

Curriculum Menu



GROWTH GROUPS

Growth Group Curriculum Menu

As stated above, there's no such thing as a "perfect" Growth Group study. And, there are many, many sites on the web for finding small group curriculum. While you can certainly explore on your own to find a study for your group, you could also save yourself a few steps, and some valuable time, by looking through our very own menu of curriculum choices. Our Grow in Faith Team compiled a list of studies which we hope will be of benefit to you, from other churches, authors and websites we've grown to trust.

If purchasing DVD's for your group, don't forget to split the cost among all of your members! Encourage your group members to order their own study guides and/or ask them to reimburse you for the order. Hosts were never intended to shoulder the cost for the entire group. Splitting the cost makes each experience a very affordable investment toward your spiritual growth! (If a member of your group is experiencing true financial hardship, please contact Angie Bartlett abartlett@reachingthesummit.com for scholarship information.)

GENERAL STUDIES (TO FIT ANY GROWTH STAGE):

Explore the Bible, Lifeway

The "Explore the Bible" curriculum features six-week studies that take groups through one book of the Bible at a time. These are in-depth Bible studies that help participants gain an understanding of the Bible through historical context, biblical interpretation and application. Each 6-week participant guide is available for approximately \$7/participant, and you can order both paperback and e-reader versions online at www.lifeway.com. Note: Make sure you purchase the 6-week stand-alone studies!

GRACE: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Can Imagine, Max Lucado (7 video sessions, available on Study Gateway; Participant's Guide also available for purchase via christianbook.com)
Have you been changed by grace? Shaped by grace? Softened by grace? Grace is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off. Max Lucado's GRACE video-based study takes your Growth Group on a journey to discover the depth of God's grace - greater than you can imagine, more than you deserve, and all that you need. Designed for use with GRACE Participant's Guide.

GENERAL STUDIES (DIVIDED INTO POTENTIAL GROWTH STAGES):

Follow, Andy Stanley

(Seeker/Believer; 8 video sessions, available on Study Gateway; Participant Guide also available for purchase on christianbook.com)

For many, the Christian life feels like a long game of "Jesus Says:" Jesus says pray, Jesus says give, Jesus says go to church. In Follow, an eight-session video-based Bible study, Andy Stanley helps your Growth Group discover that Jesus' invitation is an invitation to relationship. It begins with a simple request, "Follow Me." In the eight-session study, Andy Stanley takes you on a journey through the Gospels as he traces Jesus' teaching on what it means to follow.

Life Is . . ., Judah Smith

(Seeker/Believer/Follower - 6 video sessions, available on Study Gateway; Participant Guide also available on christianbook.com)

What is life? What are we here for? What is truly important? What will bring authentic satisfaction and lasting happiness? We all ask these questions and all have a right to come to our own conclusions. Judah Smith reveals what he believes life to be about in this study for Growth Groups: to be loved and to love; to enjoy God to the fullest; to trust God in every moment; and to be at peace with God, others, and ourselves. In Life Is, Judah shows us the irrational love of God and the life that He intends for us to have in the here and now.

Growth Group Curriculum Menu

Starting Point, Andy Stanley

(Seeker/Believer, 8 sessions - Recommended for groups who have only been together for one or two seasons.) NOTE: This resource is free and available through the church by contacting kbrashear@reachingthesummit.com or at (816) 524-4966.

Everything has a starting point—your life, your relationships, your education, your career. Sometimes we forget that faith has a starting point, as well. For some of us, our faith journeys began in childhood as a set of beliefs handed to us by a parent, teacher, or pastor. Maybe you developed a framework of faith based on personal experience, or had no faith at all. Too often, a faith formed in childhood isn't strong enough to withstand the pressures of adult life. But what if you could find a new starting point for faith? Starting Point is a Growth Group conversation about faith designed for those new to faith, curious about God, or coming back to church after some time away.

Christian - It's Not What You Think, Andy Stanley

(Believer - 8 video sessions, available on Study Gateway; Participant Guide also available via christianbook.com)

What does it mean to be a Christian? Ask 100 people that question and you are likely to get 100 different answers. In *Christian*, an eight-session DVD-based Bible study, pastor and bestselling author Andy Stanley explores the one word that Jesus gave his followers that should define them. Designed for use with Christian Participant's Guide.

If: Trading Your If Only Regrets for God's What If Possibilities

(Follower/Leader, 4 sessions; DVD + Participant's Guide available via christianbook.com)

Wrestling with regrets? Let God take your "if onlys" and use them as a springboard to a future filled with great possibilities! In this 4-week DVD-based study, Mark Batterson helps you embrace a confident, ready-to-conquer attitude based on the astounding question posed in Romans 8: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Renovate, North Point Resources

(Follower/Leader - 8 sessions; DVD + Companion Workbook available via store.northpoint.org)

Have you ever attempted a renovation? You start motivated and often end the first day with a massive mess on your hands. So if renovation is so difficult, why do we attempt it? Over the course of 8 sessions, this study will introduce you to the possibility of personal renovation, exploring the foundation and blueprints of God's original design for us.

PARENTING STUDIES:

Grace-Based Parenting, Part 1 Tim Kimmel

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/Follower/Leader) (10 video sessions, available on Study Gateway; Discussion Guides available on familymatters.net)

This is a fun, refreshing Growth Group study that gives parents a realistic job description for raising spiritually strong children who grow up with a sense of calm and a heart full of purpose. As you watch the DVD and use the helpful Discussion Guide, you will learn to meet your children's inner heart needs and grant the four freedoms that can make an atmosphere of grace a permanent condition in your home.

Sticky Faith, Dr. Kara Powell

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/Follower/Leader), (5 video sessions, available on Study Gateway; softcover Parent Curriculum and DVD available via christianbook.com)

This five-session, video-based study came from Kara's desire to see her own kids emerge from adolescence with their faith intact. Through personal, real-world experiences of research and sharing, Sticky Faith presents powerful strategies and practical ideas, enabling you to impart a deep and lasting faith in your children.

Growth Group Curriculum Menu

Sacred Parenting, Gary Thomas

(Follower/Leader) (6 video sessions, available on Study Gateway; Participant Guide also available via christianbook.com)

Parenting a child is an in-depth course in spiritual formation, expressly designed by God to touch you and teach you in ways you could never have imagined. What if one of God's primary intentions for you as a parent isn't about successfully raising perfect children, but about your becoming more holy? This six-session video study offers a road map to new territory - sacred territory defined by the children God has given you to teach you His lesson in love.

WOMEN'S STUDIES:

Kingdom Woman, Drs. Tony and Lois Evans & Chrystal Evans Hurst

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/Follower/Leader; DVD and Study Guide available on christianbook.com)

Discover your TRUE value as a kingdom woman, who gives the devil a reason to fear! A kingdom woman lives confidently in the knowledge that Christ died and rose for her so that she can experience the significance of the destiny to which she has been called: to be free, delivered, healed, and hopeful. Come along with esteemed speakers and writers Drs. Tony and Lois Evans and their oldest daughter, Chrystal Evans Hurst, as they cast a kingdom vision for women in all walks of life. Whether you're married or single, you'll discover that God wants to be the first "Husband" in your life. You'll learn how the Creator makes, refines and redeems a kingdom woman, much like a diamond is unearthed, cut and polished to shine for its Maker.

Chase, Jennie Allen

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/Follower/Leader; 8 video sessions, available on Study Gateway; Participant Guide also available via christianbook.com)

What are you chasing? We're all chasing after something, something that we think will make us happy - comfort, success, a bigger house, or someone's approval.

As David's life weaves throughout Scripture, we see that this "man after God's own heart" spent his life chasing after God. Chase explores the events that defined David's life and the Psalms that flowed out of those experiences. Through David's example, we'll discover that God has carved out a space in us that only He can fill, as well as what He really wants from each of us. So whether you're running from God or working your tail off to please Him, David's journey will challenge your view of God, who, though invisible, is the only thing we can chase after that won't leave us feeling empty.

The Shelter of God's Promises, Sheila Walsh

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/Follower/Leader; 10 sessions, available on Study Gateway; Participant's Guide available on christianbook.com)

In a world of uncertainty, pain, and struggle, where do you find solid assurance and unshakeable truth? In *The Shelter of God's Promises*, a ten-session Growth Group Bible Study for women, gifted Bible teacher Sheila Walsh searches Scripture for what God has promised us, what God's promises mean, and how those promises provide the foundation for daily confidence, joy, and hope.

Growth Group Curriculum Menu

MEN'S STUDIES:

Kingdom Man, Tony Evans

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/Follower/Leader; 6 sessions; DVD and Participant's Guide available on christianbook.com)

You were created for greatness! In this six-session group Bible study, pastor and author Tony Evans challenges men to recognize and claim the standard of greatness that God has set forth in His Word. You will learn what it means to be a Kingdom man who accepts responsibility for his domain of influence. Step up and claim your destiny as God's Kingdom Man. Learn how to maximize the qualities of biblical manhood and become the world-changer God wants you to be! Sharing practical concepts, Evans encourages, challenges and equips you to display responsible leadership and positively influence those around you.

When the Game is Over, it all Goes Back in the Box, John Ortberg

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/Follower/Leader; 6 sessions, available on Study Gateway; Participant's Guide also available on christianbook.com)

Using popular games as a metaphor for our temporal lives, John Ortberg explains how, left to our own devices, we tend to seek out worldly things, mistakenly thinking they will bring us fulfillment. This six-session video study neatly sorts out what's fleeting and what's permanent in God's kingdom. Winning the game of life on earth is a temporary victory; loving God and other people with all our hearts is an eternal one. Using his humor and genius for storytelling, Ortberg helps you focus on the real rules of the game and how to set your priorities.

Faith, Hope, and Luck: Discover What You Can Expect From God, Andy Stanley

(Believer/Follower/Leader; 5 video sessions, available on Study Gateway; Participant Guide also available via christianbook.com)

It's risky business when faith in God relies on our interpretation of His activity---or lack of it---in our lives! Andy Stanley reveals the difference between faith and hope, offers a biblical definition of faith, and deconstructs "The Faith Movement." This five session study is a great way to spark individual reflection and group discussion.

STUDIES ON MARRIAGE:

I Love You More, Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/Follower/ Leader; 6 video sessions available on Study Gateway; Workbook available via christianbook.com)

In I Love You More, Les and Leslie Parrot show you how the same forces that can chip away at a marriage can become the catalyst for new relational depth and richness - provided you make the right choices. The question isn't whether struggles will arise, but how you will handle them when they come. The I Love You More Workbook will help you personalize the discoveries you make in the I Love You More video-based study and turn them into practical action. Les and Leslie Parrott will help your Growth Group enjoy lively and eye-opening interactions. Each session concludes with an exercise each couple can do together over the next week.

Staying in Love, Andy Stanley

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/Follower/Leader; 4 video sessions available on Study Gateway; Participant Guide also available via christianbook.com)

We all know what's required to fall in love . . . a pulse. Falling in love is easy, but staying there - that's something else entirely. With more than a thousand matchmaking services available today, finding a romantic match can be easier than ever; staying together with the one you've found seems to be the real challenge. So is it possible for two people to fall in love and actually stay there? Absolutely! Let Andy Stanley show you how in this 4 session study.

Growth Group Curriculum Menu

Your Time-Starved Marriage, Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot

(All levels: Seeker/Believer/ Follower/Leader; 6 video sessions available on Study Gateway; Men's and Women's Workbooks available via christianbook.com)

Do you feel overscheduled and under-connected? Do you wish there was a surefire way to create more meaningful time together each day? Reclaim your time together and all the relationship benefits that go with it. Your Time-Starved Marriage isn't about being more productive - it's about being more connected.

STUDIES REFERENCED ON THE SPIRITUAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT (INTRODUCTORY/ INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED):

Simplify, Bill Hybels

(Introductory step; book + study guide available via christianbook.com)

Simplified living requires more than just cleaning out your closets or reorganizing your desk drawer. It requires uncluttering your soul. Bestselling author Bill Hybels identifies the core issues that lure us into frenetic living--and offers practical steps for sweeping the clutter from our souls.

It's Personal, Andy Stanley

(Introductory step; no study guide- DVD only available via store.northpoint.org)

Are questions, concerns or doubts preventing you from making a personal connection with God? This powerful series is directed to men and women who desire a personal relationship with God, but who have questions they want answered first. 4 part DVD only series.

Starting Point, Andy Stanley

(Introductory step, 8 sessions; Recommended for groups who have only been together for one or two seasons.) NOTE: This resource is free and available at www.startingpointseries.com.

Everything has a starting point—your life, your relationships, your education, your career. Sometimes we forget that faith has a starting point, as well. For some of us, our faith journeys began in childhood as a set of beliefs handed to us by a parent, teacher, or pastor. Maybe you developed a framework of faith based on personal experience, or had no faith at all. Too often, a faith formed in childhood isn't strong enough to withstand the pressures of adult life. But what if you could find a new starting point for faith? Starting Point is a Growth Group conversation about faith designed for those new to faith, curious about God, or coming back to church after some time away.

40 Days In the Word, Rick Warren

(Introductory step, 6 sessions; DVD + Companion Workbook available via christianbook.com)

This DVD contains six powerful small group lessons taught by Rick Warren. Each 25 minute lesson, combined with the materials from the 40 Days in the Word Workbook, will inspire every member of your small group to Love the Word, Learn the Word and Live the Word! 40 Days in the Word is a journey of eternal significance, as you and your church will learn how to be not only "hearers" of the Word, but also "doers" of God's Word.

Work As Worship, Mark Russell

(Introductory step; book available via christianbook.com)

The time has come for us to see a purpose for business that goes beyond money and that has a vision for this economy that goes even beyond this earth. Built around twelve themes: calling, leadership, character, success, money, stewardship, balance, disciplines, relationships, pluralism, ethics and giving. Work as Worship opens our collective eyes to the spiritual nature and mission of our daily work.

Growth Group Curriculum Menu

Finding Your Way Back to God, Dave Ferguson, Jon Ferguson

(Intermediate step, 5 sessions; DVD + Participant's Guide available via christianbook.com)

The Finding Your Way Back to God DVD explores the idea that we all want to find our way home – and back to God. In each ten-minute video on the five-part DVD, Dave Ferguson and Jon Ferguson guide you through a life awakening inspiring you to follow the path God has laid out for returning to him.

The Circle Maker, Mark Batterson

(Intermediate step, 4 sessions; DVD + Participant's Guide available via studygateway.com)

Do you ever sense that there's far more to prayer than what you're experiencing? It's time you learned from the legend of Honi the Circle Maker—a man bold enough to draw a circle in the sand and not budge from inside it until God answered his impossible prayer for his people. What impossibly big dream is God calling you to draw a prayer circle around? Sharing inspiring stories from his own experiences as a circle maker, Mark Batterson will help you uncover your heart's deepest desires and God-given dreams and unleash them through the kind of audacious prayer that God delights to answer.

To Live is Christ To Die is Gain, Matt Chandler, Jared C. Wilson

(Intermediate step; study guide, book, ebook available via christianbook.com)

In this disruptively inspiring book, Chandler offers tangible ways to develop a faith of pursuing, chasing, knowing and loving Jesus. Because if we clean up our lives but don't get Jesus, we've lost! So let the goal be Him. To live is Christ, to die is gain—this is the message of the letter. Therefore, our lives should be lived to Him, through Him, for Him, with Him, about Him—everything should be about Jesus.

Same Kind of Different As Me, Ron Hall and Denver Moore

(Intermediate step, 5 sessions; DVD + Participant's Guide available via christianbook.com)

Go deeper into New York Times bestseller Same Kind of Different as Me. Perfect for individual study or a small-group discussion, this documentary-style video brings the themes of Same Kind of Different as Me to life and provides a continued connection to the story and the foundation for a convicting lesson. From a burning plantation hut in Louisiana to an upscale New York art gallery, you will see the heart of God in this unexpected tale of the transforming power of love and friendship. Gritty with pain and betrayal, Same Kind of Different As Me is an inspirational true story that crosses the barriers of society.

Walk Across The Room, Bill Hybels

(Intermediate step, 4 sessions; DVD + Participant's Guide available via studygateway.com)

In this four-session video-based study, Pastor Bill Hybels' firm conviction is that the highest value in personal evangelism is being attuned to and cooperative with the promptings of the Holy Spirit. This means playing only the role you are intended to play—walking when the Spirit says to walk, talking when the Spirit says to talk, and falling silent when the Spirit suggests that you've already said enough. More than two thousand years ago, Jesus himself introduced the perfect model for evangelism. He left the marvelous adoration of the angels and the perfection of heaven, and he chose to "walk" clear across the cosmos. With fresh perspectives from his own reflections and experiences collected during his most recent decade of ministry, Hybels shows with undeniable clarity the power of this approach to evangelism. The stakes are high. The implications are eternal. And you may be only a conversation away from having unparalleled impact on someone's life—if you will just walk across the room.

The Spirit of the Disciplines, Dallas Willard

(Advanced step; book available via christianbook.com)

Believers long for personal purity and power to live as our hearts tell us we should. But how does God change us? Willard reminds us that we can be like Christ if we follow his style of life: solitude and silence, prayer, simple and sacrificial living, meditation on God's Word, and service to others. The practice of these disciplines is how God guides us into a constant interaction with his kingdom. "Few books have challenged me like this one. I would urge every serious minded Christian to read it...at your own risk."---Bill Hybels, author of *Honest to God*

Growth Group Curriculum Menu

Sacred Pathways, Gary Thomas

(Advanced step; book available on christianbook.com)

In *Sacred Pathways*, Gary Thomas strips away the frustration of a one-size-fits-all spirituality and guides you toward a path of worship that frees you to be you. If your devotional times have hit a snag, perhaps it is because you're trying to follow someone else's path. This book unfolds nine distinct spiritual temperaments--their traits, strengths, and pitfalls.

Not A Fan, Kyle Idelman

(Advanced step; book available on lifeway.com)

Not A Fan calls you to consider the demands and rewards of being a true disciple. With frankness sprinkled with humor, Idelman invites you to live the way Jesus lived, love the way he loved, pray the way he prayed, and never give up living for the One who gave his all for you.

He Restores My Soul, Jennifer Kennedy Dean

(Advanced step; book available via christianbook.com)

Through a forty-day program for spiritual renewal, this work guides you on an intimate journey through your own mind, heart, and soul. On the way, you'll have the chance to make your spiritual self as pure and polished as silver. Through the introspective questions and daily instructions for self-improvement, you'll reach new depths of spiritual reflection and action, becoming sensitive and malleable to God's shaping hand.

Forgotten God, Francis Chan

(Advanced step; book available via christianbook.com)

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.

A study session for individual or small-group use appears at the end of each chapter included in this book. If you're leading a discussion, the included notes for discussion leader's guide make this a valuable resource.

If You Want To Walk On Water You Have To Get Out of The Boat, John Ortberg, Stephen Sorenson, Amanda Sorenson

(Advanced step, 6 sessions; DVD + Companion Workbook available via christianbook.com)

If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat helps you answer Christ's call to greater faith, power-filled deeds, and a new way of knowing how to discern God's call, transcend fear, risk faith, manage failure, and trust God. Relating the story in Matthew 14 to life today, teacher and bestselling author John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone.

Crazy Love, Francis Chan

(Advanced step; book +study guide available via christianbook.com)

Do contemporary believers live the radically committed life Jesus calls his followers to live? In this revised and updated edition of his best-selling wake-up call, Chan challenges church members to take responsibility for their apathy, engage in honest self-examination, and totally surrender to God's purpose. This Revised and Updated Edition includes a new preface by Chan, a new chapter in which he shares about the last five years, and an interactive guide for individual or small-group study.

Growth Group Curriculum Menu

ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM SITES:

StudyGateway.com is a free online resource for all groups who contact Angie Bartlett at abartlett@reachingthesummit.com. The Summit has a subscription to this site and once entered by Angie you will receive information on how to register.

On Study Gateway you will find studies linked by topic (Most Popular, Discipleship, Men, Women, Marriage, Family, etc.). This is a great place to generate new ideas for studies. You can research studies by clicking "Browse Video Library" and purchase directly from the site or look for these same studies on websites that may offer better prices.

www.studygateway.com

Please note: by registering your group with Angie most of the resources are **free!**

Christianbook.com is a huge online bookstore with studies which can be refined by Audience (Women, Men, All), Number of Lessons, Popular Studies, Respected Authors, etc. You can seek out an appropriate study for your group by clicking the "Bible Studies" link, and can purchase directly from the site.

<http://www.christianbook.com>

Northpoint Church (Andy Stanley) - Has an online "store" where you can search by FORMAT (Book, Study Guide, or Study Guide w/DVD) or TOPIC (Character, Finances, Faith, Personal Responsibility, Spiritual Growth, etc.) and can order directly from the site.

<http://store.northpoint.org>