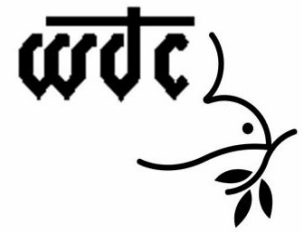


Check It Out !

New Stuff from the Conference Resource Library
Marlene Bogard, Director Pat Schmidt, Assistant
Vol 17. 7 August, 2005



Ideas For Adult & Small Group Study

Threatened With the Resurrection : self-preservation and Christ's Way of Peace.

Amstutz, Jim S. Herald Press, 2002. 230.97 AMS

With clear biblical grounding and the strength of personal experience Amstutz issues a challenging and compelling call to abandon the world's way of self preservation and follow Jesus' way of nonviolence and peace. 13 chapters, with discussion questions.

Praying the Scriptures for Your Children

Berndt, Jodie. Zondervan, 2001. 248.32 BER

How to use the Bible as a book of prayers that can powerfully influence your children's lives. Includes suggestions for praying for your child's faith, for their character, safety, relationships and future. Includes sample prayers; a good study for parents.

On Jordan's Stormy Banks: lessons from the book of Deuteronomy.

Brenneman, James E. Herald, 2004. 222.1506 BRE

Described by some as the theological center of scripture, Deuteronomy has many stories of crossroads in life. This study helps us dip into these crossroads and discover for ourselves how we will answer the question, "Will we choose life?" Discussion questions.

For more lists for adult study look at back issues of Check It Out at: www.mennowdc.org Click on Newsletters. See: August, 2004; July, 2003 and August, 2002.

Tortured Wonders: Christian Spirituality for people, not angels.

Clapp, Rodney. Brazos Press, 2004. 248.4 CLA

A witty and sophisticated account of classic Christian spirituality that shrewdly tackles the ordinary struggles of daily life and the peculiar predicaments of the current culture. Includes chapters on Christian spirituality and the body, sex, earthiness, eating and even Elvis.

How People Grow: what the Bible reveals about personal growth.

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. Zondervan, 2001. 248.2 CLO

The authors shatter popular misconceptions about how God operates and how spiritual and personal growth happens by unpacking the practical theology that forms the backbone of their counseling. Cloud and Townsend are the authors of the hugely popular books on "boundaries."

Soulguide: following Jesus as spiritual director.

Demarest, Bruce. NavPress, 2003. 253.53 DEM

Using the example of Jesus, this book helps the reader learn how to wait on God, deal with confusion, fear and betrayal, restore lost passion for life, and find guidance in the teachings of Jesus, C.S. Lewis, Moses, Mother Teresa, Teresa of Avila, Henri Nouwen and more. Application suggestions in each chapter. For small group or adult SS.

Conference Resource Library

2517 North Main Street, North Newton, Kansas 67117

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www.mennowdc.org on-line catalog

Making Room for Life: trading chaotic lifestyles for connected relationships

Fraze, Randy. Zondervan, 2003. 248.4 FRA

Suggests that we don't have to work harder and faster or have more gadgets, but choose a lifestyle of conversation and community over a lifestyle of accumulation. 13 chapters, with discussion questions.

Living More With Less Study / Action Guide.

Friesen, Delores Hestand. Alternatives, 1999. 640.2 FRI

For those who wish to discuss materialism, consumerism and then act in a new way, perhaps it's time to take a look at this handy book that calls us to simple living. Lots of ideas for small group discussion and action!

The Bible From Scratch.

Griggs, Donald.

The Old Testament for Beginners.

Westminster, 2002. 221.61 GRI

The New Testament for Beginners.

Westminster, 2003. 225.61 GRI

These two books cover the essential content of the OT and the NT in a easy to read and easy to study format. Each book includes a part for the participant and one for the leader, for a minimum of eight lessons. Great for a review or a basic bible course.

The Soul of Tomorrow's Church: weaving spiritual practices in ministry together.

Groff, Kent Ira. Upper Room Books, 2000. 254 GRO

What will the church look like in a postmodern world? It may look like the practices in this book. It shows how to recover the spiritual mission of the church in a world hungry for the supernatural. Good for small group study or for a group of pastors or church leaders to study.

When There is No Burning Bush: following your passions to discover God's call.

Hall, Eddy and Gary Morsch. Baker, 2004. 253 MOR

Explores six common myths of how we understand lay and pastoral ministry and helps us identify God's

unique call in our lives. This might be a good follow-up to a study of the *Purpose Driven Life*. Includes a study / action guide for eight sessions.

Cultivating Christian Community

Hawkins, Thomas R. Discipleship Resources. 2001. 262.2 HAW

Unpacks the qualities of Christian community: centered on Christ, practices hospitality and means of grace, opportunities for healing and wholeness, invites members to discover gifts for ministry and live out their baptismal covenant. Includes 10 chapters, each with discussion questions, great for Sunday school or small group discussion

To Love Thee More Dearly

Huelsman, Richard J. St. Mary's Press, 1997. 242.5 HUE

Includes 30 reflections on the life of Jesus. Suitable for a small group or class that wants to focus on a contemplative approach to knowing Jesus, reflecting on scripture and praying together.

Beyond Words: 15 Ways of Doing Prayer

Ingram, Kristen Johnson. Morehouse, 2004. 248.32 ING

Invites the reader to pray in old and new ways, through music, gardening, walking, art and more. Sometimes we can pray without saying any words at all!. It's a truth Johnson discovered when she was stopped from photographing a pow-wow because a Native American tapped her on the shoulder and said, "This is a prayer the dancer is doing."

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss.

Kemp, James W. Judson Press, 2004. 242 KEM

A close look at how the Seuss stories are laden with spiritual truth. Each reflection begins with insights from a corresponding Biblical passage and draws parallels from favorite Seuss stories. A fun video clip to use with one lesson might be the Ted and Lee comedy duo's "Looks at Books" from Armadillo Shorts, V. 1. Video 808. 87 ARM V.1 They have some wild wacky and theological thoughts about *The Cat in the Hat* and other Seuss characters.

Healing Healthcare: a Study and Action Guide on Healthcare Access in the United States.

Kotva, Joseph, editor. Anabaptist Center for Healthcare Ethics, Faith and Life Resources, 2005.
261.8321 HEA

This six-session study guides congregations in discussing key issues of healthcare access. It explores what the Bible and Christian faith have to say, and helps us respond to current needs through creative and faithful action

The Little book of Conflict Transformation.

Lederach, John Paul. Good Books, 2003.
303.69 LED

Explores why “conflict transformation” is more appropriate than conflict resolution or management. Asks the questions: How do we end something destructive and begin something desired? What disciplines make such thinking and practices possible?

Thermostat: a DVD and study guide on peace.

Mennonite Central Committee, 2005.

Produced primarily for youth, but would be excellent for intergenerational settings of youth and adults, or adults alone. Features a DVD and printed study guide with 33 sessions contained in seven units: Peacemaking, Imagination, Allegiance, Security, Terrorism, Camouflage and Nonviolence. Sessions can be used in an order, in a mix and match format to suit your groups needs. Included in each session: Bible study, role plays, personal stories, images, video clips, dramas, handouts, background reading and other activities. Dozens of websites are listed. Awesome!!

Jesus, Our Spiritual Director: a pilgrimage through the gospels

Miller, Wendy J. Upper Room Books, 2004.
253.53 MIL

Miller demonstrates the deep biblical roots of spiritual direction by encountering Jesus as personal spiritual guide. The biblical texts are brought to life as a continuing conversation between Jesus, his disciples, then and now. Designed for personal or small group reflection and sharing.

Earth Trek: celebrating and sustaining God’s creation.

Moyer, Joanne. Herald Press, 2004. 363.7 MOY

Includes facts, discussion questions, scenarios, ideas for action to live faithfully and responsibly with the earth. For individual, family or group study.

The Search to Belong: rethinking intimacy, community and small groups.

Myers, Joseph R. Zondervan, 2003. 262.2 MYE

Offers insights into how churches can create community based on offering a place to *belong* not only *believe*. Answers the questions: How can we create an environment where all levels of community spontaneously emerge and thrive? How can we invite those on the “fringe” to participate in our church?

The 100 Simple Secrets of Happy Families: what scientists have learned and how you can use it.

Niven, David. HarperSanFrancisco. 2004.
646.78 NIV

Each two page “simple secret” includes the scientific finding and a real family story to illustrate it. Example: eight out of ten TV series over the last 50 years portray families that are either highly dysfunctional or unrealistically functional. Would be a helpful book for sermon illustrations, discussion starters in a Sunday School class or small group.

What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty.

Payne, Ruby K. and Bill Ehlig. Highlands, 1999.
261.8325 PAY

Discusses the hidden rules among economic classes, how do we help the poor, transitioning the poor into our churches and more.

Earthcare for Friends: a study guide for individuals and faith communities.

Quaker Earthcare Witness, 2004. 363.7 QUA

Includes readings, prayers, scriptures, articles, sermon starters and discussion questions, and ideas for earth care and simple living. 18 chapters, appropriate for all kinds of adult groups to study, discuss and then get involved.

Beliefs: Mennonite Faith and Practice.

Roth, John D. Herald Press, 2005. 230.97 ROT

A helpful introduction to the core elements of Mennonite / Anabaptist perspectives on theology, discipleship and church. 13 chapters – would make a fine book for adult study, sorry – no discussion questions.

The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience: why are Christians living just like the rest of the world?

Sider, Ron. Baker, 2005. 277.3083 SID

Evangelical Christians say they believe in biblical moral standards and the power of God to transform lives, yet recent surveys show they are not living any different than the rest of the world. Sider challenges us to apply biblical teachings to our lives in order to close the gap between who we are and who God wants us to be. Sorry, no discussion questions.

Out of the Question, Into the Mystery: getting lost.

Sweet, Leonard. Water Brook, 2004. 248.4 SWE

Sweet contends that faith is not simply a decision we make but faith is a new life we practice in the context of relationship. A panoramic view of what relational theology can mean for Christians today, focusing not on the what, but the who. Includes discussion questions, would be an excellent, stimulating study, for Sweet does not mince words and might cause a few to squirm.

God's Politics: why the right get's it wrong and the left doesn't get it.

Wallis, Jim. HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.
261.7093 WAL

Wallis, as an evangelical Christian voice who cares deeply about social justice, politics and faith, provides a "third way" for people of faith to grasp a vision for politics and social action in America. Study guide:

http://www.sojo.net/special/items/GP_studyguide.pdf

Giving Together: a stewardship guide for families.

Wehrheim, Carol A. WJK, 2004. 248.6 WEH

Presents a concise, accessible approach to help families understand the importance of holistic stewardship

in the family, congregation, community and world. Five sessions – ideal for small group or family study.

Raising Kids Who Make A Difference: helping your family to live with integrity, value, simplicity and care for others.

Vogt, Susan V. Loyola, 2002. 249 VOG

Humorous, inspiring ideas for parents who want creative, responsible and realistic parenting strategies. 12 chapters, discussion questions. Great for parents study group.

Real Kids, Real Faith: practices for nurturing children's spiritual lives.

Yust, Karen Marie. Jossey-Bass, 2004. 268.432 YUS

A very useful guide for understanding and nurturing spiritual growth in children. Filled with personal stories and practical suggestions. Excellent for all parents, teachers, pastors. Yippee! Has discussion questions for each chapter.

New Videos and DVDs:

Bioethics and the Book of Life. 2003. Video 241.642 BIO Includes several features from PBS series *Religion and Ethics*. 90 Minutes. Discussion guide included.

The Global Banquet: politics of food. 2002. Video 361 GLO Hear perspectives of farmers, church groups and indigenous peoples who are working to change unjust free trade policies that are contributing to world hunger. 50 minutes.

Hunger No More: faces behind the facts. Mennonite Media, 2004. DVD and Video 361 HUN. Hear stories of people of faith around America who have taken up the challenge of eradicating hunger. Printed / downloadable study guide. 57 minutes.

Tear Soup: a recipe for healing after loss. 2003. Video 155.9 SCH Grandy has suffered a big loss in her life and is cooking up a big batch of tear soup, adding her own special ingredients. 17 minutes.

The Life You've Always Wanted: six sessions on spiritual disciplines for ordinary people. With John Ortberg, 2004. Video 248.4 Ort Life.