

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR SMALL GROUPS - FALL 2023

*These resources can be purchased with built-in study guides, or they have companion studies.

 - RightNow Media Resource

The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door

by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon

Great book if there is a desire to find doable ways to build community in your neighborhood, and from that to discover ways to foster relationships through which the life and love of the Gospel can be shared.

Pursuit of God

by A.W. Tozer

Chapter-by-chapter study of *Pursuit of God*, inviting people to go through a short (so manageable) book, but a book that will lead them to dig deep into their faith and reflect on how they might grow in their love, devotion and ultimately pursuit of God.

There are two studies which I think could fit with different groups:

Positive Action (10 sessions): Structured with a memory verse, chapter reading, and discussion questions that are meant to spark discussion which include *Pursuit of God*, but open up more generally as well.

The Cost of Discipleship

by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What can the call to discipleship, the adherence to the word of Jesus, mean today to the businessman, the soldier, the laborer, or the aristocrat? What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is his will for us today? Drawing on the Sermon on the Mount, Dietrich Bonhoeffer answers these timeless questions by providing a seminal reading of the dichotomy between "cheap grace" and "costly grace."

Knowing God

by J.I. Packer

50th Anniversary Edition - For half a century, J. I. Packer's classic has helped Christians around the world discover the wonder, the glory, and the joy of knowing God. Stemming from Packer's profound theological knowledge, *Knowing God* brings together two key facets of the Christian faith—knowing about God and knowing God through a close relationship with Jesus Christ. Written in an engaging and practical tone, this thought-provoking work seeks to renew and enrich our understanding of God. *Knowing God* was named by *Christianity Today* as one of the top fifty books that have shaped evangelicals. With a companion Bible study, devotional journal and 11-session study guide, readers can explore these biblical themes for themselves in this new fiftieth anniversary edition.

The Pursuit of Holiness

by Jerry Bridges

"Be holy, for I am holy," commands God to His people. But holiness is something that is often missed in the Christian's daily life. According to Jerry Bridges, Christians are often confused about their role in bringing about holiness. In this classic, Bridges helps us see clearly just what we should rely on God to do—and where we need to accept responsibility.

River Dwellers: Living in the Fullness of the Spirit

by Rob Reimer

Did you ever wish there was more to your Christian life? Too often the Christian life is reduced to going to church, attending meetings, serving God, and doing devotions. But Jesus promised us abundant life—a deep, intimate, satisfying connection with the living God. How do we access the abundant life that Jesus promised? The key is the presence and life of the Holy Spirit within us. Jesus said that the Spirit of God flows within us like a river—He is the River of Life. But we need to dwell in the river in order to access the Spirit's fullness.

Discipleship Explored

A Philippians-based study which helps believers to know how to live as disciples of Christ Jesus today. It goes beyond simply teaching the right moves—go to church, pray, read the Bible, share the gospel—and focuses on the power which drives discipleship: the love of Christ. The greatest love anyone can ever know.

- 8 sessions—films average 15 mins (need to buy participant guides)
- Each session is divided up into six parts (which are malleable to the small group): leader prayer, coffee, discussion of last week's "Follow Up," watch film (15 mins), explore Philippians, prayer to close

Philippians

by Michael DeFazio

(New Testament faculty at Ozark Christian College)

Walk through the book of Philippians encouraging you to live a cruciform life. This series will show how the gospel changes people. This study is taught primarily to help people understand why Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians, what he was trying to address, and how this message that Paul gave them should impact our understanding of Christ, our life as Christians, and our life together as the Church.

- 8 sessions—films average 14 mins (need to print participants guides)
- Each session is structured into three parts: read the scripture passage, watch the video (14 mins) and take notes on the handout provided, and then discuss and reflect together.

The Book of Philippians

by Jo Saxton

The life Jesus invites us into when we follow him is one of sacrifice. But does sacrificial living mean the Christian life should be riddled with sorrow? Paul answers that question in his letter to the Philippians with a resounding no. Paul, and the Philippians with him, lived joyfully in the midst of persecution, prison and poverty. In this eight-session series (average 8 mins/session), Jo Saxton takes us through Philippians to encourage us to follow Jesus no matter what life throws at us. Through Paul's words and example, learn how joy and sacrifice can go hand-in-hand.

The Book of Job

by Francis Chan

The world teaches us to revolve our actions, thoughts and beliefs around ourselves. We are encouraged to think, “It’s all about you!” In the world’s philosophy, we become the author and hero of our story. But the Bible teaches a different view, one where another hero—the actual Author of life—takes center stage. In the book of Job, God asserts his pre-eminence and displays his power. Join Francis Chan in this eight-session series (average 11 mins/session) on Job as he explores the overriding truth that we exist not for ourselves but to glorify the God who deserves all worship and praise.

The Other Half of the Church

by Jim Wilder & Michel Hendricks

In *The Other Half of Church*, join Michel and Jim's journey as they couple brain science with the Bible to identify how to overcome spiritual stagnation by living a full-brained faith. You'll also learn the four ingredients necessary to develop and maintain a vibrant transformational community where spiritual formation occurs, relationships flourish, and the toxic spread of narcissism is eradicated.

Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools

by Tyler Staton

Within the pages of *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools*, Staton addresses common roadblocks to prayer and gives you the confidence to come to God just as you are. Through timely biblical teaching, powerful storytelling, and insights on historic Christian practices, Staton gives you the tools you need to:

- Express your doubts and disappointments about prayer
- Discover and practice multiple postures of prayer, including silence, persistence, confession and more
- Understand and embrace the wonder and mystery of prayer in everyday life
- Open or reopen the line of communication with your Creator and experience afresh His divine power on earth

How To Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People

by Pete Greig

How to Pray is a raw, real and relevant look at prayer for everyone—from the committed follower of Jesus to the skeptic and the scared. Full of biblically sound wisdom, *How to Pray* will offer honest encouragement and real-life methods to refresh your spirit and help you practice life-giving and lifechanging prayer. Revolutionize your prayer life by learning:

- How to start praying
- How to keep prayer simple
- How to ask God for things
- How to cope with unanswered prayer
- How to pray without words
- How to hear God