Community Group Resources



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Community Group Resources

For further assistance or to suggest other materials for study, contact Joe Essick at jessick@lakeforest.org or call the church office at (704) 948-3232.

Bible and Topical Studies

Q Place

Discussion guides for many books of the Bible, and some topical and character studies. Ideal for groups with little or no previous Bible study experience. Very effective for groups seeking to reach the unchurched. Studies range from 6-29 weeks in length.

Publisher: Q Place

http://www.qplace.com/

Bible 101 Series

8 different studies designed to help small groups get a firm grip on the Bible and its teachings. Topics include how the Bible was written, interpretation, study methods, core doctrines and more. Each study is 6 sessions.

Publisher: InterVarsity Press

http://www.ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code=2060

Life Change Bible Study Series

That goal is to become like Christ. This involves change, and change isn't often easy. Yet the more you know of God's purposes for you, the more you can experience His joy and cooperate with His plan. Developed by staff members of The Navigators and series editor Karen Lee-Thorp, these studies are suitable for individuals or groups and can help you to:

- Gain a firm understanding of the book— its historical context, purpose, structure, and meaning
- Apply its powerful, relevant wisdom to needs and issues you are currently working through
- Acquire personal study skills and a thirst to return to the book on your own—so you can keep going deeper into its life-transforming truths

http://www.navpress.com/store/search.aspx?q=Life+Change+Bible+Study+Series

Life Lessons with Max Lucado

Great for groups that want to walk through a specific book of the Bible. Each study goes in-depth on a specific book or section of the Bible. 12 sessions. http://www.maxlucado.net/collections/life-lessons

The Bible Jesus Read

The Old Testament is God's biography, the story of his compassionate encounters with people and also a prequel to the story of Jesus. In The Bible Jesus Read, award-winning author Philip Yancey combined scholarship and insight to bring new light to old material and stimulate new thought and further study. 8 sessions Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/cultures/en-

<u>us/Product/ProductDetail.htm?QueryStringSite=Zondervan&ISBN=03102418</u> 20

Faith Lessons on the Promised Land

Filmed on location in Israel, this DVD series brings God's word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the historical, cultural, religious and geographical contexts, the study reveals keen insights into Scripture's significance for modern believers. 5 sessions. DVD and leader guide. Participant guides. Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

 $\underline{US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310678700\&QueryStringSite=Zondervan}$

A Heart Like His: Seeking the Heart of God Through a Study of David

An in-depth study of the man the Bible calls a "man after God's own heart" by Beth Moore. Video study and Leader's Guide. 8 Sessions.

Publisher: Lifeway

http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/cms content?page=47359&sp=10 10&p=1018818

Beloved Disciple: The Life & Ministry of John

Through Beth Moore's study of the Extraordinary biblical figure, John, she conveys that he had the God-given gift of seeing a larger picture. Accentuating that his love relationship with Jesus Christ profoundly influenced everything he did and wrote, she helps women know the one the New Testament calls the "beloved disciple." 10 Sessions

Publisher: LifeWay Church Resources

http://www.lifewaystores.com/lwstore/product.asp?ISBN=063301852X

Daniel

A Beth Moore Study. Divided into 2 parts, the 1st portion (Daniel 1-6), emphasized by Lives of Integrity, deals with the life of the prophet and is extremely contemporary. Daniel faced pressures and temptations similar to those of a Christian in today's world. He teaches and models for us how to develop enduring integrity in an enticing world.

The 2nd half (Daniel 7-12), turns to explore the prophecies of Daniel. It deals indepth with the historical details, predictions, and fulfillments detailing history from the time of Daniel, through the inter-biblical period, the time of Christ, and on to the second coming of Christ. 12 Sessions

Publisher: Lifeway Christian Resources

http://www.lifewaystores.com/lwstore/product.asp?isbn=1415825882

Here and Now...There and Then

Here and Now...There and Then by Beth Moore is a lecture series on the book of Revelation. Beth presents many points of view, allowing women to decide for themselves when the interpretation varies among scholars.

http://www.lifeway.com/Product/here-and-now-there-and-then-dvd-set-P005304010

James: Mercy Triumphs

A Beth Moore Study.

Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any New Testament book. Come along with Beth Moore on a journey to get to know both the man and the Book of James. You will never be the same again.

Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer. Plus, Beth introduces a 5-tiered study approach that she has never done before.

http://www.lifeway.com/n/Product-Family/James:-Mercy-Triumphs?intcmp=BMBest-Tiled-Tiled-James-20121219

Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent

Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent - Member Book by **Beth Moore** provides a personal study experience five days a week plus viewer guides for the group video sessions of this in-depth women's Bible study of Psalms 120-134. Traveling pilgrims sang these psalms both on the way to the great festivals of the LORD and as key elements of the worship at those festivals. Just as a song or poem can express feelings of fear, doubt, hope, and joy, these 15 psalms model how we can voice our own petitions and praises to our God, who is always available and ready to hear us.

Explore the major feasts of Israel and journey with Beth through this 7-session study. Themes of unity, joy, gratitude, redemption, repentance, the power of blessings, facing ridicule, and more are explored in detail. Modern-day believers in Jesus Christ can learn much from these treasured Psalms in their journey toward greater intimacy with God.

http://www.lifeway.com/Product/stepping-up-a-journey-through-the-psalms-of-ascent-member-book-p005091397

Topical

Christian Basics Bible Studies

Thirteen different studies on Christian basics for becoming a mature disciple of Christ. Topics include Certainty, Character, Commitment, Hope, Perseverance, Prayer, Witnessing and more. Each study is based on a best-selling book by a popular Christian author. Each study is 6 sessions.

Publisher: InterVarsity Press

http://www.ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code=2025

Discover Who You Are

A comprehensive guide to discovering your talents, spiritual gifts, passions, values and personality. Based on book Life Keys by Kise, Stark and Hirsh. Need book and workbook.

Publisher: Bethany House

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0764220810/qid=1150741227/sr=2-3/ref=pd bbs b 2 3/002-4093809-1740063?s=books&v=glance&n=283155

Kay Arthur Series

Includes the Lord Series ("Lord, Teach me to Pray in 28 Days", "Lord, I Want to Know You"...) and the 40 Minute Studies. Also recommended is "As Silver Refined: Learning to Embrace Life's Disappointments". These are great for specific areas of Christian Growth.

http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/easy_find?Ntt=kay+arthur+bibles +studies&N=0&Ntk=keywords&action=Search&Ne=0&event=ESRCQ&nav_search=1 &cms=1&view=default&Nao=0

Breaking Free

In *Breaking Free*, best-selling author and popular Bible teacher Beth Moore takes you on a journey to discovering true spiritual freedom by identifying spiritual strongholds and removing all obstacles that hinder you from enjoying the benefits of a relationship with God. Learn to make the freedom in Christ a daily reality through the truth of God's Word...truth that will set us free.

http://www.lifeway.com/n/Product-Family/Breaking-Free-(2009)?002=2138335&004=5665916637&005=98357829&006=26284086237&0 07=Search&008=

Believing God

Is your belief system working? Convinced that the faith of many contemporary believers does little to make the gates of hell tremble, Beth Moore calls us to take hold of God's promises and go beyond "just getting by." Experience a fresh faith explosion---and break new ground in the Bible's "promised land" of kingdom power!

http://www.lifeway.com/Product/believing-god-day-by-day-p005150985

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation

Willowcreek studies by John Ortberg, Laurie Pederson, and Judson Poling. These deal with a specific area of spiritual development, such as Grace, Gifts, Growth, Groups and Giving. 7 Sessions per each study.

http://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/Pursuing-Spiritual-Transformation-John-Ortberg?r=1&utm_medium=cpc&sort=R&store=book&fmt=PHYSICAL&utm_campaign=P&utm_source=google&view=list&utm_term=+ortberg%20+pursuing%20+spiritual%20+transformation&imkwid=23101764&cm_mmc=Google--P--Pursuing%20Spiritual%20Transformation%20series,Ortberg--%2BOrtberg%20%2Bpursuing%20%2Bspiritual%20%2Btransformation

Interactions Series

Studies by Bill Hybels. This series builds life-changing ministry within small groups as members share lifestyles, interests, experiences, and values. There are multiple studies within the series, which usually contain six to ten sessions each. http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/hybels resources.asp

The Frazzled Female- Finding God's Peace in Your Daily Chaos

What's a woman to do? Everything, it seems! Cindi Wood's *The Frazzled Female* reaches out to busy ladies everywhere, guiding them to sanity amidst their daily chaos and encouraging a deeper, more vibrant communion with God. Book and study guide. 6 sessions. Published by LifeWay Press.

http://www.lifewaystores.com/lwstore/product.asp?ISBN=0633095265

Everyman Series

God's man David prayed,

"Teach me your way, O Lord, that I might live in your truth; give me an undivided heart that I might live to fear your name." (Psalm 86:11)

The Every Man Bible Studies are designed to help you experience God's answer to this simple but deeply personal prayer. Through this series the authors open the Scriptures to you in a whole new way, so that you can live more confidently, more positively, and more godly. These studies will help stir your thinking and solidify your convictions on topics that personally impact your life. As a result, you'll grow to possess an undivided heart, loyal to God and His ways in every domain of living. Included in each study guide are leader's tips, group roster, a prayer request record, spiritual checkup page, and a small-group covenant.

http://www.everymanministries.com/store/category.aspx?categoryid=5&startpage =0

Wild at Heart

No more Mr. "Nice" Guy! Men, God doesn't want you bored with church. He won't squelch your heroic instincts and adventurous spirit---he designed you that way. Filled with probing questions, creative exercises, and space to record "field notes," Eldredge's hands-on *man*ual will transition you from *reading* about your God-given heart to *living* from it.

http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=65740&event=CF

Respectable Sins - Confronting the Sins We Tolerate

Abortion, adultery, violence---it seems the "big" sins grab all the headlines. But what about jealousy, selfishness, greed, and "little" faults we live with every day? Opening our eyes to the spiritual dangers of "acceptable" transgressions, Bridges urges us to thoughtfully examine our lives. The 8-week small-group study features discussion questions, leaders' tips, and more.

Review from recent study participants:

"I would highly recommend this study for any groups. I believe it was the best study I have ever done. I give it 5 stars out of 5 stars."

"I think this was the most thought provoking and convicting study I've ever done."

"The study made a great impact on me and I do think it was worthwhile. I think about what we learned on almost a regular basis."

"A Christian on any maturity level would get something worthwhile out of this study."

http://www.amazon.com/Respectable-Sins-Discussion-Guide-Confronting/dp/1600062075

Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference

Award-winning author Philip Yancey probes the very heartbeat—the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing, and deeply rewarding aspect—of our relationship with God: prayer. What is prayer? How does it work? And more importantly, does it work? 6 Sessions

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310275251&QueryStr ingSite=Zondervan

An Ordinary Day with Jesus

By John Ortberg and Ruth Haley Barton. Learn to recognize and welcome Christ's presence into every moment of your day. 8 sessions. DVD or video. Leader's guide.

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

<u>US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310245872&QueryStringSite=Zondervan</u>

<u>Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God</u>

God is love. Crazy, relentless, all-powerful love. Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe--the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and E-minor--loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to

church, sing songs, and try not to cuss. Whether you've verbalized it yet or not...we all know somethings wrong. Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts--it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis Chan describes it, you will never be the same. Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything.

http://www.amazon.com/Living-Crazy-Love-Interactive-Small-Group/dp/1434703878/ref=pd sim b 1

Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit

A follow up to the profound message of *Crazy Love*, Pastor Francis Chan offers a compelling invitation to understand, embrace, and follow the Holy Spirit's direction in our lives. In the name of the Father, the Son, and ... the Holy Spirit. We pray in the name of all three, but how often do we live with an awareness of only the first two? As Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit—the Helper—so that we could be true and living witnesses for Christ. Unfortunately, today's church has admired the gift but neglected to open it.

Breakthrough author Francis Chan rips away paper and bows to get at the true source of the church's power—the Holy Spirit. Chan contends that we've ignored the Spirit for far too long, and we are reaping the disastrous results. Thorough scriptural support and compelling narrative form Chan's invitation to stop and remember the One we've forgotten, the Spirit of the living God.

http://www.amazon.com/Remembering-Forgotten-God-Interactive-Individual/dp/1434700887/ref=pd bxgy b img y

Taking Care of Business

Andy Stanley addresses specific problem areas we're all familiar with--from dealing with coworkers and superiors while exemplifying Christ, to balancing our work and home life. Designed for small group or personal study. (6 sessions) http://resources.northpoint.org/store/shop.do?cID=44&pn=2

Believing God: Experiencing a Fresh Explosion of Faith

Beth Moore provides a personal study experience five days a week plus viewer guides for the group video sessions of this in-depth women's Bible study based on Isaiah 43:10 that explores what it means not only "to believe in God" but "to believe Him." The bride of Jesus Christ in our generation is nearly paralyzed by unbelief. God is calling His bride to a fresh and lavish anointing of faith. Through studying the

lives of Abraham, Moses, and others as examples of persons who believed God, Beth encourages women to deepen their own trust in God and receive a fresh word from Him.

http://www.lifeway.com/Product/believing-god-experiencing-a-fresh-explosion-of-faith-member-book-P001227729

The Hole in Our Gospel by Rich Sterns

This six week study is designed for individuals and small groups wishing to explore the question "What does God expect of us?" Excerpted from the book by Rich Sterns, president of World Vision.

http://www.theholeinourgospel.com/study-guide/

<u>Celebrating the Disciplines: A Journal Workbook to Accompany "Celebration of Discipline"</u>

Richard Foster's classic work on spiritual disciplines is a must read and a yearly read for many Christians. This workbook helps individuals and groups with exercises and discussion around the different areas of Inward, Outward and Corporate disciplines.

http://www.amazon.com/Celebrating-Disciplines-Accompany-%60%60Celebration-

Doing Life Together Series

Based on the Purpose Driven Life. Series looks at the following topics:

- o Beginning Life Together,
- Connecting with God's Family,
- Growing to Be Like Christ,
- o Developing Your Shape to Serve Others,
- o Sharing Your Life's Mission Every Day, and
- o Surrendering Your Life for God's Pleasure.

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

<u>US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310250029&QueryStringSite=Zondervan</u>

If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat

Based on book by John Ortberg. Lessons on learning to trust God.

DVD with participant guides and leader guide.

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310261803&OuervStr

ingSite=Zondervan

The Life You've Always Wanted

Based on book by John Ortberg. Spiritual disciplines for ordinary people.

DVD with participant guides and leader guide.

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

<u>US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310255864&QueryStr</u>

ingSite=Zondervan

The Jesus I Never Knew

Based on book by Philip Yancey. Discover a more accurate, dynamic, and biblical portrait of Jesus. Strip away layers of tradition, stereotypes and clichés. Gain new confidence in the person of Christ. 14 sessions. Video. Leader's Guide.

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

 $\underline{US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310223580\&QueryStringSite=Zondervan}$

Evangelism and Apologetics

The Tough Questions Series

This series is designed for small groups and is ideal for seeker small groups. Some of the questions addressed include:

- o How does anyone know God exists?
- o Do science and the Bible conflict?
- How could God allow suffering and evil?
- o How reliable is the Bible?

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

<u>US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310245025&QueryStr</u>

ingSite=Zondervan

The Three Habits of Highly Contagious Christians

Discussion guide for small groups. Practical steps and tools to help you sharpen your thinking about reaching our to seekers for Christ. 3 sessions.

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

<u>US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310244967&QueryStr</u>

ingSite=Zondervan

Becoming a Contagious Christian

Based on book by Mittelberg, Strobel and Hybels. Learn to communicate your faith in a style that fits you. Video. Participant guides. 8 sessions.

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310501091&QueryStr

ingSite=Zondervan

<u>Just Walk Across the Room</u>

Based on book by Bill Hybels. Discussion on how to naturally share your faith with people who we are in contact with on a regular basis. Very thought provoking as you look at where these opportunities are in your life. 4 sessions.

http://www.justwalkacrosstheroom.com/resources for smallgroups.aspx

THE REASON FOR GOD

Why does God allow suffering in the world?

How could a loving God send people to Hell?

Why isn't Christianity more inclusive?

How can one religion be "right" and the others "wrong"?

Why have so many wars been fought in the name of God?

These are just a few of the questions and doubts even ardent believers wrestle with today. As the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, Timothy Keller has compiled a list of the most frequently voiced "doubts" skeptics bring to his church as well as the most important reasons for faith. And in the New York Times bestselling *The Reason for God*, he addresses each doubt and explains each reason.

Keller uses literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and reasoning to explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly rational belief, held by thoughtful people of intellectual integrity with a deep compassion for those who truly want to know the truth.

http://timothykeller.com/books/the reason for god/

Marriage and Family

Homebuilders Marriage Series

Studies dealing with a number of different marriage topics and issues. Multiple different topics on different aspects of marriage and family. http://www.familylife.com/site/c.dnJHKLNnFoG/b.3210771/k.4143/HomeBuilderssmall_group_studies.htm

Sacred Marriage

What if God designed marriage to make us holy instead of happy?

Scores of books have been written that offer guidance for building the marriage of your dreams. Yet, what if God's primary intent for your marriage isn't to make you happy . . . but holy? And, what if your relationship isn't as much about you and your spouse as it is about you and God? In this bestselling book, Gary Thomas uncovers how your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God and each other. You will learn how to:

- Turn marital struggles into spiritual and personal appreciation.
- Love your spouse with a stronger sense of purpose.
- Partner in the spiritual growth and character formation of your spouse.
- Transform a "tired" marriage into a relationship filled with awe and respect.

http://www.garythomas.com/sacred-marriage-curriculum

Intimate Marriage

Dan B. Allender and Tremper Longman III have together designed this curriculum kit to help married couples--one-to-one or in small groups--to build healthy and happy marriages. The kit includes everything you need to lead a course in your small group or church: Allender and Longman's thought-provoking book (the original edition of *The Intimate Mystery*), copies of seven different study guides, a leader's guide and a DVD to introduce and enhance the study sessions. The *Intimate Marriage Curriculum Kit* will be especially helpful for newlyweds or young married couples who are just beginning their new life together.

http://www.ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code=2130

Raising Great Kids*

For parents of preschoolers by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. Learn how to provide both the care and acceptance that make grace real to your kids, and the firmness and discipline that give direction. Video, leader guide, participant guide. 6 sessions.

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

<u>US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310232384&QueryStr</u>

ingSite=Zondervan

Boundaries with Kids*

Learn the ins and outs of establishing boundaries in your parenting and of instilling the kind of character in your children that will help them lead balanced, productive and fulfilling lives. DVD, leader's guide and participant guides. 8 sessions.

Publisher: Zondervan

http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-

<u>US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310247227&QueryStr</u>

ingSite=Zondervan

Running the Rapids*

Guiding Teenagers through the Turbulent Waters of Adolescence

The *Running the Rapids* seminar kit contains six 30-minute lessons to help parents and teachers understand and deal with kids in their adolescent years. Adolescence is often the most critical time to understand and relate to your child, though it can be painful at times. Learn from leading Christian psychologist, Dr. Kevin Leman, as he mixes humor and wit with wisdom and truths that will lead to a respectful and less turbulent adolescence in *Running the Rapids*.

http://www.praisestore.com/kevin-leman/videos-parenting-marriage/adolescence-running-the-rapids/

Bringing Up Boys

For a generation of boys at risk, Dr. Dobson's best-selling book is now an 11-part video seminar presented by Focus on the Family®! Ideal for small groups, Sunday schools, and church outreach events, *Dr. James Dobson's Bringing Up Boys Video Seminar* is an in-depth, practical, and entertaining series that will bring wisdom to anyone involved in raising the next generation of men.

http://www.bringingupboys.com/groupcurriculum.asp

Generally accepted Authors

These authors are generally approved. Please advise when you choose one of their studies or books that does not already appear on the list.

Billy Graham John Stott J.I. Packer

C.S. Lewis

Bill Hybels

John Ortberg

Rick Warren

Gordon McDonald

Max Lucado

Richard Foster

Beth Moore

Kay Arthur

Andy Stanley

Phillip Yancey

Lee Strobel

James Dobson

Gary Chapman

Timothy Keller

Francis Chan

Larry Osborne

Eugene Peterson

N.T. Wright