

August, 2007

Book and Video Ideas for Adult & Small Group Study

Top Picks:

The Gift of Hospitality: in church, in the home, in all of life.

Halverson, Delia. Chalice, 1999. 241.671 Hal
Explores biblical models of hospitality with reference to welcoming, speaking and listening, comforting, receiving, releasing, celebrating and more. Suggests specific ways we can achieve a hospitable lifestyle wherever we are and includes a study guide for 10 chapters.

Lasting Marriage: the owners' manual.

Yoder, Harvey. Herald Press, 2007. 306.8 Yod
Based on the premise that relationships need the same kind of care and maintenance we give other valued possessions, this "manual" looks at premarital preparation, relationship maintenance and sustaining a healthy marriage. Leader's guide at www.mph.org.

Simply in Season: leaders study guide.

Moreland, Rachel Miller. Herald Press, 2006. 641.5 Mil Study
Includes outlines for six interactive studies on the themes in the *Simply in Season Cook book*: food stories, creation, health, time, money and celebration. Seven additional sessions are included.

Books:

Meeting Our Multifaith Neighbors.

Balmer, Brice H. Herald, 2006. 261.209 Bal
Explores religious diversity from pastoral perspective calling for respect and mutual listening. Each chapter ends with discussion questions as Balmer sensitively challenges prejudices by drawing on experiences and biblical themes.

Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith.

Bell, Rob. Zondervan, 2005. 261 Bel
Invites seekers into a Christianity that has room for doubts, questions. A fresh look at Jesus, faith, lifestyle and religion. Good study book for young adults or those new to faith. Easy to discuss, as questions to ponder are built into chapters.

Bad Boys of the Bible: Exploring Men of Questionable Virtue.

Essex, Barbara J. The Pilgrim Press, 2002. 221.922 Ess
A presentation of biblical men in the contexts of their cultures, leadership styles and basic human characteristics as they attempt to serve God and God's people. Eight chapters with suggestions for teaching, preaching and discussion questions.

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

Bad Girls of the Bible: Exploring Women of Questionable Virtue.

Essex, Barbara J. The Pilgrim Press, 1999. 220.92 Ess
A 12-week study that looks beyond the notoriety to show us biblical women of boldness, courage, determination and independence. Includes suggestions for teaching, preaching and discussion questions.

Gracious Christianity: living the love we profess.

Jacobsen, Douglas and Rodney Sawatsky. Baker, 2006. 230 Jac

A readable introduction to the Christian faith as a grace-filled and peaceable way of life, not as an argumentative dogma. Excellent for adult and young adult study. Extensive study guide and weblinks at www.graciouschristianity.org.

A Search for What is Real: finding faith.

McLaren, Brian D. Zondervan, 2007. 230 McL
Helps sort through the questions, objections and concerns that arise when you consider God not as some theological abstraction but as someone you can actually connect with and want to connect with. Each chapter includes questions, ideas for responses and prayers.

The Mennonite Handbook.

Herald Press, 2007. 289.7 Men. Handbook.
Seriously accurate and seriously funny, here is an essential field guide for all things Mennonite. Step-b-step instructions on how to sing a four-part hymn, what to bring to a church potluck and how to memorize a Bible verse. Use this as an adult study? Sure! Any section or page could be a great discussion starter. Use it in a multi-generational setting and see what happens.

Body Talk: speaking the words of health.

Moser, Ingrid Friesen. MMA Stewardship Solutions, 2007. 261.8321 Mos
This counter-cultural effort reminds us that we are God's children created in God's image. It challenges readers to examine their motivation for healthful living. 12 chapters with discussion questions.

Painful Questions: facing struggles with faith.

Watts, Gary L. Herald Press, 1999. 231.8 Wat
Insightful discussion of the problems of pain, evil and suffering and how hope and faith can sustain us. Thirteen chapters with reflection questions.

DVD / VIDEO Studies:**Boundaries in Marriage.**

Featuring Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend. Zondervan, 2002. Video 306.8 Clo
Respecting your spouse's personal territory can strengthen your relationship with each other and with God. Includes materials for eight sessions to be used with video or DVD; one leader and one participant guide.

Financial Sanity.

Dungan, Nathan. Share, Save, Spend, 2006. CUR 248.6 Dun

This series, with DVD, invites us to reflect God's will in our lives by building and developing healthy financial habits that focus on sharing and saving, rather than spending. Could be used in any setting for four sessions or a weekend seminar or a one-day seminar. For maximum effectiveness, each participant should have their own book, and we have sample adult and youth books available. Highly Recommended by MMA.

The Four Acts of Prayer.

Wangerin, Walt. Paraclete, 2005. DVD 242.2 Wan. Uses stories to explore the vital elements of prayer: we speak, God listens, God speaks and we listen. Up to 10 sessions. Discussion materials included. 132 minutes For young adult, adult.

Just Neighbors: helping communities of faith help people in need.

Family Promise, 2003. Video 261.8325 Jus
An interactive multi-media curriculum that will educate your group about poverty; spur them on to greater service; empower them as advocates for neighbors in need. Each session is flexible and can be tailored to your group's needs. Each session can be used on its own or as a whole series of up to 9 sessions. For youth, young adults and adults.

Nooma

Named for the Greek word for spirit, Nooma presents a fresh and innovative approach to communicate biblical truth. Similar to Jesus' parables, this film uses common everyday experiences to explore various topics relating to faith and discipleship. Use for discussion starters, outreach, congregational meetings, small groups. Includes discussion book. Each 11-14 minutes. DVD 248.4 Noo We currently have 16 of these and I have received good feed back from those in their 20's to those in their 60's!

The Treasure Principle Workshop: discovering the secret of joyful giving.

Alcorn, Randy. Crown Financial Ministries, 2004. DVD 248.6 Alc

This series teaches the joy of giving. The sessions are: Buried Treasure; Compounding Joy; Eyes on Eternity; Roadblocks to Giving; Getting Started; For Such a Time as This. This video workshop is to be used along with a student workbook and leader's guide. One copy of each is included in this kit. Six session, 30 minutes each. See also www.generousgiving.org

Walking the Bible.

Feiler, Bruce. TMC Entertainment, 2005. DVD 915.604 Fei. The stories of the first five books of the Bible, known as the Torah, come alive as Feiler searches across three continents for the stories and heroes shared by Christians and Jews. 188 minutes, plan for a minimum of three sessions of study. For adults.