

DGROUP STUDY OPTIONS

Please contact Bonna (bonna@northrockhill.com) at least two weeks prior to starting your study to allow us sufficient time to order materials for you. You are, of course, welcome to order them for your group yourself if you prefer.

TOPICAL OR BOOK STUDIES

You Are a Theologian: An Invitation to Know and Love God Well

J.T. English and Jen Wilkin • 10 weeks

Theology can be intimidating. But it doesn't have to be. Whether conversations about theology have felt out of reach, over your head, or irrelevant, consider this book an invitation to the dialogue. The goal of theology is knowing and loving God well. This is a lifelong endeavor, a never-ending pursuit, not for the sake of knowledge, but for an ever-deepening relationship with God Himself. Authors Jen Wilkin and J. T. English invite you to become not merely a consumer of theology, but a contributor to the conversation, and to grow in faithfulness to the Great Commission's call to make disciples.

- Homework is required
- Includes small group discussion questions
- Each lesson stands on its own, so it's easy to start and stop as needed

I'm ALL IN: What it means to be an All IN Christian

Uses the storying method • 5 weeks

"All In" looks at key stories in both the Old and New Testament that help define what it means to be an ALL IN Christian. Topics covered are: Redefining Christianity (Jeremiah 29:1-11), We Engage Fearlessly (Daniel 1:1-21), We Share Openly (Daniel 2), We Love Relentlessly (Daniel 3), and The Power of Together (1 Corinthians 13).

- No homework
- The leader's guide includes tips on how to lead an effective storytelling small group, a process for preparing for the story, a transition to use during the group before telling the story, questions for your group to discuss after the story is told, and life applications for your group to process together.

- The leader's guide is available through the church.

The Art of Neighboring

Uses the storying method • 4 weeks

Through His actions and parables, Jesus shows us how to love and serve others His way! The Art of Neighboring covers four stories/parables in Luke 10 and 19, asking key comprehension and application questions along the way so your group can learn and apply what it means to be Christ-like to others.

- No homework
- The leader's guide includes tips on how to lead an effective storytelling small group, a process for preparing for the story, a transition to use during the group before telling the story, questions for your group to discuss after the story is told, and life applications for your group to process together.
- The leader's guide is available through the church.

BIBLE STUDIES - OLD TESTAMENT

The Multiplier: What God Starts in You Can't End with You

Uses the storying method • 9 weeks

"Go and make disciples..." includes making disciples in your daily life! Multiplier is a 9-week small group curriculum in the classic "storying" format. It covers the highlights of the stories of Abraham and Jacob from Genesis 11-32, walking your group through the reality that small groups are meant to grow, and that each of us is to join Christ on mission in our daily lives with every person we meet!

- No homework
- The leader's guide includes tips on how to lead an effective storytelling small group, a process for preparing for the story, a transition to use during the group before telling the story, questions for your group to discuss after the story is told, and life applications for your group to process together.
- The leader's guide is available through the church.

Ezra and Nehemiah: Rebuilding What's Ruined

Ian Duguid • 10 weeks • The Gospel Centered Life in the Bible series

This study will renew your joy in the Lord and encourage you to turn away from your own way and toward God, ultimately discovering Jesus is the one who rebuilds and brings new life where there is ruin and decay. Ezra and Nehemiah cover topics like repentance, celebration, opposition, worship, and discouragement.

- Although the intro material states otherwise, we recommend that the weekly short article and passage discussion questions be completed as homework. There is also a practical application section to use during group time.

BIBLE STUDIES - NEW TESTAMENT

Saints and Scoundrels

Nancy Guthrie • 9 weeks

The story of Jesus in the Gospels features a diverse array of interesting characters, including some who claimed to be saints but proved to be scoundrels, as well as scoundrels who were transformed into saints. In *Saints and Scoundrels in the Story of Jesus*, Nancy Guthrie offers a fresh perspective on the individuals who shaped and motivated people such as John the Baptist, Peter, the Pharisees, Zacchaeus, Judas, Caiaphas, Barabbas, Stephen, and Paul. Join her as she reintroduces us to these biblical characters, helping us to see more clearly how they reveal the generous grace of Jesus toward sinners.

- Homework is required
- Includes small group discussion questions and a leader's guide
- Each lesson stands on its own, so it's easy to start and stop as needed
- This study is based on her book by the same name. You DO NOT need the book to do the study. The workbook is available through the church.

Following Jesus Together

Uses the storying method • 34 stories included

Follow Jesus right alongside His disciples as this curriculum takes your small group through the disciples' journey of meeting Jesus, following Him, getting to know Him, and beginning to grow. This highlight reel from Matthew through Acts will explore some of the most pivotal moments during Jesus' time on earth.

- No homework
- The leader's guide includes tips on how to lead an effective storytelling small group, a process for preparing for the story, a transition to use during the group before telling the story, questions for your group to discuss after the story is told, and life applications for your group to process together.
- The leader's guide is available through the church.

Steadfast: A Study on the Book of James

Courtney Doctor • 8 weeks

Faithfulness regardless of our circumstances. That's what it means to be steadfast. But in a world where so much can undermine our faith or pull us off track, steadfastness is often a rare and elusive trait. James longs for his readers to be steadfast. His letter meets us in our suffering and sickness, our trials and temptations, our wealth and poverty, our ups and downs. He confronts our sin, our speech, and our pride. He encourages believers to have a more resilient and concrete faith: not just to hear the word, but to do it. He calls us to persevere in truth in a world of lies, to see that God's steadfast love is ultimately the source of our steadfast faith.

- 5 days of study each week—observing, interpreting, and applying the text
- Devotional commentary with space to journal your thoughts
- Small group discussion questions

James: Community in a Changing Age

Uses the storytelling method • 8 weeks

Are you ready to dive into what it looks like to grow to be more like Jesus? Community in a Changing Age walks your group through the book of James, a concise “how-to” guide that helps Christians grow in spiritual maturity. It's both extremely practical and full of sound biblical truth.

- No homework

- The leader's guide includes tips on how to lead an effective storytelling small group, a process for preparing for the story, a transition to use during the group before telling the story, questions for your group to discuss after the story is told, and life applications for your group to process together.
- The leader's guide is available through the church.

1 Peter: Life as an Outsider

Robert Thune • 10 Weeks • Gospel Centered Life in the Bible series

This study examines living a gospel-shaped life in a contrary culture. Especially helpful for those who feel like outsiders because of their faith. 1 Peter will provide challenge and encouragement for your interactions with the post-Christian world.

- Although the intro material states otherwise, we recommend that the weekly short article and passage discussion questions be completed as homework. There is also a practical application section to use during group time.

SHARING YOUR STORY [another option]

Taking several weeks to let everyone share their story is a great way to get to know people in your groups on a deeper level. It provides insight into what people have shared. Additionally, it can lead to group members opening up more as they feel safer and more connected to each other.

This is a framework of ways to incorporate this into your small group:

The timing of doing this is important!

Asking a new group of people to open up within the first few months of meeting can be overwhelming. Sharing your personal story requires trust and a safe environment. Both of these require time with each other.

We recently did this at the end of our first full year and found that in our group it was enough time to build trust and safety among each other. It also helped tie

pieces of people's stories together that were shared throughout the previous months.

Give them enough time to share

Setting aside a whole meeting for each person/couple will give them enough time and space to share without the feeling of being pressured to fit in all into a specific amount of time. It allows the meeting to be focused on only the person/couple's story without distractions. It also gives the group enough space for discussion and/or questions afterward without feeling rushed.

Set the example

Go first as leaders. It helps set the tone and takes the pressure off your members for "doing it right." Ask for volunteers for the next week at the end or beginning of each meeting. You don't have to have a full schedule set - let people volunteer to share as they feel led and comfortable.

Format is not the most important thing

We don't care HOW you share but THAT you share! There is no right or wrong way to do this. You can say "the purpose of sharing is to get to know each other on a deeper level and hear where people have come from and what has shaped them into who they are now. Share in the way that is most comfortable for you. If you need to have ground rules, we will happily abide by them." An example is one person's childhood and adolescence was very hard to talk about, and it was a big deal for them to share. Their rule was "no questions or interruptions until they were talking about their years in college." Make sure to thank everyone for sharing as they wrap up.

Format Examples:

- Couples take turns sharing their childhood stories up until they met, then they tag-team from there to the present.
- Each person can go decade by decade, so ages 0-10, 11-20, etc.

There were no requirements on where to start, how long to take or what to include. Going first as the leader sets a good example of how deep you can go. We shared the hardest parts of our stories as a model of what it could look like. There was no pressure for others to feel like they had to do it the same.

Encourage follow-up questions

Some stories won't necessarily spark any follow-up questions, and that's ok. But let people know that follow-up questions are welcome. Also, let the sharers know that they can ask people to hold all follow-up questions until they are done, or that people are free to interrupt as questions arise while they share.

Remind them of the guidelines regularly

This could be something like "We know what we are asking isn't easy for all of us and that it is a big deal to share your story. Please remember that this is a safe space to share and that what is said in the group stays in the group." As the weeks went on and connections started to be revealed, we also made sure to highlight the goodness and faithfulness of God in both how He's worked in all our lives and in how He's brought us all together in this group for this season.