

August, 2006

## Ideas for Adult and Small Group Study

### **Chocolate for Lent: a creative approach to your Lenten journey.**

Brand, Hilary. Pauline Books and Media, 2002.  
242.34 Bra

Using themes from the movie *Chocolat*, this book provides a refreshing approach to the Lenten season. Great for groups and for individual reflection, this book endeavors to help us create the space for deeper insights into self-discipline, self-giving, conversion, acceptance and maturing in Christ.

### **Unsettled Weather : how do I forgive?**

Derksen, Wilma L. with Tym Elias and Brenda Suderman.  
Herald Press, 2005 234.5 Der

7-session study on forgiveness for individual or class use.

### **Priority Parenting : reclaiming your home for heaven's sake.**

Ganger, Steve. Herald Press, 2006 248.845 Gan

The family has suffered as we have allowed pop culture to erode families and rearrange priorities. Offers some practical, biblical commentary on how to bring order back to the family through healthy parenting style. Eight chapters with discussion questions.

### **Radical Hospitality: a companion guide.**

Gibson, Robert B. Paraclete , 2005 241.671 Gib Guide

To be used in conjunction with the book by same title, authored by Father Daniel Homan and Lonni Collins Pratt. Includes key excerpts from each chapter, questions to prompt further reflection, exercises that explore hospitality

themes and scriptures that undergird each chapter. An excellent study – Marlene highly recommends!

### **Group's Dinner and a Movie: friendship, faith, and fun for small groups.**

Group Pub., Inc., 2005. 2680434 Gro

Features suggestions for a fun night with a small group that includes a menu, a movie, and discussion questions. Twelve movies in all including *Cast Away*, *Holes*, and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Also includes reproducible pages with themed invitations.

### **The Beatitudes for Today.**

Howell, James C. Westminster , 2006. 241.53 How

A perfect companion for studying or preaching about the Beatitudes. Includes discussion questions for each chapter.

### **Never the Same: stories of those who encountered Jesus.**

James, Steven. Zondervan, 2005. 232.95 Jam

Retells stories of biblical characters who had an encounter with Jesus, adds commentary, invites reflection through discussion questions and closes with a prayer.

### **Monday Marriage: celebrating the ordinary.**

Kaufman, Gerald W. and Marlene. Herald Press, 2005.  
248.844 Kau

A practical approach to Christian marriage that helps debunk popular fantasies about what this relationship should look like. Marriage is a relationship between two imperfect people living in the real world. Helpful advice for counselors and engaged and married couples.

#### Conference Resource Library

2517 North Main Street North Newton, Kansas 67117

Marlene Bogard, Director Pat Schmidt, Assistant

crlib@mennowdc.org 316-283-6300 www.mennowdc.org on-line catalog

**Is it insensitive to share your faith? Hard questions about Christian mission in a plural world.**

Krabill, James R. Good Books 2005 266.001 Kra

Krabill walks into a discussion that is often considered off-limits: Is Jesus someone to follow today? What difference does that choice make in the world? Are Christians the only ones who are right? *Excellent book for discussion for young adults or adults.*

**Talent Show: your faith in full color.**

Lichty, Bob. Mennonite Mutual Aid, 2005. 234.13 Lic

A practical resource for individuals or groups to assist in understanding gifts, talents, passions, style and experience. 12 chapters for study and discussion.

**Return to the Earth Project.**

Mennonite Central Committee, 2006. 970 Ret

This study guide is for individuals or groups within religious communities who wish to study a key issue of restorative justice for Native American tribes and nations: returning dignity to their ancestors by returning culturally unidentifiable remains to a final resting place.

**The Power of a Focused Heart: 8 life lessons from the Beatitudes.**

Redding, Mary Lou. Upper Room, 2006. 241.53 Red

Designed for small group or individual use, this study features short chapters, weekly exercises and many helps for decision making on how to serve and use spiritual gifts.

**How Much is Enough?; hungering for God in an affluent culture.**

Simon, Arthur. Baker, 2003. 241.68 Sim

An invitation to a way of living, that frees us from the shackles of consumption, and marks the way to gratitude and generosity. Sorry, no discussion materials provided.

**Faith Dilemmas for Marketplace Christians: a resource for small groups.**

Sprunger, Ben, Carol J. Suter and Wally Kroeker. Wipf and Stock, 1997. 241.64 Spr

Thirteen brief chapters on business and Christian ethics include a dilemma, scripture and questions for discussion.

**Jesus and Nonviolence: a third way.**

Wink, Walter. Fortress Press, 2003. 241 Win

Wink, of the *Powers* trilogy, offers a summary of his whole thinking on the important issue of nonviolence including the relation of Jesus and his message to politics and nonviolence, the history of nonviolence, and how nonviolence can be effective. Six chapters with discussion questions.

**New DVD Series for young adults and adults**

**God is Closer Than You Think.**

John Ortberg, Zondervan, 2005 DVD 248.4 Ort Clo  
Illustrates the ways God reaches out to us in everyday places and people and how we can reach out to God to complete the connection. Six sessions.

**Network: the right people in the right places, for the right reasons.** Bruce Bugbee. Willow Creek, 2005 DVD 234.13 Net

Helps Christians understand who God has created them to be and guide them to a meaningful place of service in the local church by utilizing their spiritual gifts. Six 1-hour sessions with DVD, powerpoint and leader's and participant's guides.

**Especially for Young Adults  
Age 18 – 35:**

**Faith Matters for Young Adults:  
discovering the faith  
Abingdon Press, 2005. 259.24 DIS**

Features 13 sessions that encourage lively discussion on basic beliefs of the Christian faith.

**Abundance: living responsibly with God's gifts.  
Community: living faithfully with others.  
Faith: living a spiritual life.**  
Abingdon Press, 1999 – 2002. See 259.24

Part of a series of Bible studies called 20/30 – designed especially for young adults. Each include Bible background, articles on small group dynamics and leadership, case studies to discuss and opportunities to examine personal and biblical ideas more deeply, and options for service projects.

See past listings of  
**Adult and Small Group Study Ideas**  
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**Archive** to find the August 2005,  
August 2004 issues.