback: \$20

Workbook: \$5



Irresistible Evangelism

By Steve Sjogren, Dave Ping, and Doug Pollock

Irresistible Evangelism is an easy-to-use video-based experience especially designed to help your small group get real and get practical with evangelism . . . and to have fun doing it. Each session is an intimate conversations punctuated with candid interviews with non-believers and a cast of ordinary Christians who are looking for appealing and practical ways to share God's love. This is a safe, shame-free discussion format involving large and small group discussion and personal reflection that encourages participants to wrestle with Biblical teachings, to seek God, and to find lots of refreshing ways to share His love and truth without being annoying, rude, or obnoxious.

Eight 55 minute DVD-assisted sessions with Leader's Guide and reproducible handouts

Paperback book \$14 (optional)

Faith Under Fire Series

By Lee Strobel & Garry Poole

Based on Lee Strobel's provocative national TV program of the same name, *Faith Under Fire* features fascinating debates and riveting interviews with Christians atheists, Muslims, and proponents of other faiths as they tackle today's hottest spiritual topics. The dialogue is evenhanded, the goal is the truth, and there are no foregone conclusions. Does Christianity hold its own? That's for you and your small group to discuss. Interviewer and facilitator Lee Strobel concludes each session by offering his own perspective. This series contains four different volumes of four lessons each:

- Faith & Jesus (vol. 1)
- Faith & Facts (vol.2)
- Tough Faith Questions (vol. 3)
- A New Kind of Faith (vol. 4)

Four DVD sessions per volume

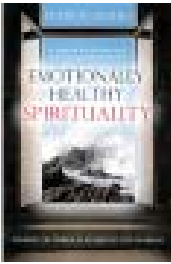
Participant's guide: \$8



Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

By Peter Scazzero

The Christian faith is supposed to produce deep, positive change.



So why doesn't it seem to work in "real life"?

That question screamed at Pastor Peter Scazzero when his church and marriage hit bottom and every Christian remedy produced nothing but anger and fatigue. As he began digging under the "good Christian" veneer, he discovered entire emotional layers of his life that God had not yet touched. And that emotional immaturity had fed his spiritual immaturity. In this study, he unveils what's

wrong with our conventional means of "spiritual growth" and offers not only a model of spirituality that actually works, but seven steps to transformation that will help readers experience a faith charged with authenticity, contemplation and a hunger for God. The Emotionally Healthy Spirituality study features the following sessions:

- The Problem of Emotionally Unhealthy Spirituality
- The 7 Pathways to Emotionally Healthy Spirituality
- Know Yourself that You may Know God
- Going Back in Order to Go Forward
- Journey Through the Wall
- Enlarge Your Soul Through Grief and Loss
- Discover the Rhythms of the Daily Office and Sabbath
- Grow into an Emotionally Mature Adult
- Go the Next Step to Develop a "Rule of Life"

Eight session DVD individual or group study

Hardback: \$20

Workbook: \$9

Free Market Jesus

By Donald Miller

Has Jesus become a product? The average American encounters more than 3,000 advertisements each day. The formula for most ads is: 1. You are not happy. 2. You will be happy if you purchase this product. How has this overwhelming commercial message shaped our view of spirituality, the church and Jesus? In *Free Market Jesus*, Donald Miller illustrates how culture always serves as a lens for our understanding of Christianity. He then addresses how scripture defines spirituality and why the scripture is still relevant in our modern culture.

Two session DVD small group study; can be used as one 60-minute study or two 30-minute studies.

No study guide needed; DVD includes group discussion questions.

Joseph: The Hard Life

By Rob Duford

For a man with so much hope for the future, Joseph spent a good part of his life rejected, abandoned, and imprisoned. How did he endure the abuse, betrayal, disappointment, and injustice so prevalent in his life? This four-part series takes a look at how the choices Joseph made helped him overcome every overwhelming obstacle life threw at him. This modern-day, cinematic approach to the Joseph story will challenge the group to look to God in times of turmoil.

Four session DVD small group study with discussion guide

Joshua: Be Strong and Courageous

By Todd Phillips

Whether a slave making bricks or a leader of a nation, Joshua lived a life defined by courage, humility, prayer, and worship. His life serves as an example and encouragement to us all. Join author Todd Phillips in the heart of the nation's capitol as he uses familiar landmarks in American history to illuminate the story of Joshua in a way never before experienced. This four-part series will challenge everyone in your small group to be strong and courageous.

Four session DVD small group study with discussion guide

Dreams: Seize Your Divine Moments

By Erwin McManus

We all have dreams. Why do some people realize their dreams and advance forward while others watch timidly from a distance and hope for a break? There is a direct relationship between passion and initiative. But what about making sure that the things we do, and the dreams we dream, are truly God's will? The reality is—when we are passionate about God, we can trust our passions.

One session DVD small group study with discussion guide

Choices: Choose to Live

By Erwin McManus

The most spiritual activity you will engage in today is making choices. Our choices either move us toward God and all the fulfillment that comes in Him or steer us away from Him to a life of shame and fear.

One session DVD small group study with discussion guide

Impact: Leave a Mark

By Erwin McManus

Impact—a forcible contact between two or more things. This is an accurate description of how men and women are used by God to shape the course of human history. Whenever God is doing a new thing, He does it through people. But, we can often feel alone. We may feel alone around others, but we're never alone when it comes to God.

One session DVD small group study with discussion guide

Advance: Go Unless You Get a No

By Erwin McManus

Much of our religious language has been focused on the "don'ts" rather than the "do's". In the same way we act as if the primary word from God is "stop" when it actually is "go". Opportunities are lost because many times when we think we are waiting on God, He is waiting on us.

One session DVD small group study with discussion guide

Parenting Your Teenager

By Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott

Identity questions. Emotional turmoil. Rebellion. Welcome to the teenager's world. And if you're their parent, you're already in that mix. It's a tough job, you know, and you've got to do it. Nowadays, you have to play counselor, cop, and crisis manager all rolled into one. Good parenting means using your head, your heart, and your faith. Parenting Your Teenager equips moms and dads to recognize common patterns, plan effective strategies, and build character. Perfect for small group Bible study or a seminar, this 4 part video series (with six lesson plans) features relationship experts Les and Leslie Parrott. And, in 24 gut-level interviews, parents and teens talk openly about rebellion, conflict, pain, and identity. Plus, there's a candid chat with singer Steven Curtis Chapman about faith and family. Six session DVD study; Workbook: \$2

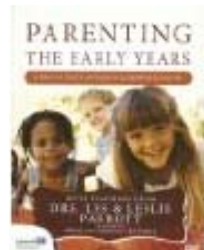
Parenting The Early Years: 10 Biblical traits your kids will remember you for

With Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott

Who you are matters more than what you do.

When your kids are all grown up, how will they remember you? These six sessions will take you through a parenting approach you won't find in any other parenting resource. In reality TV style, take a sneak peak at the real-life parenting moments and vulnerable questions from 20 families. Discover 10 Biblical traits that will make you a better person and a better parent. Then, begin to intentionally pass on key traits to your kids.

Six session DVD study with leader's guide; Workbook: \$8



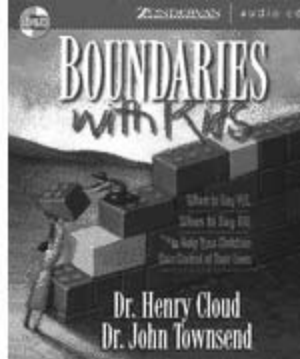
Boundaries with Kids

By Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend

When to say yes, when to say no to help your children gain control of their lives. This study gives parents the tools for raising their kids to take responsibility for their own actions, attitudes, and emotions.

The eight sessions will help bring order to problematic family circumstances and guide even the most stable families into better ways of relating. Cloud & Townsend take the parents in your group through the ins and outs of instilling character in their children—the kind that will help them lead balanced, productive, and fulfilling adult lives. *Boundaries with Kids* will help parents:

- Recognize the boundary is: behavior problems
- Set boundaries and establish consequences with kids
- Get out of the “nagging” trap
- Stop controlling their kids—instead help their children develop self-control
- Apply the ten laws of boundaries to parenting
- Take six practical steps for implementing boundaries with their kids



Eight session DVD or VHS study; Book: \$10; Workbook: \$9



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