



Prince of Peace

Lutheran Church

Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry at Prince of Peace

Thanks so much for your participation in Small Group Ministry at Prince of Peace. Our mission as a church is to equip people to be passionate disciples of Jesus Christ in daily life. We long to help disciples take root, develop and grow to maturity of faith. That's what the Season of Growing is all about! And a small group is one of the best environments for growing! In a small group we not only grow in our relationship with God, we grow in our relationships with one another.

This resource guide was developed to help small groups find a curriculum that meets their needs. There are literally hundreds of small group curriculums on the market today, and you're welcome to use any of them! The resources in this catalog have been reviewed by our pastoral staff and come recommended by them. Prince of Peace will also continue to produce the FaithWalk, a weekly small group curriculum that is tied to our Scripture and worship theme each week. If you would like to preview any of the resources listed in this catalog please stop by the Information Desk in the Worship Center. Samples may be checked out for one week. If you find a curriculum that you like simply order whatever resources your group needs. You'll find these small group resources for purchase through the following vendor or other book seller: Christanbook.com, Amazon.com, Selectlearning.org.

If you have any questions about the curriculum listed in this catalog please contact Lynette Kaderlik at 952-808-7845, nanakaderlik@live.com. If you have any other questions regarding Small Group Ministry, want to join a small group, or want to explore launching and leading a new small group please contact Barb Peterson at 952-431-8442, bpeterson@princeofpeaceonline.org. Thanks again for your participation in Small Group Ministry. Let's grow together!

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ELCA Small Group Resources, including DVDs

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Online:

Prince of Peace has a FaithWalk Study, DailyWalk Study, Sermon (Preacher's) Notes and a copy of the sermon each week online. Visit www.princeofpeaceonline.org/small_groups and click on "weekly resources".

Books of Faith Bible Study Series:

Explores individual books of the Bible through historical, literary, devotional, and Lutheran-theological readings. Leader guides, learner guides, and session prep, DVDs for leaders are all part of this series and can be purchased individually or in a course kit.

These studies are available:

Genesis Exodus Numbers

◆ 1, 2 Samuel

Mark John Romans Galatians

◆ Hebrews

1 John

People of Faith Bible Study Series:

Explore the faith journeys of key people in the Bible and make connections between their stories and yours. Each four-session study introduces your group to four different people. These studies are great for those new to Bible study, or those looking for a fresh new introduction to the Bible. Leader guides, learner guides, and session prep DVDs for leaders are all part of this series and can be purchased individually or in a course kit.

These studies are available:

A Gardener, Two Travelers and a Cheat: Adam, Abraham, Sarah and Jacob

A Lamenter, a Dreamer and Two Pretty Good Leaders: Rachel, Joseph, Moses and Joshua

◆ A Great-Grandma to a King, a King-maker, a King and a Royal Pain: Ruth, Samuel, David and Elijah

A Prostitute, Two Prophets and Poor Ol' Job: Gomer, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Job

Intersections Small Group Series:

◆ Caring and Community: Perspectives from Ephesians

Robert H. Albers; Augsburg Fortress, 1995, 62pp. 6 chapters.

This course focuses on the important life support we gain through Christian fellowship.

◆ Integrity: Ethics in the Workplace

Beckie Steele and Elaine Voci; Augsburg Fortress, 1999, 62pp. 6 chapters.

How do we live out the values of our Christian faith in the workplace when doing so might threaten job security or achieving our vocational goals? There are no easy answers, but exploring the questions with others you trust can help.

◆ Jesus: Divine and Human: Reflections from Matthew

John L. Heagle; Augsburg Fortress, 1995, 62pp. 6 chapters.

Explore what a difference it can make to have Jesus as Savior, teacher, healer, reconciler, and friend.

◆ Parenting: Raising Faithful Children in a Fragmented World

Emily Demuth Ishida; Augsburg Fortress, 1999, 62pp. 6 chapters.

Parents play a vital role in passing on the faith from generation to generation. Explore what it means to raise children as Christians in today's world and examine key factors that influence nurturing faith in the home.

◆ Peace: Christian Living in a Violent World

Mary I. Farr; Augsburg Fortress, 1995, 62pp. 6 chapters.

Understand the peace of God, and explore what wholeness and health, contentment and security can mean for your life.

◆ Praying: Meeting God in Daily Life

Lyn Klug; Augsburg Fortress, 1995, 62pp. 6 chapters.

Explore the depth and power of prayer, the personal nature and lifestyle of prayer, and examine a variety of prayer forms.

◆ Reconcilable Differences: Gifts and Challenges of Relationships

George Tan; Augsburg Fortress, 1999, 62pp. 6 chapters.

Race. Ethnicity. Age. Sex. Culture. Personality. Interests. Abilities. Physical attributes. Examine the complexities of human relationships and the challenges each of us faces in respecting and appreciating differences.

Sing the Faith Series:

◆ Hymns of Comfort

Marilyn Stulken; Augsburg Fortress, 2002, 48 pp. 5 sessions.

In this five-session Bible study, the emphasis is on the concept of comfort, expressed in five traditional hymns, and their connections with the Biblical narrative. Includes:

- O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- Comfort, Comfort Now My People
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- Come, Gracious Spirit, Heav'nly Dove

◆ Hymns of Community

Susan Briebl; Augsburg Fortress, 2003, 48 pp. 5 sessions.

In this five-session Bible study, the emphasis is on community and what it means to be in unity, expressed in five traditional hymns, and their connection to the faith life of all believers. Includes:

- We Know that Christ Is Raised and Dies No More
- Grains of Wheat
- Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
- The Church's One Foundation
- Blest Be the Tie that Bind

◆ Hymns to the Creator

Gail Ramshaw; Augsburg Fortress, 2003, 48pp. 5 Sessions.

In this five-session Bible study, the focus is on God as creator of the world and considers nature as a pattern of our lives, expressed in five traditional hymns, and their connection to the faith life of all believers. Includes:

- All Creatures, Worship God Most High
- Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth
- Praise and Thanksgiving
- God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
- In Sacred Manner

◆ **Hymns on Prayer**

David Tryggstad; Augsburg Fortress, 2002, 48pp. 5 sessions.

This study connects worship and hymns to the Biblical roots of our faith. Five session Bible study that emphasizes praise and adoration as practiced in five traditional hymns:

- What a Friend We Have in Jesus
- Lord, Teach Us to Pray Aright
- Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray
- Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

◆ **Hymns on the Presence of God**

Susan Palo Cherwien; Augsburg Fortress, 2002, 48pp. 5 sessions.

See how the presence of God is expressed in five traditional hymns that connect to the Biblical narrative and our faith. Divided into five sessions:

- Great is Thy Faithfulness
- What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
- Blessed Assurance
- Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
- Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

Lutheran Voices Series:

◆ **Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship**

Martha Stortz; Augsburg Fortress, 2008, 112pp. 9 chapters.

The Beatitudes, says Martha Stortz, function as a compass for the journey of Christian discipleship. The first group of Beatitudes target people in situations of suffering. The second group of Beatitudes target people who help those who suffer. Each chapter in *Blessed to Follow* is structured around a similar pattern: appeal to experience; Biblical stories; Jesus: the one blessing and the one blessed; disciples: blessed to be a blessing; practice: the blessing made real. Includes questions for discussion and additional resources.

◆ **Connecting With God in a Disconnected World: A Guide for Spiritual Growth and Renewal**

Carolyn Coon Mowchan and Damian Anthony Vraniak; Augsburg Fortress, 2003, 96pp. 6 chapters.

Designed to encourage adult readers to explore and examine the barriers that sometimes keep us from experiencing a closer and more full relationship with God in Christ, and our relationships in faith with one another. The book includes theological and biblical background, as well as hands-on tools for individual reflection and group discussion.

◆ **Give Us This Day: A Lutheran Proposal for Ending World Hunger**

Craig L. Nesson and David Beckmann; Augsburg Fortress, 2003, 96 pp. 5 chapters.

Concern for the hungry belongs to the heart of the Scripture's testimony about God. The Bible's justice tradition serves as a canon within the canon that the Christian church dare not ignore. The Lord's Prayer demonstrates how justice for the hungry is also deeply rooted in the teaching of Jesus. The author summons the Christian church to listen to the cries of the hungry and commit itself to ending hunger as a matter of *status confessionis*. Ending hunger is a real possibility for our time. The role of the church in advocating this possibility is crucial.

(All royalties from this book will be donated to Bread for the World and the ELCA World Hunger Program.)

◆ **Holy Spirit: Creative Power in Our Lives**

Lois Malcolm; Augsburg Fortress, 2009, 96 pp. 6 chapters.

Who is the Holy Spirit? How does the Spirit work in our lives as individuals, families, communities, and in the world at large? What would happen if we claimed the promise of our baptism—that the Spirit truly is with us, creating within our bodies the new life we have in Jesus Christ? Drawing on Scripture, Luther's writings, and contemporary theology, Lois Malcolm invites readers to experience the Spirit's creative life and power—precisely within the complexity of our everyday lives.

No Experience Necessary Series:

No Experience Necessary: Everybody's Welcome

Kelly Fryer; Augsburg Fortress, 2005 - 2007, 8 units, 7 sessions each. Books & DVD.

Listen up! God's on a mission to bless and save the world, and we're called to take part. No Experience Necessary immerses participants in this story and helps them find their place in God's mission. No Experience Necessary will change the way you do Bible study, it's that simple!

- Unit 1: Help Wanted
- Unit 2: You're Hired
- Unit 3: On the Job
- Unit 4: More Than Just a Job
- Unit 5: That's a Deal
- Unit 6: On a Mission
- Unit 7: It's your Call
- Unit 8: To be Continued

Select Learning Series: Exploring Scripture & Engaging God's World

Biology and Belief: Conversations in Faith & Science

Dr. Alan Padgett (host); Luther Publications, 2007. 6 sessions, DVD.

This six-part video series features some of the best minds of science and faith research to help us unravel some of the most perplexing and challenging issues of our day. Biology and Belief examines modern issues that confront the realms of both science and faith. Includes study guide.

EarthBound: Created and Called to Care for Creation

David Rhoads, Seraphim Communications, Inc., 2009, 6 sessions DVD.

Discover the origins of our misconceptions about Scripture's portrayal of creation. Recognize God's call to us to relate to the whole creation as our vocation. And experience how God's people throughout the Church are living out that call. Six 20-minute segments on two DVDs. Includes extensive study guide.

- Episode 1. Created/Called (justified and free to serve the world)
- Episode 2. Here/There (creation is earthly, material and good)
- Episode 3. Domination/Dominion (above creation, or part of it?)
- Episode 4. Me/We (identity in social context)
- Episode 5. Now/Forever (short-term benefit, or eternal creation)
- Episode 6. Enough/Too Much (scarcity and abundance)

Faith Out Loud: Talking About What Matters Most

Select Learning, 2007, DVD.

This video offers hope for us tongue-tied Christians to identify the fact that we have a faith story and we have words for our experience of God. Listen in on authentic and humble conversations as people were asked to talk about...

- your favorite passage in the Bible [11:03]
- a time of suffering in which God made a difference [9:19]
- how God makes a difference in your daily life [11:25]
- an idea of God that you find meaningful [10:29]
- a person who made a difference in your faith [11:01]
- a time when you experienced grace [9:12]
- a time when God’s people came through for you [9:42]
- a time when you were surprised by God [11:27]
- how God came alive in your life [11:41]
- a time when God felt present [9:23]
- a time when God felt absent [10:04]

These eleven 10-minute video programs can be watched in any order, and serve to spark discussion and give permission to talk about our faith out loud.

Good God Questions Volumes 1 and 2

Select Learning, 2007, 12 sessions, DVD.

Join these brave souls from Luther Seminary who address Good God Questions with honesty and compassion.

- Why does God allow suffering? [10:44]
- What are bad answers to suffering? [6:35]
- What are some personal answers to suffering? [12:13]
- Do Jews, Muslims and Christians worship the same God? [13:28]
- Why did Jesus have to die? [15:35]
- How do I know God’s will for my life? [14:20]
- If I am forgiven, why will I be judged? [9:15]
- What is the Trinity? [15:41]
- What about my child who is baptized but doesn’t believe? [15:57]
- What happens to us after death? [18:56]
- What do we do with disturbing biblical passages? [17:49]
- How do I know the Holy Spirit is active in my life? [15:00]

Volume One - Seven video sessions on DVD with PDF study guide.

Volume Two - Five video sessions on DVD with PDF study guide.

How Lutherans Interpret the Bible

Dr. Mark Allen Powell; Select Learning, 2007, 7 sessions, DVD.

Powell presents a variety of Lutheran perspectives for interpreting the Bible. Through Powell’s rich discussions you will discover answers to questions you have always had about the Bible. Included with the DVDs is a CD with a robust study guide and additional support material. The study guide offers three suggested formats for use: 60 minute adult study or 90 minute adult study.

- Session 1: The Word of God
- Session 2: What Lutherans Say About the Bible
- Session 3: Where the Bible Comes From
- Session 4: Interpreting the Bible in Context
- Session 5: Determining Right from Wrong
- Session 6: The Many Meanings of the Bible
- Session 7: Devotional Bible Reading

40-Day Journey Series:

◆ 40-Day Journey with Martin Luther

Gracia M. Grindal ed.: Augsburg Books, 2008, 103 pp. 40 daily sessions.

Drawing from the vast collection of Luther’s sermons and other works, editor Gracia Grindal here selects forty inspiring passages that raise profound truths about faith and life. Includes a short introduction to Luther’s life, journal writing exercises and daily prayers.

◆ 40-Day Journey with Kathleen Norris

Kathryn Huseisen ed.: Augsburg Books, 2008, 112 pp. 40 daily sessions.

Each of the forty chapters includes a selected writing from her work along with one or more scripture selections from the Bible.

Miscellaneous Lutheran Series:

◆ The Lutheran Course II

Augsburg Press, 2007. 7 sessions.

This essential resource guides adult learners through the large group and small group time with wit and wisdom. Leader guide and participant workbook available.

◆ A Study of Luther’s Small Catechism

Todd Nichol; Augsburg Fortress, 1991. 6 sessions.

Especially for those new to the Lutheran church or wanting to understand the catechism. (Participant and leader guide are available).

◆ Honoring Our Neighbor’s Faith

Robert Buckley Farlee; Augsburg Fortress, 1999.

Explore the doctrines and practices of 32 religious denominations in America with this handy resource. Each of the major denominations constitutes a “chapter” complete with teachings, type of worship and worship setting, how each is governed, demographic characteristics, membership statistics, and discussion questions.

Other Small Group Resources, including DVDs

Canvas Series: DVD

◆ Heart

Serendipity; Lifeways, 2008.

Heart incorporates Scripture, small group activities, thematic videos, and good old conversation. Group members will: Understand the heart as the keeper of their history, Discover that the heart is where God is best found and heard, Explore what prompts our emotions and what they reveal, See the heart as the seat of our emotions, and Learn that the heart is the place where we most closely bear God's image.

ChristianityToday Study Series:

◆ Creation Care

Christianity Today International; Thomas Nelson, 2009, 128pp. 8 sessions.

Each eight-week study is based on articles written by today's leading Christian authors and published by Christianity Today magazines. These remarkable studies foster deep, authentic, and relevant discussion that will challenge and grow any small group. Addresses the problem of how we as Christians can appropriately deal with the difficult topics of stewardship, the environment, global warming, and more.

◆ Faith and Pop Culture

Christianity Today International; Thomas Nelson, 2009, 176pp. 8 sessions.

Each eight-week study is based on articles written by today's leading Christian authors and published by Christianity Today magazines. These remarkable studies foster deep, authentic, and relevant discussion that will challenge and grow any small group. Good Entertainment takes on a variety of topics, including:

- The intersection of Christian faith and pop culture entertainment (literature, movies/TV, and music)
- How God can speak to us through the arts, even though it seems much of today's media messages are largely amoral
- How Christians should deal with and discern between entertainment that is meaningful and appropriate and entertainment that is destructive and should be avoided

God & the Arts Series - Lifeways:

◆ Finding Jesus in the Movies

Serendipity, Lifeways, 2007, 8 sessions.

Features “dinner and a movie” nights for your small group to share, followed by guided gatherings that give you outlets for discussing the core truths inside the film, uncovering world views and becoming smarter about what you are seeing.

Finding the Larger Story in Music

Serendipity, Lifeways, 2008, 6 sessions.

This study invites participants to understand how music and lyrics of timeless songs retell the Great Epic. If we've missed the music, we've missed the gospel; if we've missed the lyric, we've missed the story. The resource uses mainstream songs to help group members understand the truth of Ecclesiastes 3:11—that we're prewired to recognize the larger story as it unfolds through the songs that move us.

Finding Redemption in the Movies

Ron Keck; Serendipity, Lifeways, 2007, 8 sessions.

Finding Redemption in the Movies is the second release in the God and the Arts series, a new small group Bible study experience from Serendipity House. Each film drives two group meetings, a “Dinner and a Movie” conversation and a Bible study. Redemption is the central theme of the Larger Story. Your group will learn to pay attention to the great redemption stories that only borrow from the greatest redemption story.

God In You Series:

Churches Alive

NavPress. (Available through Erik Feig at Prince of Peace)

◆ Leader's Guide

- ◆ **ALIVE** – Explore how to keep your relationship fresh and bursting with life as you deepen your walk with God.
- ◆ **CELEBRATE!** – Discover why God is worthy of praise and how to exalt God using the unique gifts given to you.
- ◆ **CHANGED!** – Discover the true worth of reflecting your love for God.
- ◆ **FULFILLED!** – Discover how you were created to be fulfilled. Learn to enjoy God's purpose for you.
- ◆ **JESUS!** – Your life will be strengthened through this study of God's life events and teachings.
- ◆ **POWERFUL!** – Discover how to access God's power for your life. Expect to be rewarded.
- ◆ **RICH!** – Discover how wealthy you are and how you can use your wealth when you need it.

Alpha Series: (follow-up to first course, suitable even if you haven't taken the first course).

God at Work

Ken Costa; Alpha USA; 9 sessions, DVD.

Excellent follow-up to the Alpha Course. Practical and life changing steps to live out your faith at work. Find joy in God working in and through you at work. Kit provides everything you need to run with a small group at church or work. Sessions Include:

- Work Matters
- Ambition and Life Choices
- Tough Decisions
- Stress and Work-Life Balance
- Failure, Disappointment and Hope
- Money and Giving

A Life Worth Living

Nicky Gumbel; Alpha USA; 6 sessions, DVD.

Contents: 1 - DVD Set, 2 - A Life Worth Living books, 2 - Leader's Guides, and 10 - Guest Manuals.

An Official Follow-up to the Alpha Course. A Life Worth Living is a nine-week course based on the book of Philippians. Each talk explains how it is possible to live the Christian life positively, practically and joyfully. Everything you need to run the course is included! A Life Worth Living is a nine week course based on the book of Philippians. Each talk explains how it is possible to live the Christian life positively, practically and joyfully and is aimed specifically at those who are starting out in the Christian life. Sessions Include:

- New Heart
- New Attitude
- New Friendships
- New Ambitions
- New Generosity
- New Purpose
- New Responsibilities
- New Confidence
- New Resources

Fisherman Bible Studyguide Series:

◆ **Doing Justice, Showing Mercy: Christian Action in Today's World**

Vinita Hampson Wright; Doubleday Religious, 2000, 96pp. 13 sessions.

Christians are more aware than ever of problems concerning injustice. How are we to respond? Can one person make a difference? The Bible's teachings are just as valid and radical today as they were centuries ago. They instruct us to live as lights in the darkness, and they reveal the true source of our hope for the world.

Interpretation Bible Studies Series:

◆ **Psalms**

Jerome F. D. Creach; Westminster John Knox Press, 1999, 106pp. 10 sessions.

Though the Psalms stem from an ancient people, they continue to speak to the experiences of today's faithful, offering encouragement in times of toil and prompting celebration in times of triumph. Includes questions for reflection and leader's guide.

Land of the Bible Series: DVD

Galilee

Mart DeHaan and Jimmy DeYoung; Discovery House.

Get an exciting view of the land where Jesus walked. Join Mart De Haan and Jimmy DeYoung as they take you on an eight-day tour of Megiddo, Mount Carmel, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, and other significant areas within the region of Galilee. You'll explore the sights, sounds, culture, history, and biblical importance of each stop along the way.

Jordan and Judea

Mart DeHaan and Jimmy DeYoung; Discovery House.

In six Bible study lessons, you'll gain geographic knowledge, biblical insight, and spiritual truth as you explore Jordan and Judea with friends.

LifeChange Bible Study Series:

Available at NavPress. (Many are available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace, also from Christianbook.com)

The LifeChange Bible study series can help you grow in Christlikeness through a life-changing encounter with God's Word. Discover what the Bible says—not what someone else thinks it says—and develop the skills and desire to dig even deeper into God's Word. Each study includes study aids and discussion questions.

- **Genesis (19 lessons)**
- **Exodus (18 lessons)**
- **Joshua (16 lessons)**
- **Ruth and Esther (10 lessons)**
- **1 Samuel (16 lessons)**
- **Proverbs (15 lessons)**
- **Isaiah (18 lessons)**
- **Matthew (18 lessons)**
- **Mark (18 lessons)**
- **Luke (16 lessons)**
- **John (22 lessons)**
- **Acts (20 lessons)**
- **Romans (20 lessons)**
- **1 Corinthians (17 lessons)**
- **2 Corinthians (13 lessons)**
- **Galatians (12 lessons)**
- **Ephesians (14 lessons)**
- **Philippians (11 lessons)**
- **Colossians and Philemon (11 lessons)**
- **1 Thessalonians (11 lessons)**
- **2 Thessalonians (7 lessons)**
- **1 Timothy (10 lessons)**
- **2 Timothy (8 lessons)**
- **Titus (8 lessons)**
- **Hebrews (19 lessons)**
- **James (12 lessons)**
- **1 Peter (13 lessons)**
- **2 Peter/Jude (9 lessons)**
- **1, 2, and 3 John (14 lessons)**
- **Revelation (15 lessons)**

LifeGuide Bible Study Series:

Couples of the Old Testament

Dale and Sandy Larsen; InterVarsity Press, 2003, 9 sessions. (Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

The Old Testament tells the stories of fascinating men and women in relationship: couples who live with chronic disappointment, couples who overcome all obstacles to be together, in-laws who can't stand each other, a wife who risks death if she walks in on her husband unannounced, and a husband who takes back his wife when she becomes a prostitute. There are arranged marriages, fiercely loving marriages, enduring marriages, an instant marriage, a coerced marriage and a perfect marriage--until the couple blew it! Dale and Sandy Larsen lead you to dig deeper into these relationships highlighted in the Bible to learn important lessons about marriage, God and yourself.

◆ **God's Love: Knowing God Through the Psalms**

Ruth Ann Ridley; InterVarsity Press, 2003, 64pp.

God cares for you in many ways! He offers help, calms your fears, guides you and strengthens you. Ruth Ann Ridley helps you explore the Psalms, showing how these songs of God's people reveal the character, love and care of God. By reading, studying and praying Psalms--and by applying their teaching to your life--you will discover how God offers true salvation and deep satisfaction for you.

◆ **Growing Older & Wiser**

Dale & Sandy Larsen; InterVarsity Press, 2005, 64pp. 9 sessions. (Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

You can't change the fact that you are getting older. And, indeed, you may not want to! Age brings many gifts and opportunities for continued growth. In nine study sessions, Dale and Sandy Larsen help you discover the Bible's perspective on aging. You'll discover how God can effectively and powerfully use those who have grown wiser with the passing years.

◆ **Hope: Your Heart's Deepest Longings**

Jack Kuhatschek; InterVarsity Press, 2003, 61pp. 8 sessions.

Sometimes hope becomes so real that it's almost tangible. But at other times--especially when tragedy or hardship intrudes--you wonder whether your hope will fail, leaving you exposed, vulnerable and overwhelmed. In eight sessions, Jack Kuhatschek leads you to explore both sides of hope. You'll confront doubts and fears, and you'll anticipate the great joy that awaits you in Jesus Christ.

◆ **Images of the Spirit**

Dale and Sandy Larsen; InterVarsity Press, 2007, 62pp. 8 sessions.

While Christians affirm that the Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, we struggle to think of him as a person at all. The Bible is clear that the Holy Spirit is a person. But how can human beings understand who he is? Scripture helps us by giving us strong word pictures of the Spirit as wind, fire, a counselor, anointing oil and more. As you go through these eight Bible studies you will find that your mental picture of the Spirit comes into focus. And even better, you will find that you can have a real relationship with the third person of the Trinity as you experience the power, comfort and gifts that flow out from the Spirit.

◆ **Jesus' Final Week**

Cindy Bunch, ed.; InterVarsity Press, 2000, 61pp. 8 sessions.

The events that took place during Jesus' final week on earth--Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the trial, Jesus' death and his resurrection--are foundational to your salvation and your Christian life. As these Bible studies allow you to focus more closely on these amazing events, you'll gain new understanding about who Jesus is and how he loves you.

◆ **Joshua: The Power of God's Promises**

Donald Baker; InterVarsity Press, 1999, 64pp 12 sessions.

The Old Testament book of Joshua reads like an exciting novel--from the miraculous crossing of the Jordan to the crash of the walls of Jericho and the sun stopping in the sky. Through all the twists and turns, you'll witness God's power and faithfulness. Digging into the story of Joshua will encourage you to persevere in your own daily battles and arm you with the most powerful weapons you'll ever need--God's promises.

◆ **Luke: New Hope, New Joy**

Ada Lum; InterVarsity Press, 2001, 128pp. 26 sessions.

It was good news not only of Jesus' birth but of what he offered to men, women and children throughout his ministry. To the sick he offered healing. To the hurting, comfort. To the outcast, acceptance. In this study guide Ada Lum leads you to discover that this message of hope and joy is for you as well!

◆ **Meeting God**

J.I.Packer; InterVarsity Press, 2001, 78pp. 12 sessions.

His majesty will fill your thoughts. His love will soften your heart. His holiness will purify your life. When you meet God, you will be changed. Meet him now as J. I. Packer leads you through twelve key passages from the Old and New Testaments. These inductive Bible studies will engage your heart and mind. And enlarge your vision of the God you worship and serve.

Meeting Jesus

Leighton Ford; InterVarsity Press, 1999, 80pp. 13 sessions.

Once you've met Jesus, you are never the same again. His teaching challenges your thinking. His compassion softens your heart. His love turns your life around. In this Bible study, evangelist Leighton Ford leads you through thirteen studies from the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) that will open your eyes anew--or for the first time--to Jesus Christ.

◆ **Nehemiah: The Courage to Face Opposition**

InterVarsity Press, 2002, 64pp. 12 sessions. (Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

Nehemiah was a leader of Israel. He faced opposition and difficulty from every side--even from his own people. Yet he stood against all his enemies, trusting only in God.

New Testament Characters

Carolyn Nystrom; InterVarsity Press, 2003, 64 pp. 10 sessions.

They were ordinary people. Some were never even mentioned by name. Yet they were all touched by Jesus. In this study guide, Carolyn Nystrom introduces you to the fascinating men and women of the New Testament. As you enter into their stories, you'll discover how you too can be touched by the Savior. This revised LifeGuide Bible Study features additional questions for starting group discussions and for meeting God in personal reflection, together with expanded leader's notes and a "Now or Later" section in each study.

◆ **Old Testament Characters**

Peter Scazzero; InterVarsity Press, 2000, 64 pp. 12 sessions.

Abraham is an unforgettable portrait of faith. Daniel is a classic example of holiness. And through her willingness to risk her own life, Esther shows us what commitment means. This Bible study introduces you to twelve remarkable lives described in the Old Testament. The stories of these people from the ancient past can help you learn to live well even today.

◆ **Parables: The Greatest Stories Ever Told**

John White; InterVarsity Press, 1999, 64pp. 12 sessions.

We all love a good story. But the parables of Jesus are even better than that. They sneak up on us, catching us off guard and toppling our easy assumptions. When the familiar takes an unexpected twist, we find our secret thoughts exposed to the healing light of Jesus. This Bible study introduces twelve of the greatest stories ever told; how might they change your thoughts and actions?

◆ **Philippians: Jesus Our Joy**

Donald Baker; InterVarsity Press, 1999, 64pp. 9 sessions. (Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

It's easy to be happy when things go well for you. But what would it be like to have a sense of joy that continued even in times of trouble? Such was the deep joy that the apostle Paul experienced--even in prison. His contentment was neither dependent on circumstances nor changed by difficulty. In his brief letter to the Philippians, Paul will show you too how to live joyfully in every situation.

◆ **Psalms: Prayers of the Heart**

Eugene H. Peterson; InterVarsity Press, 2000, 64pp. 12 sessions.

The Psalms show you how to relate to God as you pray your doubt, fears and anger. They show you how to respond to God in praise. Here you find the best place to explore who you are and what God means to you.

◆ **Timothy & Titus: Do What You Have Heard**

Pete Sommer; InterVarsity Press, 2001, 79pp. 11 sessions.

Deteriorating values. Competing religions. Weakening morality. Do you feel sometimes that the world presents you with more problems than you can handle? Timothy and Titus faced all of these tough issues as young church leaders. But Paul encouraged them to put aside timidity and insecurity, and to find strength in Christ. As Pete Sommer guides you into study of these letters, you'll also find the support you need to follow through in obedience to God's Word.

◆ **Women of the New Testament**

Phyllis J. LePeau; InterVarsity Press, 2003, 64pp. 10 sessions.

As Phyllis J. Le Peau introduces twelve significant women of the New Testament, she invites you to enter into their lives and learn from them what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

◆ **Women of the Old Testament**

Gladys Hunt; InterVarsity Press, 2002, 62pp. 12 sessions.

They were ordinary people. Most would not make headlines in any other history book but God's. Yet the women of the Old Testament made critical choices that led to extraordinary outcomes. Through faith and strong character, they rescued their families, led people out of bondage, gave birth to kings and even saved a nation. As you explore with Gladys Hunt the stories of twelve Old Testament women, you will come to understand the far-reaching consequences of your own everyday choices and actions. Features questions for starting group discussions and for personal reflection, as well as a new "Now or Later" section following each session.

Life Lessons Series:

◆ **The Gospel of Luke**

Max Lucado; Nelson Impact, 2006, 118 pp. 12 sessions.

The Lucado Life Lessons series takes the participant on a journey through the Bible, book by book. Inquisitive questions, "Keys to the Text" feature, and new material compose this useful and concise tool from renowned Bible teacher and pastor Lucado.

LifeSearch Series:

Spiritual Gifts

Kent Millard; Abingdon Press, 1999, 62pp. 6 sessions.

Helps adults to concretely identify and cultivate their spiritual gifts, both individually and cooperatively as members of their small group. Includes tips for discussion.

A Modern Girl's Bible Study Series:

Girl Talk: Getting Past the Chitchat

Jen Hatmaker; NavPress Publishing Group, 2007, 208 pp. 5 weekly sessions.

Girl Talk is a fun, fresh Bible study with a focus on friendship. In this five-week series, Jen takes a girlfriend-next-door look at what makes relationships tick. You'll discover God's design for community, how to avoid harmful people, and the five levels of communication that nurture intimacy. Most of all, you'll share life with women on the same journey as you—which is what friendship is all about. Includes daily readings.

Nooma Series:

Rob Bell; Zondervan, (2005 - 2009), 10 - 14 minutes. DVD.

When Jesus taught about life's toughest issues, he used short, simple stories. Rob Bell's modern "parables" on film follow his lead. Concise, powerful 10- to 14-minute DVDs tackle topics like forgiveness, discipleship, and unconditional love, making biblical truths vivid and relevant for today's generation. A great way to spark meaningful discussion in your small group! 24 DVD set. Each DVD comes with a 32-page discussion guide.

- ◆◆ 001 | Rain: "Things don't always work out the way we want them to."
- ◆◆ 002 | Flame: "What's up with the word love?"
- ◆◆ 003 | Trees: "Do our lives really matter?"
- ◆◆ 004 | Sunday: "Why do we do the things we do?"
- ◆◆ 005 | Noise: "Why is silence so hard to deal with?"
- ◆◆ 006 | Kickball: "Why can't we always have what we want?"
- ◆◆ 007 | Luggage: "It isn't always easy to forgive."
- ◆◆ 008 | Dust: "Does God believe in us?"
- ◆◆ 009 | Bullhorn: "Can we separate loving God and loving others?"
- ◆◆ 010 | Lump: "A lot of us have done things in our lives we are ashamed of."
- ◆◆ 011 | Rhythm: "What does it mean to have a relationship with God?"
- ◆◆ 012 | Matthew: "Suffering the loss of someone we love can be the most difficult thing in life to deal with."
- ◆◆ 013 | Rich: "Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others."
- ◆◆ 014 | Breathe: "Our physical breath is actually a picture of a deeper spiritual reality."
- ◆◆ 015 | You: "Some of the central claims of the Christian faith are the source of many discussions and heated debates. But are we always debating the right things?"
- ◆◆ 016 | Store: "We all get angry about things from time to time."
- ◆◆ 017 | Today: "How much time and energy do we spend wishing things were how they used to be?"
- ◆◆ 018 | Name: "Why are we so concerned with what other people think, say, or look like?"
- ◆◆ 019 | Open: "What if there's more to prayer than just God listening and answering?"
- ◆◆ 020 | Shells: "What are we really doing with our time?"
- ◆◆ 021 | She: "When we omit the feminine, are we missing a very fundamental part of God's nature?"
- ◆◆ 022 | Tomato: "Do we try so hard to live the perfect life that we miss out on how to truly live?"
- ◆◆ 023 | Corner: "Why is it that often when we get what we want, we still feel empty?"
- ◆◆ 024 | Whirlwind: "What do we do when there aren't nice, neat answers?"

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation Series:

◆ Fully Devoted: Living Each Day in Jesus' Name

John Ortberg, Laurie Pederson, Judson Poling; Zondervan, 2000, 128pp.

Fully Devoted gets to the heart of what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.

◆ Training VS. Trying

John Ortberg, Laurie Pederson, Judson Poling; Zondervan, 2000, 144pp.

Everyday training for extraordinary living, pursuing spiritual transformation.

◆ Run the Race

Bill Hybels; Zondervan, 1999, 96pp. 6 sessions.

Life as a follower of Christ is not a fifty-yard dash. It's a marathon. God offers strength for the race, cold water to quench our thirst, and fresh legs when we grow weary. We never run alone. He is always right beside us cheering us on or ahead of us leading the way. Do you need energy and refreshment for the race of life? In Philippians, you will find all you need to run with strength and confidence. If you desire joy beyond measure, perseverance, a servant's heart, hope for the future, a peace beyond understanding, and lasting contentment, look no further than Philippians.

Spiritual Disciplines Series:

◆ Prayer & Listening

Jan Johnson; InterVarsity Press, 2003, 64pp. 6 sessions.

In this study guide, Jan Johnson covers the disciplines of prayer and of practicing God's presence. Going deeper in these areas will help you to draw closer to God in everything you do.

◆ Solitude & Silence

Jan Johnson; InterVarsity Press, 2003, 64pp. 6 sessions.

In this Bible study guide, Jan Johnson covers the disciplines of silence and solitude. Going deeper in these areas will lead you toward a more interactive relationship with God. You will learn how to hear God's voice and allow him to shape not only your times of quiet but also the rest of your daily routine.

Walking With God Series:

Practical and interactive, this series can help your small group build greater intimacy with God, explore who God is, and learn to walk with Him more closely. This series follows a two-track approach. Series 1 plugs new believers into God's transforming power through discipleship to Christ. Titles in Series 1:

- Friendship with God: Developing Intimacy with God
- The Incomparable Jesus: Experiencing the Power of Christ
- Follow Me! Walking with Jesus in Everyday Life
- Leader's Guide

Series 2 guides more mature Christians into partnership with God and helps them reach out to a world that desperately needs His love. Working through all six study guides provides a solid foundation for a lifelong walk with God. Titles in Series 2:

- Discovering the Church: Becoming Part of God's New Community
- Building Your Church: Using Your Gifts, Time, and Resources
- Impacting Your World: Becoming a Person of Influence
- Leader's Guide 2

Women of the Bible Series:

◆ **Becoming a Woman God Can Use: A Study on Esther.**

Judith Couchman; Zondervan, 2002, 80pp. 6 sessions.

Through intriguing stories of biblical women, the Women of the Bible study series helps readers see how God wants to work in their lives. Questions and activities are designed to encourage personal application, understanding, and prayer, and to foster interaction within study groups. Each chapter includes 8 sections: Opening Narrative, Discussing the Story, Sharing Your Story, After Hours, Setting the Stage, Behind the Scenes, Prayer Meetings, and Words to Remember. The leader's guide makes it easy to facilitate weekly Bible studies to nurture knowledge of Scripture and a sense of God's presence in life. Esther: a Jewish orphan who became queen of Persia and saved her people—Choose to be a woman God delights to use no matter what the circumstances.

◆ **Daring to be Different: A Study on Deborah**

Judith Couchman; Zondervan, 2002, 80pp. 6 sessions.

Through intriguing stories of biblical women, the Women of the Bible study series helps readers see how God wants to work in their lives. Questions and activities are designed to encourage personal application, understanding, and prayer, and to foster interaction within study groups. Each chapter includes 8 sections: Opening Narrative, Discussing the Story, Sharing Your Story, After Hours, Setting the Stage, Behind the Scenes, Prayer Meetings, and Words to Remember. The leader's guide makes it easy to facilitate weekly Bible studies to nurture knowledge of Scripture and a sense of God's presence in life. Deborah: a leader of Israel when God's people were in a period of great decline—Faith, courage, and devotion toward God have a powerful impact in a woman's life.

◆ **Entrusting Your Dreams to God: A Study on Hannah**

Judith Couchman; Zondervan, 2002, 80pp. 6 sessions.

Each chapter includes 8 sections: Opening Narrative, Discussing the Story, Sharing Your Story, After Hours, Setting the Stage, Behind the Scenes, Prayer Meetings, and Words to Remember. The leader's guide makes it easy to facilitate weekly Bible studies to nurture knowledge of Scripture and a sense of God's presence in life. Hannah: a woman who poured out her heart to God and received a miracle—Understand the wisdom and importance of committing dreams to God.

Miscellaneous Other Series:

◆ **A Faith of Your Own: Naming What You Really Believe**

Ronald J. Allen; Westminster John Knox Press, 2010, 144 pp.

Each chapter follows a similar format. The first section lists the most common ways a certain topic is understood in the Bible. The second section identifies important ways the church has interpreted that topic. The third section introduces contemporary perspectives. With that foundation, readers can make a judgment as to which viewpoints seem more or less persuasive to them personally. Finally, each chapter ends with questions for reflection for individuals or small groups.

◆ **Building Life from the Ground Up**

Changing Church Forum, 2007.

This study explores our relationship with God, others, our own needs and God's resources. Materials are written and edited by a team of Prince of Peace disciples.

The Cup of Our Life: A Guide for Spiritual Growth

Joyce Rupp; Ave Maria Press, 1997, 181pp. 6 sessions. (Contact Gloria Swanson for materials.)

Anyone thirsting for a more intimate and disciplined life of prayer will find a rich wellspring in The Cup of Our Life. In this original and practical book Joyce Rupp shares how ordinary cups can become sacred vessels that draw us closer to God. Includes 6 weekly sessions with daily readings. Includes scriptures, reflections and prayers.

Cure for the Common Life

Max Lucado; Nelson Impact, 2006, 128pp. 6 sessions.

Helping readers discover their “sweet spot”—the job or life calling they were created for. He guides readers on their search to find the unique abilities God may have built into them. For Lucado, discovering one's life purpose is really about honoring the God who gave the unique abilities in the first place, so he instructs readers not to make decisions based on greed. Instead, he exhorts them to “make a big deal out of God” rather than worrying about their own reputation and to trust God to use their “small beginnings” in his overall purpose. Leader's guide included.

Detective Stories From the Bible

J. Ellsworth Kalas; Abingdon Press, 2009, 140pp.

When we think of a detective story, we often think of murder mysteries. But the Bible contains some different kinds of detective stories. How is it, for instance, that some of the key personalities in the Bible story slip into the story almost unnoticed—like Judah, for example, an ancestor of King David and Jesus Christ. How did the symbolism of blood in Communion get started? When Cain was warned that the ground would no longer yield for him because he had killed his brother—did that set a precedent for connecting moral behavior with environmental harshness? These themes and many others are investigated in this study, accompanied by a discussion guide.

Finding God in Each Moment: The Practice of Discernment in Everyday Life

Carol Ann Smith and Eugene F. Merz; Ave Maria Press, 2006, 224pp. 9 sessions.

An invitation to become more attentive to the way the Spirit leads you and perceive more clearly God's presence and action in the world by considering your relationships as the very places in which you daily experience God's guidance. Through nine Moments of Love, the spiritual stages through which any healthy, growing relationship progresses, you will learn how to experience God's action while identifying the Qualities needed for becoming more responsive to God's invitation to growth. Selections from scripture, the writings of St. Ignatius, and the documents of Vatican II will lead you to discover how each moment holds the opportunity to be taught by God.

Freed-Up Financial Living

Dick Towner and John Tofilon; NavPress, 2008. DVD.

Through 6 engaging sessions on DVD, you'll discover tools and develop skills to help you control your finances so your finances don't end up controlling you. You'll get training in biblical financial principles as well as help and guidance.

◆ **The God of All Comfort: Finding Your Way into His Arms Through Scripture & Song**

Dee Brestin; 2009, 272pp. 10 sessions. (Music CD included)

Brestin demonstrates how speaking the truth to our souls with the help of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs can calm the grieving heart and help it rest like a child in the arms of a loving parent.

◆ **Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life**

Richard Peace; IVP Connect, 2006, 127pp. 12 sessions.

Teaches us how to engage in easy and comfortable conversation about the good news of Jesus--the pressure is off. Using small, easy steps, he explains the gospel in plain language and encourages us in practical ways to share our faith with friends, neighbors and colleagues. Written as a guide for small groups, is designed to be completed in twelve weekly sessions.

◆ **HomeGrown Faith**

David and Kathy Lynn; World Publishing, 2006, 160pp.

Home Grown faith will encourage and teach parents how they can shape the spiritual future of their kids one day at a time. Includes group questions at the end of each of the 12 chapters.

◆ **Listening for God**

Paula J. Carlson and Peter S. Hawkins; Augsburg Press, 1996, 151pp.
(Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

A resource intended to help readers investigate how life and faith merge in surprising ways and places. A leader's guide and video are available.

◆ **Make Over: Revitalizing the Many Roles You Fill**

Jen Hatmaker, 2007, 208pp. 6 weekly sessions.

Make Over, a spiritual pick-me-up for girls on the go. In this six-week study, you'll meet women from the Bible who balanced their sanity with great expectations. With her infectious humor and honest voice, Jen shares insights that will help you manage your time, set boundaries, and organize your world. Includes daily readings.

Money, Purpose, Joy: The Proven Path to Uncommon Financial Success

Matt Bell; NavPress, 2008, 208pp.

Topic is how to redirect your use of money to meet your deepest longings – to turn toward the life God intends for you.

◆ **Praying the Movies I: Daily Meditations from Classic Films**

Edward McNulty; Westminster John Knox Press, 2001, 192pp. 31 sessions.
(Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

A collection of 31 devotions that connect movies with the spiritual life of moviegoers. Each contains a passage from scripture, description of a scene from a film and meditation connecting the themes. Included are questions to encourage further reflection.

◆ **Praying the Movies II: More Daily Meditations from Classic Films**

Edward MNCnulty. Westminster John Knox Press, 2004, 256pp. 31 sessions.
(Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

Praying the Movies II brings together the ancient tradition of praise and prayer with a contemporary passion for the movies. Noted author and speaker Ed McNulty presents another collection of 31 devotionals -- one a day for a month -- that connect movies with the spiritual life of moviegoers. Each devotional contains passages from Scripture, an introduction to a scene from a popular film, a description of the scene, and a meditation on the themes in the scene and Scripture. Also included are questions to encourage further reflection, a suggestion for a hymn, and a brief prayer.

Upside Living in a Downside Economy

Mike Slaughter; Abingdon Press, 2009. 96pp.

Pastor and author Mike Slaughter offers insight into seeking God's perspective in our daily money concerns. With clarity and a servant's heart, Slaughter addresses vital topics such as financial and spiritual investments, personal motivation and God's will, money and marriage, and determining priorities. Written for individual and small-group study, it will guide participants in strengthening their spiritual connection while making economic corrections and, most importantly, responding according to God's plan.

◆ **Wrestling with Angels: An Intimate Look at the Tough Questions of Life**

Agard, Bonnie. New York: Trinity Television, The Parish of Trinity Church, 1993. 6 DVD set. 25 minutes each with study guide discussion. (Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

This six-part series tackles head-on the kind of tough, real-life questions that can lead a person into a deeper understanding of God. Each episode features ordinary people sharing their experiences of struggling with these questions. Their stories are interwoven with reflection and commentary by some of the most sought-after, bestselling Christian authors and speakers of our time. Comes with study guide.

Book Titles for Small Groups

(Discussion guides for most are available online; many include a discussion guide in the book)

◆ **A Heart That Dances**

Catherine Martin; NavPress, 2003, 304pp.

Catherine Martin presents an eight-week journey of daily quiet times that will help you learn how biblical characters interacted with God and how you can apply that knowledge to your own life. · Discover why God called David the man after His own heart · Find out why God allowed Moses to speak with Him face-to-face · Learn about God's heart of love for the people of Israel · Reflect on the relationship Old Testament prophets had with God A Heart That Dances will take you on a great adventure of intimacy with God.

Back to Jerusalem

Paul Hattaway; Gabriel Publishing, 2003, 150pp.

The story of 3 Chinese missionaries and their vision of what is going on inside China.

Cotton

Christopher Wilson; Mariner Books, 2006, 320pp.

In 1950, a black boy is born in segregated Eureka, Mississippi. Nothing startling there, except that he is born with white skin and blonde hair. His mother is properly black and his father, long gone, is an Icelander. This boy's name is Lee Cotton. In the course of the next 20-odd years, he will have a series of adventures that defy reason, beggar the imagination and stagger belief. And, that's a little like the way author Christopher Wilson writes. His style is irresistible because it is sly, sardonic and flat-out hilarious.

◆ **Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God**

Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby; Lifeway Christian Resources; 2007, 272pp.

This is a very good resource for Christians who want to become more open to experiencing God in their lives. The authors are Southern Baptists; they emphasize the importance of the role of the Holy Spirit in aligning Christians' lives with God's purposes while maintaining a strong respect or Biblical principle and example. The workbook is organized as a series of 12 weekly units with 5 daily lessons each week.

Forever Ours

Janis Amatuzio; New World Library, 2007, 224pp.

Forensic pathologist Janis Amatuzio first began recording the stories told to her by patients, police officers, and other doctors because she felt that no one spoke for the dead. She believed that the real experience of death — the spiritual and otherworldly experiences of those near death and their loved ones — was ignored by medical professionals, who thought of death as simply the cessation of breath.

The Friends We Keep: A Woman's Quest for the Soul of Friendship.

Sarah Zacharias Davis; WaterBrook Press, 2009, 224pp.

Davis presents a bold and touching view of the whys and wherefores of female relationships. She offers her own friendships as illustrations of the types of friendships women keep. Chapter by chapter, Davis discusses varying roles women adopt; how space between two people is sometimes healthy; when—or if—confrontation is called for; the possibilities of circles of friends and their survival rate; and much more.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows; Dial Press, 2008, 288pp.

The letters comprising this small charming novel begin in 1946, when single, 30-something author Juliet Ashton writes to her publisher to say she is tired of covering the sunny side of war and its aftermath. When Guernsey farmer Dawsey Adams finds Juliet's name in a used book and invites neighbors to write Juliet with their stories, the book's epistolary circle widens, putting Juliet back in the path of war stories while Guernsey was under German occupation. Juliet's quips are so clever, the Guernsey inhabitants so enchanting and the small acts of heroism so vivid and moving. Juliet finds in the letters not just inspiration for her next work, but also for her life—as will readers.

Hearts of Fire: Eight Women in the Underground Church and Their Stories of Costly Faith

The Voice of the Martyrs; Thomas Nelson publisher, 2003, 304pp.

Eight women from eight very different backgrounds. Yet the struggles they each faced rang with eerie similarity. These courageous women from across the globe--Pakistan, India, Romania, Former Soviet Union, China, Vietnam, Nepal, Indonesia--shared similar experiences of hardship, subjugation, and persecution, all because of their faith in Christ. Yet all of these women have emerged from adversity as leaders and heroines.

The Help

Kathryn Stockett; Penguin Group, 2009, 464pp. (Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

Minnie, Miss Celia, Aibileen, and Yule May are maids employed by Skeeter's friends. Each woman cooks, cleans, and cares for her boss's children, suffering slights and insults silently and sharing household secrets only among themselves. In the wake of the Junior League push to create separate bathrooms for the domestic help within private homes, Skeeter contacts a New York book editor with an idea. Soon she's conducting clandestine meetings with "the help" to capture their stories for publication. It is a daring and foolhardy plan, one certain to endanger not only the positions but the lives of the very women whose stories she transcribes -- as well as her own.

Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical

Shane Claiborne; Zandervan, 2007, 368pp.

Help for non-traditional in his own life, Shane Claiborne stirs questions about the church & the world, & challenges readers really live it, a Christian faith.

Ladies of Liberty

Cokie Roberts; William Morrow, 2008, 512pp.

Roberts presents a colorful blend of biographical portraits and behind-the-scenes vignettes chronicling women's public roles and private responsibilities. Recounted with the insight and humor of an expert storyteller and drawing on personal correspondence, private journals, and other primary sources Roberts brings to life the extraordinary accomplishments of women who laid the groundwork for a better society. From first ladies to freethinkers, educators to explorers, this exceptional group includes Abigail Adams, Margaret Bayard Smith, Martha Jefferson, Dolley Madison, Elizabeth Monroe, Louisa Catherine Adams, Eliza Hamilton, Theodosia Burr, Rebecca Gratz, Louisa Livingston, Rosalie Calvert, Sacajawea, and others.

The Last Lecture

Randy Pausch; Hyperion, 2008, 224pp.

A lot of professors give talks titled "The Last Lecture." Professors are asked to consider their demise and to ruminate on what matters most to them. And while they speak, audiences can't help but mull the same question: What wisdom would we impart to the world if we knew it was our last chance? If we had to vanish tomorrow, what would we want as our legacy? When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave—"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"—wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment. It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about living.

Led by Faith

Immaculee Ilibagiza; Hay House, 2009, 275pp.

Through her simple and eloquent voice, we experience her hardships and heartache as she struggles to survive and to find meaning and purpose in the aftermath of the Rwanda holocaust. It is the story of a naïve and vulnerable young woman, orphaned and alone, navigating through a bleak and dangerously hostile world with only an abiding faith in God to guide and protect her.

Left To Tell

Immaculee Ilibagiza; Hay House, 2007, 215pp.

In 1994, Rwandan native Ilibagiza was 22 years old and home from college to spend Easter with her devout Catholic family, when the death of Rwanda's Hutu president sparked a three-month slaughter of nearly one million ethnic Tutsis in the country. She survived by hiding in a Hutu pastor's tiny bathroom with seven other starving women for 91 cramped, terrifying days.

◆ Making Sense of Scripture

David J. Lose; Augsburg Fortress, 2009, 206pp.

Chances are we all own a Bible. But do we really know what kind of book it is? While some view the Bible as a divine reference book and others treat it as a supernatural history or science text book, Lutherans value it as the story of God's historic and on-going work in the world, a story that seeks to draw us into its pages today. Making Sense of Scripture is a dialogue that encourages readers to bring their questions or doubts to the table when reading Scripture. During this conversation, there are different opportunities for the reader to interact with the Bible, ultimately leaving room for personal transformation of the heart and mind. This resource is designed for conversation and will give you a framework for reading Scripture through a Lutheran lens.

Nada

Carmen Laforet; Random House, 2008, 214pp.

A modern Spanish classic, first published sixty years ago and translated into eighteen languages, now available in English with a preface by Mario Vargas Llosa. The novel conveys beautifully the spirit of war-torn, brutalized Barcelona.

Out to Lunch

Walt Crocker; iUniverse, Inc., 2000, 172pp.

Offbeat humor with a cast of characters on the fringe of society. Out to Lunch is primarily about people who live on the fringe of society: minimum wage workers, bikers, new agers, etc. The characters bounce around like colorful rubber balls off the narrator-paddle. He is the constant, the voice of reason, but he is influenced at times also. At times, funny, but sometimes the string breaks and tragedy ensues.

People of the Book

Geraldine Brooks; Viking Adult, 2008, 384pp.

One of the earliest Jewish religious volumes to be illuminated with images, the Sarajevo Haggadah survived centuries of purges and wars thanks to people of all faiths who risked their lives to safeguard it. Geraldine Brooks, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of March, has turned the intriguing but sparsely detailed history of this precious volume into an emotionally rich, thrilling fictionalization that retraces its turbulent journey. In the hands of Hanna Heath, an impassioned rare-book expert restoring the manuscript in 1996 Sarajevo, it yields clues to its guardians and whereabouts: an insect wing, a wine stain, salt crystals, and a white hair. While readers experience crucial moments in the book's history through a series of fascinating, fleshed-out short stories, Hanna pursues its secrets scientifically, and finds that some interests will still risk everything in the name of protecting this treasure. A complex love story, thrilling mystery, vivid history lesson, and celebration of the enduring power of ideas.

◆ **Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God**

Sybil MacBeth; Paraclete Press, 2007, 110pp. (Available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

Those struggling with contemplative or intercessory prayer might want to consider communing with God through markers and crayons. Amid gentle personal anecdotes, MacBeth illustrates each step of the process, providing not just instruction but inspiration, by sharing her own prayer pages as well as those of her students. She even includes a chapter on using one's computer for the process. Readers of all ages, experience and religions will find this a fresh, invigorating and even exhilarating way to experience time with themselves and their Creator.

Questions God Asks Us

Trevor Hudson; Upper Room, 2008, 144pp.

"I thought the Bible existed to give me solutions to my everyday concerns and dilemmas," writes Hudson. "Then I realized I might be approaching God and the Bible from the wrong direction. It was as if God said to me, 'Trevor, rather than you always asking questions of me, start listening to the questions I have for you.'" Each of 10 questions Hudson excerpts from the Old and New Testaments serve as a starting point for genuine conversation with the Creator. He assures, "We're not starting the conversation with God from scratch. God has already begun it. We just need to plug into the conversation that is already going on." Questions God Asks Us offers a fresh approach for personal devotions and a unique discussion tool for small group Bible studies. It's sure to bless anyone longing for a meaningful, growing relationship with God.

Safely Home

Randy Alcorn; Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2003, 416pp.

Executive Ben Fielding hits upon a perfect plan: he will make his company millions of dollars by using Chinese labor to manufacture its electronic components. To kickstart his plan, he visits China, where he stays with college roommate Li Quan, whom he hasn't seen in over 20 years. From Li, Ben learns that his initial impressions of China from his research and from visits over the years are false, but Ben doesn't believe Li's stories of the persecution of Christians until Li is taken to jail. As Ben rediscovers Jesus through Li's faith, he discovers the truth that God does not promise an easy life on Earth, only eternal happiness after death.

◆ **The Secret Message of Jesus**

Brian D. McLaren; Thomas Nelson, 2007, 256pp.

McLaren invites you to discover afresh the transforming message of Jesus—an open invitation to radical change, an enlightening revelation that exposes sham and ignites hope, an epic story that is good news for everyone, whatever their gender, race, class, politics, or religion.

The Shack

William P. Young; Windblown Media, 2008, 256pp. Also in DVD.

(DVD available from Gloria Swanson at Prince of Peace)

A kidnapped daughter is presumed dead, and when her grieving father receives a letter, apparently from God, inviting him to the scene of the crime, he can't help but go. What he finds there will change his world forever.

Still Alice

Lisa Genova; Gallery Publishing, 2009, 292pp.

An extraordinary debut novel about an accomplished woman who slowly loses her thoughts and memories to a harrowing disease -- only to discover that each day brings a new way of living and loving.

Those Who Save Us

Jenna Blum; Mariner Books, 2005, 496pp.

For fifty years, Anna Schlemmer has refused to talk about her life in Germany during World War II. Her daughter, Trudy, was only three when she and her mother were liberated by an American soldier and went to live with him in Minnesota. Trudy's sole evidence of the past is an old photograph: a family portrait showing Anna, Trudy, and a Nazi officer, the Obersturmfuhrer of Buchenwald. Driven by the guilt of her heritage, Trudy, now a professor of German history, begins investigating the past and finally unearths the dramatic and heartbreaking truth of her mother's life. Combining a passionate, doomed love story, a vivid evocation of life during the war, and a poignant mother/daughter drama, *Those Who Save Us* is a profound exploration of what we endure to survive and the legacy of shame.

Three Cups of Tea

Greg Mortenson; Penguin Books, 2007, 349pp.

The inspiring account of one man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote, and anti-American reaches of Asia.