

Resources for Group Studies - Fall 2019

How to use this guide:

Studying Scripture and Christian teaching in community is a needed element in our personal transformation and how groups become closer relationally and stronger spiritually.

Truth is, it takes more than the selection of a study. Healthy groups are creating an environment to learn content, to glean from one another, to be curious and wonder, and to search and pray. We pray that each of our groups has a vibrant spiritual culture where the Holy Spirit is invited to be at work.

Further, changing up the “medium” of study is an important factor in leading effective studies. Meaning, one series could be a book study, another could be video based, another could be curriculum based, another could be the inductive Bible study guides. You will want to change the medium, and consider rotating teachers, if those gifts exist in your group.

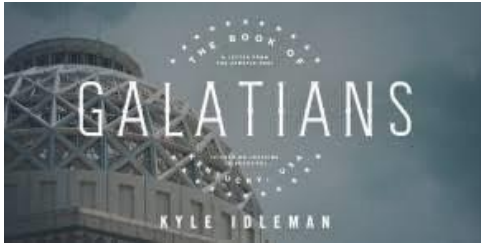
Our vision for group life is “people who gather in community practicing the way of Jesus.” Our resource list reflects three core values of group life that we believe cultivates practicing the way of Jesus. These include: Spiritual Formation, Missional Living, and Strengthening Relationships.

Most of these studies require minimum financial purchase; our video-based ones from RightNow Media only require a free account that you can set-up [here](#).

The logo for RightNow Media, featuring the word "rightnow" in a lowercase, rounded, orange font, followed by the word "MEDIA" in a larger, uppercase, orange font.

Spiritual Formation

Complimentary to our Fall Sermon Journey, some other options to consider:

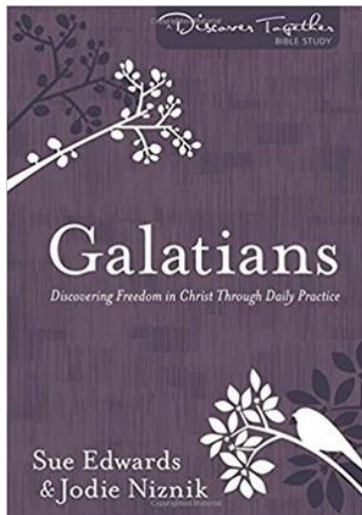


The Book of Galatians - Kyle Idleman
(video-based curriculum from RightNow Media)

Why we're recommending it:

We wanted to offer a video option for those groups that wanted a video curriculum. Kyle Idleman is an effective Bible teacher and we love that it's a 6 sessions series and each one is under 12 minutes in duration, leaving plenty of time to discuss the passages together.

Click [here](#) for the RightNow Media link to the videos, leader's guide, and participant handouts.



Galatians: Discovering Freedom in Christ Through Daily Practice - Sue Edwards & Jodie Niznik

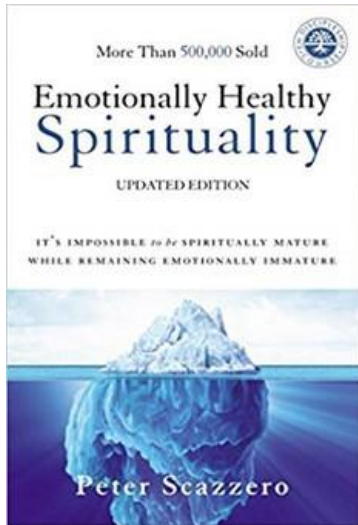
Why we're recommending it:

This study is a recommended resource for all our groups including women's, men's, and mixed. Dig deeper into Galatians with gifted pastors and teachers, Sue Edwards and Jodie Niznik to discover the nuances of grace that will revolutionize your life. Grace is perhaps the most misunderstood doctrine of the Christian faith. If we truly grasped its truth, we'd be set free to live in the power of the Holy Spirit and to live out Christ's law of love with overwhelming joy. We'd be unstoppable! Each lesson also explores a different spiritual practice that guides you to live what you're learning.

The study guide is available online at [Amazon](#) or [Christian Books](#).

Spiritual Formation

Complimentary to our Fall Sermon Journey, some other options to consider:



Emotionally Healthy Spirituality - Peter Scazzaro

Why We're Recommending It:

According to group leader feedback, Scazzaro's *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* has been a widely appreciated study and we happily recommend it for groups that have been meeting for a few years and want to go deeper in their understanding of their personal and collective spiritual formation. We encourage you to read the book alongside the small group discussion guides.

Click [here](#) for published Group Leader guide and packet.



Why We're Recommending It:

We're getting a lot of great feedback from a group for men in Foxboro. It's a 7-part video series led by teacher John Woodward and each part clocks in around 7-9 minutes covering a variety of topics including: identity, marriage, parenting, career, success and the different seasons of a man's life (which in itself was powerful).

Here's the link to the videos and leader guide - <https://groupleaders.org/seven>

We'd like to encourage each participant to make the small investment in purchasing the discussion guide - you can get a group discount and make a commitment to study this resource together. <https://store.northpoint.org/products/7-questions-study-guide>

Spiritual Formation

Complimentary to our Fall Sermon Journey, some other options to consider:



The advertisement features a stack of 'ADVENT' devotional guides. The top guide is titled 'ADVENT' and 'A FOUR-WEEK GUIDE FOR GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION'. It lists authors: KÖSTENBERGER, MCNIEL, CHRISTOPHER J. H. WRIGHT, DANIEL J. TREIER, ELIZABETH SUNG, HAN-LIEN KANTZER KOMLINE, JOSHUA CHOONMIN KANG, MARK GALLI, PATRICIA RAYBON, PETER J. LEITHART, THABITI ANYABWILE, and TIMOTHY KELLER. A gold circular badge on the left says 'AS LOW AS \$1 PER COPY!'. A red button says 'ORDER NOW'. Text on the right says 'Advent is a four-week devotional for individuals or groups as they journey through the Advent season.' and 'Provide your church with this devotional guide for as little as \$1 per gift'. A 'FEATURING' section lists the authors again. The CT logo is in the bottom left corner.

Advent:

Sometimes groups like to share time of journey together through Advent and this is difficult because the reality is that most groups will only meet twice in December.

In light of that, here are a couple of options to consider:

Daily Devotional - Consider committing as a group to reading this devotional separately and then for your time of study, highlight one that stirred in you the most. This is something you can do in step with each other, though you may only have a few group gatherings. Christianity Today has a beautiful resource featured brilliant writers that you can preview here -

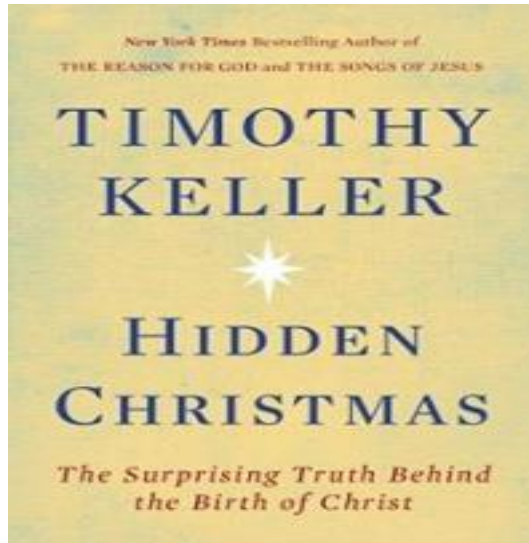
<https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0430/9865/files/finalpreview.pdf?31>



Video Series The Greatest Gift with Ann Voskamp - What was special about this one is that Ann really helps you slow down in and sink into the peace and serenity of expectation. The videos are beautifully shot and Ann's teaching content is truly inspiring. It's a 4-part series with each video ranging between 17-19 minutes. Although we don't typically recommend that length, perhaps show one or two video for the month, maybe Videos 1 and 4. Remember you don't have to complete an entire series to grow, you just need to spend time and energy working through Biblically-rooted, Christian content in learning and applying.

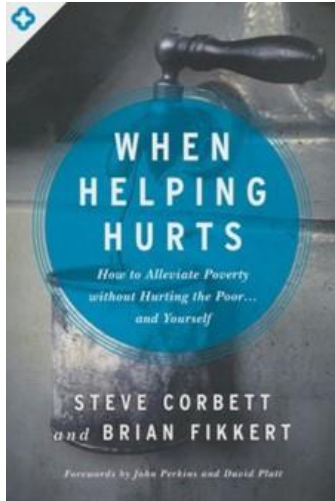
Spiritual Formation

Complimentary to our Fall Sermon Journey, some other options to consider:



The Hidden Meaning of Christmas by Tim Keller - this 130-page small book contains a lot of beautiful wisdom on the profound birth of our Savior. For those that want to dig deeper, this is a great resource for you. Though there is no accompanying video curriculum or resource guide, experienced leaders will have much content to draw from to create a lesson for the gathering.

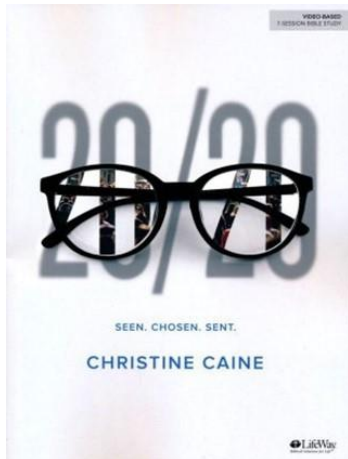
Missional Living



When Helping Hurts - the Small Group Experience - Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert ([RightNow Media link](#))

Why We're Recommending It:

Over the years we keep learning that sometimes we are causing more harm to the very same people we are actually trying to help. How does this happen? Corbett and Fikkert offer their wisdom and experience on how to avoid the traps that cause damage and instead help us navigate thoughtfully how to minister to those in need in truly Christ-like ways that affirm the humanity of everyone involved.



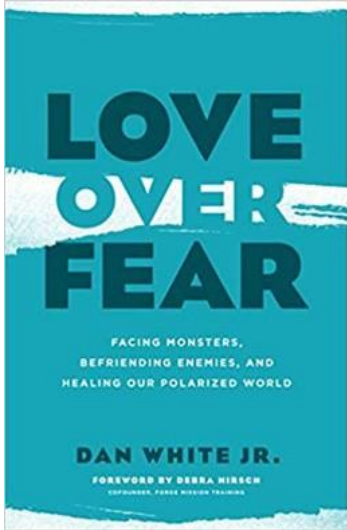
20/20 Bible Study Book - Christine Caine

Christine Caine is passionate about seeing every woman equipped to live her life on a mission for Jesus. In this 7-session study, you'll develop a new understanding of how God sees you and has chosen you to help make Jesus' name known on this planet. Through biblical teaching and lessons from her own life, Christine challenges you to share the story of how God's love has transformed your life right where you are. This is a study geared toward women. The 20/20 Bible study book is designed to be used in conjunction with the 20/20 DVD Leader Kit found on [Lifeway](#), [Amazon](#), and [Christian Books](#).

Why we're recommending it:

Christine challenges and equips you to share the story of how God's love has transformed your life right where you are.

Missional Living



Love Over Fear: Loving Monsters, Befriending Enemies in a Polarized World - Dan White (book and free group discussion content)

Why We're Recommending It:

There has never been a more challenging time to thoughtfully discuss our societal and political concerns. Much of our discourse has become toxic and painful. Author Dan White Jr. believes this is an opportunity for the church to give our culture a much-needed example and identifies the need for love in our culture that has become fearful and angry towards their ideological rivals. You can find the book at [Amazon](#) or [Christian Books](#).



What is Q Media? And Why We're Recommending It:

Think of it as a mini-Netflix channel for our cultural conversations informed largely by a Christian viewpoint. Q Ideas gathers communicators and leaders around the challenging topics in our society.

We believe groups can be a place for us to learn new ideas, respectfully share our perspectives and be challenged by the convictions of others.

This is a brand-new resource that we are looking for a few groups to experiment for us. You can stream the content on a smart-tv, handheld device. Q Talks are TED Talk style and are either 9 or 18 minutes long and each talk has a set of discussion questions on its talk page.

Would love to set you up with your account, please contact [Pastor Tim Ghali](#) directly to get access (and he wants your feedback for the future of this resource).

Strengthening Relationships

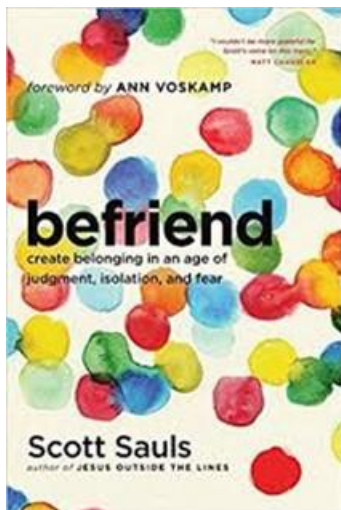


Love Talk - Les and Leslie Parrott (book and/or RightNow Media series)

Why We're Recommending It:

We like this 5-part video series by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott that help you determine your personal communication style and learn how you can speak your partner's language.

Video chapters range from 7-17 minutes and the study features free Leaders Guide and Participant Handouts. Books and workbooks are available for purchase through [RightNow Media](#).



Befriend - Scott Sauls

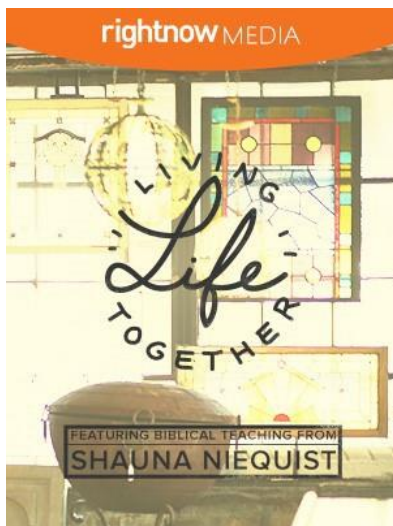
Why We're Recommending It:

A study on Friendship & Relationships!

Because we can all be better at friendship. Pastor Scott Saul helps us appreciate why relationships can be so hard to maintain and gives fresh wisdom on how to close the gaps in our friendships.

This is a terrific study for new groups or groups relaunching with new members. It's intense, fun, and yet interesting and insightful. ([Book](#) and/or [RightNow Media series](#))

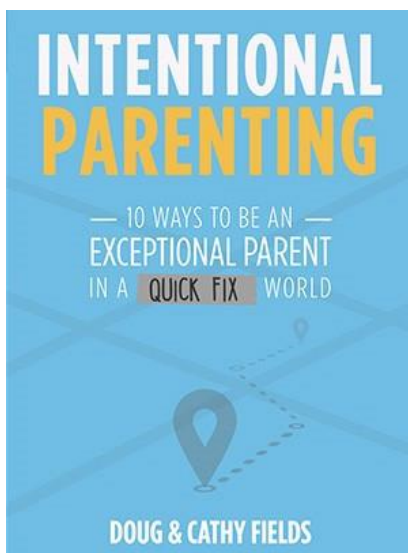
Strengthening Relationships



Living Life Together - Shauna Niequist

Why We're Recommending It:

Shauna Niequist asks, "Do you stay busy to avoid deep connections? Do you resist community for fear of being judged? Do you need to reconcile a relationship?" Author and speaker Shauna Niequist is passionate about living life in community. In four intimate sessions, she walks through Scripture, challenging women to step out of isolation and fear and pursue relationships rooted in rest, grace, and reconciliation. Find Leader's guide and handouts [here](#).



Intentional Parenting: 10 Ways to be an Exceptional Parent in a Quick Fix World - Doug Fields

Why we're recommending it:

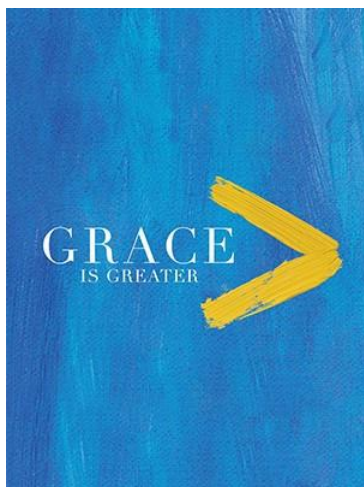
Doug Fields is a speaker, writer, and former pastor who has dedicated his ministry to the spiritual formation of adolescents. Throughout his career, he has focused on parenting, specifically what do our children and teens need in their own life.

This 5 session video series is packed with practical wisdom, a bit of humor, and solid principles in becoming better parents. We also liked that each video is less than 10 minutes long, leaving plenty of time for discussion.

Click [here](#) for the video series on RightNow Media.

Archives

Previously Featured Resources – they're still great, just taking them out of the rotation above.

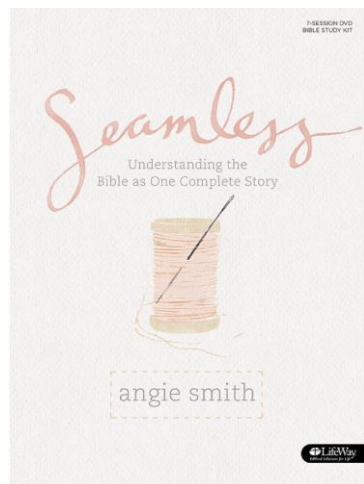


Grace is Greater - Kyle Idleman
(video-based curriculum from RightNow Media)

Why We're Recommending It:

The sermon series will be focused on the topic of grace this fall and we want to offer groups another voice on the depth and breadth of the Biblical teaching of grace.

Click [here](#) to access video curriculum and leader's guide, etc. on RightNow Media, or purchase the book at [Christian Books](#).



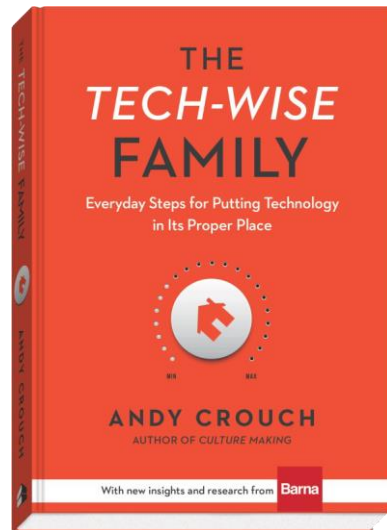
Seamless - Angie Smith

A 7-week study that covers the people, places and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Participants will gain an overarching understanding of the fundamental layout and meaning of God's Word. *Seamless* helps replace insecurity that holds participants back with clarity and helps them move forward with confidence in their understanding of Scripture. Each week of study features key information that ties all of scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message and is accompanied by maps, general Bible facts, and word studies. Plenty of content and supplements for book based only study or use of video teachings. This study can be found at [Lifeway](#) or [Christian Books](#).

Why we're recommending it:

No matter where we find ourselves in the knowledge of the Bible, this is a study that helps you have a balcony moment where you begin to piece together the arc of the Old Testament and New Testament and see more clearly the bigger story of Jesus. As you do, we hope you'll begin to sense why grace is truly so undeserving and all about the grace and love of God.

Archives



The Tech-Wise Family - study for parents by Andy Crouch

Why we're recommending it:

Modern families struggle with the role and the exposure of technology in their home life. Working out of his own family experience, author Andy Crouch brings wisdom, data and a call for discipline to master technology so that we "can reclaiming real life in a world of devices." it does not become a master of us.

In addition to the book, there is a free 21-day Tech-Wise Challenge you and your group can utilize and then discuss your experience: <https://www.barna.com/techwisechallenge/>.

The book is available at [Barna](#), [Amazon](#), and [Christian Books](#).

Not Alone - A Study on Friendship



In this six-week study, join Jennie Allen, Lauren Chandler, and Amena Brown as they talk about friendship. Discover biblical examples of friendship, why we need them, and identify the pitfalls, challenges, and joys of friendship. This study has a women's group leaning but is applicable for all. You can find the study with videos on [RightNow Media](#).

Why We're Recommending It:

Topics include toxic relationships, boundaries, and how to rebuild broken trust. But most of all, the teachers, real-life stories, and study guides will help you celebrate the encouragement, wisdom, and love that only comes when you're not alone.