

Book Studies For **Small Groups**

Bible 101 Study Guides **Donahue, Bill (series editor)**

A solid foundational understanding of God's Word in a format designed for small groups.

Cover To Cover

6 sessions

What do we have to gain from those long Old Testament sections on the law? What about all that history? What can we learn from Paul's letters to the church in the New Testament? By introducing each of the major sections of Scripture, this guide helps us gain perspective on the whole message of God's word.

Interpretation

6 sessions

We read the Bible to understand. But how do we know that we are really getting the intended meaning? This guide outlines essential principles for finding the meaning of God's Word through inductive study. We learn to look at context and culture, and then to bridge God's truth to our own lives, discovering what the bible says to us today.

Foundations

6 sessions

How did the Bible come into existence? Why and how were these books chosen? How do we know that the Bible we hold today is reliable? This guide gives you the foundational information you need to read the Bible as a trustworthy source for your life.

Study Methods

6 sessions

Just as a carpenter needs the right tools to do accurate work, you need certain tools to do fruitful Bible study. This guide will help you learn how to use concordances, dictionaries and other resources. You will practice key study methods- word study, character study and so on- that will reveal the truths of god's Word. With these tools and methods at hand, you will handle god's word with confidence and anticipation.

Great Themes

6 sessions

From cover to cover, key themes can be traced through the stories and teachings of Scripture. Creation, sin, salvation, sanctifications and community- these are the themes that make up the essentials of our faith. As we understand the place of these doctrines in Scripture, we will better understand God's good news for our lives and his church today.

Personal Devotions

6 sessions

God's Word is alive. It was written to produce transformation in our lives. As we pray and meditate over it, memorize favorite passages, and respond in obedience, it will speak to our lives. This guide shows us how to tap the riches of Scripture in our devotional times.

Times and Places

6 sessions

Sometimes when you see a place for the first time, your whole perspective on it changes. That is just as true for our understanding of the Bible as it is in other aspects of our lives today. This guide helps you picture the places referred to in the Bible and to work through a time line of important events. As you fill out your mental image of these important times and places, your understanding will grow.

Parables And Prophecy

6 sessions

Some portions of the bible appear mysterious and hard to understand. When we read prophecy, we wonder how it applies to us today. When we read a parable, several meanings may come to mind. How do we know which is correct? Poetry and proverbs may seem obscure. The letters to the churches don't seem to connect to us. How do we read each of these types of Bible literature in a way that is both faithful to the text and authoritative for our lives? This guide points the way.

Book of Revelations

Lucado, Max

12 Sessions

God gives us the Book of Revelation. In it he assures victory. We, the soldiers are privileged a glimpse into the final battlefield. All hell breaks loose as all heaven comes forth. The two collide in the ultimate battle of good and evil. Left standing amidst the smoke and thunder is the Son of God. Jesus, born in a manger-now triumphant over Satan. Satan is defeated. Christ is triumphant. And we the soldiers are assured of victory. Let us march!

Christian Character

(Carolyn Nystrom)

Loving One Another

6 or 12 Sessions

The bond of love between believers is a joyful tie that brings a sense of “family” among the most diverse people. But even followers of Jesus are mere humans. Christian friends hurt each other. Good churches split. Believing parents divorce. Christian kids run away from Christian homes. as we allow the Scripture to structure our relationships with each other, to purify and strengthen our love-even in our falleness- we testify to the unbelieving world around us, “ See how they love each other”.

Design For Discipleship NAVPRESS

Book One: Your Life In Christ

4 Sessions

God Cares For You

The Person Of Jesus Christ

The Spirit Within You

Book Two: The Spirit-Filled Christian

5 Sessions

The Obedient Christian

God’s Work In Your Life

Conversing With God

Fellowship With Christians

Witnessing For Christ

Book Three: Walking With Christ

5 Sessions

Maturing In Christ
The Lordship Of Christ
Faith And The Promises Of God
Knowing God's Will
Walking As A Servant

Book Four: The Character of the Christian

5 Sessions

The Call to Fruitful Living
Genuine Love In Action
Purity Of Life
Integrity In Living
Character In Action

Book Five: Foundations For Faith

5 Sessions

Who Is God?
The Authority Of God's Word
The Holy Spirit
Spiritual Warfare
The Return Of Christ

Book Six: Growing In Discipleship

5 Sessions

What Is A Disciple?
The Responsible Steward
Helping Others Find Christ
Follow-Up
World Vision

Book Seven: Our Hope In Christ

7 Sessions

An introductory chapter analysis study of 1 Thessalonians.

Equipping Ministries International "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry...." James 1:19

It seems obvious: the quality of relationships determines the success of any church or ministry. Here are three practical, fun, interactive courses that can revolutionize volunteer, small group, and staff training. Each course is specially designed to be offered by trained lay people in your local church or ministry setting. EMI will train your people to provide years of effective training.

1) Listening For Heaven's Sake

Building Genuine Trust and Openness Learn to cultivate authentic relationships where trust naturally grows and flourishes. Increase your ability to:

- Break through barriers.
- Communicate God's love.
- Show understanding and respect.
- Help others without burning out.

2) Speaking the Truth In Love

Encouraging Growth and Accountability Learn proven skills for moving beyond surface friendships to address deeper issues and core life problems. Increase your ability to:

- Ask questions that create deeper insight.
- Help others set and reach healthy goals.
- Confront in love and restore damaged trust.

3) Renewing The Mind

Thinking, Feeling, and Acting More Like Jesus

Learn how to overcome self-defeating thinking, feelings, and habits that rob you of God's joy and peace.

Increase your ability to:

- Combat "stinking thinking."
- Operate from biblical truth.
- Love and serve God and others with greater joy.
- *Listening for Heaven's Sake* is a prerequisite.

Experiencing God

Blackaby, Henry & King, Claude V

Experiencing God challenges Christians to experience the fullness of a life lived in a fellowship with the loving, personal God. God reveals Himself to each of us in special and exceptional ways, so our perception of Him is unique. Experiencing God shows you how to deepen your own personal relationship with God and discover your special place in His kingdom. Even as we try to understand Him, God accomplishes His glorious work through us. More than a million Christians have learned to hear and obey His voice through Experiencing God. Let it change your life too.

Faith: Depending On God

Dale & Sandy Larsen

Why don't I get what I pray for? How do I know God is really there? If you ever struggle with uncertainties about faith, you'll find good company in the pages of the Bible. In this study you'll meet people who asked similar questions. And you'll learn from the biblical teachings of faithful people. Asking hard questions is the first step in your journey to deeper trust.

Great Books Of The Bible

(Kevin Harney)

Ephesians – Bringing Heaven To Earth

6 Sessions

Ephesians is a book about restoration and healing. In it Paul tells of God's plan to reconcile all things to Himself, things in heaven and on earth. As we are restored in relationship to God, we are also reconciled to each other. And as God heals these relationships, He then binds us together into one glorious body, His church. As we find our places in His church, we are able to experience a foretaste of heaven on earth.

Groups Investigating God

Richardson, Rick & Hill, Daniel

A safe place for people of all religions and backgrounds to explore their ideas about God and to find out what scripture says about God's character. Each study includes personal stories, questions to explore through journaling, and challenging discussion starters based on popular movies—all designed to help participants process and apply what they learn.

InterActions Series (Bill Hybels)

Authenticity- Being Honest With God And Others- 6 Sessions

You'll learn how to identify the inconsistent areas of your life, discover proven ways to align them with the teachings of the Bible, and find a new joy that comes from growing closer to God.

Character- Reclaiming Six Endangered Qualities- 6 Sessions

You will discover how firmly God is committed to forming noble qualities within you. He wants your character to deepen even more than you do- and He has the power to do something about it!

Commitment- Developing Deeper Devotion To Christ- 6 Sessions

You'll find out what the Master expects from those who follow Him and what rewards await them. You'll also learn how to sidestep common barriers to commitment and draw closer to Christ than you've ever thought possible.

Community – Building Relationships Within God's Family- 6 Sessions

You'll learn how you can forge strong, meaningful ties with others and with God. You'll find you how to move beyond superficial relationships and build lasting friendships.

Essential Christianity – Practical Steps For Spiritual Growth-6 Sessions

You'll learn what it means to really know Christ; and discover the secret to confident living and spiritual growth

Evangelism – Becoming Stronger Salt And Brighter Light-6 Sessions

You'll discover the meaning and importance of sharing your faith and learn the motivation and mind-set behind evangelism.

Freedom – Breaking The Chains That Bind You- 6 Sessions

You will discover a strategy for becoming all God wants you to be. God has a plan for your liberation and He has provided the power needed to put this plan into action.

Fruit Of The Spirit- Living the Supernatural Life-6 Sessions

You'll learn about the life-transforming qualities God wants to cultivate inside you. In the process, you'll discover the one route to a truly satisfying life: serving others.

Getting A Grip –Finding Balance In Your Daily Life-6 Sessions

Guides you toward wise choices and disciplined action in five vital areas of your life: your time, your health, your finances, your spiritual life, and your relationships.

Jesus – Seeing Him More Clearly-6 Sessions

You'll discover the opportunities that await you every day to have an impact for Jesus. But best of all you'll grow closer to Him than ever before.

Lessons On Love-Following Christ's Example 6 Sessions

You'll learn about the various kinds of love, beginning with forms of love you'll recognize-and ending with a supernatural love so awesome it can utterly transform lives.

Marriage- Building Real Intimacy 6 Sessions

Will help you and your mate not only recapture the thrill in your marriage, but also maintain and build upon it to create a satisfying, lasting relationship- the kind God designed you both to enjoy.

Overcoming-Applying God's Power Where You Need It Most-6 Sessions

Helps you to move beyond six tough hurdles: adversity, fear, apathy, greed, lust and sorrow. As you unite the hope and insight of Scripture with the support of the people in your group, you'll find strength to overcome the things in your life you thought would never change.

Parenthood-Rising To The Challenge Of A Lifetime – 6 Sessions

Helps you and your group tackle the thorny issues parents face today. Each session covers a topic that's key to effective parenting, from raising well-balanced kids to overcoming the mistakes you make along the way.

Prayer – Opening Your Heart To God- 6 Sessions

You'll receive courage to life "dangerous prayers" with a confident heart. You'll discover how to handle the disappointment of unanswered prayer. And you'll be moved to a depth of honesty in prayer that will surprise you.

Psalms- Deepening Your Relationship With God – 6 Sessions

You'll learn about God's heart toward you- and what He looks for in your heart toward Him.

The Real You – Discovering Your Identity In Christ- 6 Sessions

You are a new creation in Christ, with fresh and exciting privileges and responsibilities. The Bible is filled with descriptions of who you are now that you are a Christ follower. You'll discover new ways to make your citizenship in God's Kingdom a daily reality right where you live.

Serving Lessons – Putting God And Others First – 6 Sessions

You'll discover how sharing your unique personal resources and spiritual gifts can become a source of strength to others, worship and praise to God, and a personal delight that nothing else can match.

Transformation- Letting God Change You From the Inside Out –6 Sessions

You'll learn proven ways of responding to God's guidance that will keep you growing closer to Him. You'll also discover an inspiring picture of what awaits you as a fully devoted follower- membership in a joyous, supportive community of believer, infused with God's love.

Transparency – Discovering The Rewards Of Truth-Telling 6 Sessions

Will help you move beyond your fears into the realm of knowing others and being known by them. Each session will carefully assist you in peeling away the disguise that prevents you from being your truest, freest self.

New Community Series

Bill Hybels

This series guides small groups through life-changing topics from a biblical perspective, in the context of community. Each volume contains six sessions with Bible study, discussion questions, and community-building exercises.

- 1 John: Love Each Other
- 1 Peter: Stand Strong
- Acts: Building Community
- Colossians: Discover the New You
- Sermon on the Mount (Part 1): Connect with God
- Sermon on the Mount (Part 2): Connect with Others
- Exodus: Journey Toward God
- Revelation: Experience God's Power
- Parables: Imagine Life God's Way
- James: Live Wisely
- Philippians: Run the Race
- Romans: Find Freedom

Lifeguide Bible Study

Sermon On The Mount (John Stott)

13 Sessions

What does it mean to seek first the kingdom in our relationships, values, ambitions, finances and commitment to God? Jesus' answer to this question amazed those who first heard the *Sermon On The Mount*. Like those who first heard it, you will be amazed and challenged by the greatest sermon ever preached.

Lifestyle Small Group Series

Stressed Out – Keeping It Together When It's Falling Apart 7 Sessions

In the following studies, we will look at some of the common causes of excessive stress and examine what the bible has to say about them. More specifically, we will look at worry, work, failure, conflict, and loss as sources of stress. Finally, we will look more closely at the process of burnout and how to beat it. As you move through these studies, you will find help in managing the wear and tear of contemporary living.

The God In You Bible Study Series

NAVPRESS

Jesus – God In You Made Possible

12 Sessions

Jesus Christ presented Himself as the way to God the way to actually have God in you. This book will help you examine Him through eyewitness accounts of His life. As you examine events and teachings of the God-man, you will gain a new perspective of the One who makes God in you possible. Your life will be strengthened by His life.

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation

John Ortberg, Laurie Pederson, Judson Poling

Explore fresh, biblically based ways to experience life with God as you pursue authentic spiritual transformation. This series focuses on five important “G’s” of a growing faith: Grace, Growth, Gifts, and Giving. Each book in this series includes six sessions that explore the life-giving practices, experiences, and relationships God can use to change us from the inside out.

Gifts : The Joy Of Serving God 7 Sessions

Gifted - that's you! Uniquely equipped to help build up the body of Christ. As a follower of Jesus, serving others is an integral part of your identity and an important key to your personal growth. But how do you cultivate a servant's heart and your spiritual gifts in ways that build up your church, your family, your friends, and your world - without wiping you out in the process? Gifts guide you to the answers. Through personal study and small group interaction, this study will help you develop a passion to be used by God. You'll find out about your unique place in the body of Christ and how to surmount the obstacles that keep you from thriving. You'll discover the joy of serving with others - doing together what you cannot do alone. And you'll learn how to abide in Christ, experiencing a freshness and vitality that grow as you give!

Grace: An Invitation To A Way Of Life

7 Sessions

Many Christians have an easier time being saved by grace than they do living in grace every day. But grace is at the center of the life God calls us to--and reflects the heart of the One who calls. Through an unfolding study of Psalm 23, you'll learn how God--our Good Shepherd--is for you, how he longs to walk with you through temptation, sorrow, and even deep regret. You'll discover God's desire to make his joy your joy. Throughout, you'll learn how enduring, powerful, and life-affirming God's work in your life can be—and rediscover why it's called amazing grace

Growth: Training Vs Trying

7 Sessions

What would your life be like if Jesus lived it? Imagine the change you would experience in your thoughts, actions, and relationships. Think of the joy and freedom that could transform every area of your life. That's exactly what God has in mind for you! You'll find out how in Growth. Through personal study and small group interaction, this study sets you on a path to live out the character of Jesus in this world as only you can. It happens not by trying hard, but by training. By cultivating spiritual disciplines--Scripture meditation, prayer, solitude, endurance, loving others--you'll discover the joy of being transformed by Christ and the freedom of living each day sustained by his power.

Giving: Unlocking The Heart Of Good Stewardship

7 Sessions

Jesus said more about money than just about any other topic. Clearly, it is an important issue - and a touchy one! Deep down, we know it is not a matter of what we earn but how we manage what we earn that shows our ultimate priorities. Giving demonstrates how good stewardship is more than a responsibility - it's an adventure. As you study the connection between your wallet and your heart, you'll learn how money management is a powerful tool for shaping your character. You'll discover how giving is as much a part of spiritual growth as prayer and Bible study. And you'll learn about the rewards of cultivating wise financial habits and a generous heart. Above all, you'll find out how a lifestyle of giving reflects the heart of God, who freely gives his best to you.

Reality Check Series Mark Ashton

Clear Evidence: Eyewitness Reports Of Jesus

6 Sessions

You'll weigh the arguments for and against the Jesus of the Bible. How convincing is the case for either side? The verdict is yours.

Future Shock: Jesus And The End Of The World 6 Sessions

While the Bible paints a grim future for a world bent on worshipping its own ways, it offers great hope for those whose hearts are set on God.

Hot Issues: Jesus Confronts Today's Controversies 6 Sessions

Hot Issues explores six current social evils that affect us all one way or another. They'll come as no surprise-until you explore Jesus' radical responses to the same issues in his time.

Jesus' Greatest Moments: The Week That Changed Everything 6 Sessions

As you relive the dramatic highs and lows of this unparalleled week, you'll discover why Jesus was far more than a great moral teacher-and why, among all other religious leaders, Jesus stands without equal.

Leadership Jesus Style: The Master And His Mission

6 Sessions

Nobody in history has surpassed Jesus of Nazareth in either methods or results. Find out his leadership secrets. They're guaranteed to make you a better leader.

Sudden Impact: Powerful Encounters with the Real Jesus

6 Sessions

Taking a compelling look at six very different encounters with Jesus and their impact on real, flesh-and-blood people, Sudden Impact helps you consider how you might respond if Jesus entered your world and turned it upside down.

When Tragedy Strikes: Jesus' Response To A World Gone Wrong

6 Sessions

Why doesn't He do something about the evil and suffering in this world? Where was He when the Twin Towers fell? Where is He in the midst of your own tragedy? Questions like these are hardly academic-they're gut-wrenching cry of a world consumed with unendurable pain and ugliness. Something about this life is so terribly broken that only God can fix it. So why doesn't He-or has He-is He-and will He?

Winning At Life: Jesus' Secrets Revealed

6 Sessions

Jesus had a lot to say about winning a losing in life. He also had a way of connecting with His listeners through stories that cut straight to the heart of their personal lives and values. *Winning At Life* revisits six of those stories. All of them offer a clearer vision of what life is really about.

Revelation: The Triumph of God

Stevens, R Paul

14 Sessions

In every age people have felt sure that the book of Revelation described events in their time. As nations arm themselves for war, we think of Armageddon. As evil rulers grow in power, we look for the antichrist. As the powers of darkness threaten to overwhelm us, we cry: "Come, Lord Jesus?" Amid the uncertainties of our age, Revelations assures us of the ultimate triumph of God.

Spiritual Gifts, Fisherman Bible Studies

Karen Dockrey

All Christians are gifted by the Holy Spirit, but many Christians don't know how to use their gifts. In this study you'll explore what the gifts are, why they are given, and how you can begin putting your gifts to use for God's glory. Learn to celebrate and affirm the varied spiritual gifts God has given you. 8 studies

1 Timothy & Titus: Fighting The Good Fight

John Stout

12 Sessions

We live in a culture where the beliefs and preferences of the individual are given final authority. Paul's firm commitment to the church as "the pillar and foundation of the truth" stands against that trend. His letters to Timothy and Titus call us to reestablish the core beliefs of Christianity and affirm our convictions about the gospel. Paul's priority in these letters is to make sure that the truth of the gospel is faithfully guarded and delivered to the next generation. Through these studies, we will be challenged to carry on the battle, armed with the truth of the gospel!

The Triumphant Christ Studies in the book of Revelation

Ingrid Koss

The Revelation of John - sometimes horrifying, often controversial, and always awesome. In a world where discrimination of any kind is political and social suicide, the Revelation of John unabashedly divides all humanity into the Haves and the Have Not's - each person determines their own destiny by the choice they make. "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near" (1:3).

Tough Questions Series (Garry Poole & Judson Poling)

Tough Questions #1 6 Sessions

How Does Anyone Know God Exists?

Wouldn't it be great to know for sure about the existence of God? Why do some people seem so certain, and others remain skeptical? Where do you stand? If you believe He exists, how do you know? And if He doesn't why are so many people convinced He does? This guide will facilitate discussion that inspires every member in your small group to take one more step closer to discovering the truth about who God is.

Tough Questions #2 6 Sessions

Is Jesus The Only Way?

In the spiritual realm, the Bible claims Jesus is more than just a way to God- He is *the way*. Are sincere Christians just exaggerating their love for their leader and teacher? This guide will facilitate discussion that inspires every member in your small group to take one more step closer to discovering the truth about who Jesus is.

Tough Questions #3 6 Sessions

How Reliable Is The Bible?

It is claimed by believers that the Bible is God's book-His word; or at a minimum, an important book about God. These claims deserve a hearing. This series of discussions will help you get an answer to the question, "How reliable is the Bible?"

Tough Questions #4 6 Sessions

How Could God Allow Suffering and Evil?

Why does God allow evil and suffering? Maybe right now, this is your big question. If it is, you're in the right place. We invite you to explore this issue in all its rawness, being honest with yourself and with others about the pain and confusion you feel.

Tough Questions #5 6 Sessions

Don't All Religions Lead To God?

In this study, we'll take a look at what other religions teach and compare each to Christianity. Then you'll have the chance to wrestle with the implications of a message that says all these outside groups are missing the crucial ingredient.

Tough Questions #6 6 Sessions

Do Science And The Bible Conflict?

Has science made religion obsolete? Is the Bible a vestige from an era when people were uncritical and would accept anything without proof? Why shouldn't we throw out the Bible in favor of the more reliable truths of science? This guide will help you explore these tough questions.

Tough Questions #7 6 Sessions

Why Become A Christian?

Bertrand Russell wrote a famous book called *Why I Am Not A Christian*. This guide is not a rebuttal to his arguments, but these discussions will cause you to see why he may have been mistaken about choosing not to become a Christian and why there may be good reasons to become one.

Under His Influence

(Lloyd Pulley)

7 Sessions

With clarity, wisdom, and humor, Lloyd Pulley succeeds at making the doctrine of the Holy Spirit accessible to all who want to experience the fullness of life in the Spirit. He outlines key principles about the Holy Spirit, and develops these precepts with personal testimonies and powerful insight from great men and women of faith. *Under His Influence* will give hope to the frustrated and help to all who want to reach their world boldly for Christ.

Walking With God Series

(Don Cousins & Judson Poling)

Friendship With God 13 studies

“Well, I go to church, but I wouldn't describe God as my best friend” “I want to feel closer to God, but I'm not sure how to get there.” Can you hear yourself in these statements? Do you know others who would? If so, this study is a great place to learn that God is a friend worth having. This study is the foundation for all the other lessons in the *Walking With God Series*- and can be the beginning of a vital walk with God for you.

The Incomparable Jesus 13 Sessions

Through an inductive study of Matthew 1-15 and other material, you'll discover the wonder and majesty as well as the tenderness and compassion of Jesus. You'll cover the entire life of Christ on earth-and profoundly deepen your knowledge and experience of the matchless Forgiver and King named Jesus.

Follow Me 13 Sessions

“Follow Me” this is Jesus’ command to every Christian. But how does someone follow Jesus today? How does He affect our relationships, our work, and our finances? You cannot remain the same after you see what Jesus has done for you-and you’ll want to follow wherever He leads.

Discovering The Church 13 Sessions

When God saves you, He puts you on His team. This team is more enduring than any human institution-for it will continue to exist in heaven forever. But many Christians are unconnected to the team God has given them as a gift. In some cases their experience has left them bewildered or even hurt. This guide explores the wonder and beauty of God’s plan to connect His children in the life-sustaining community called the church.

Building Your Church 13 Sessions

You can discover how God designed you and find great fulfillment serving Him according to that design. This guide helps you discover your role in God’s plan. These studies will assist you in finding your niche in the church so you can truly make a difference.

Impacting Your World 12 Sessions

Do you have difficulty sharing Christ with others? Do you have a hard time telling them how they can come to know God personally? God wants to help you have an impact in their lives. He doesn’t require you to resort to gimmicks or expect you to memorize pat answers to tough questions. In this guide you’ll discover a variety of styles of evangelism and you’ll be able to determine the style that best fits you.