

## Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

**These studies are ones we suggest as “good” studies. Some of them are available in our church library but most you will need to order by visiting Family Christian, Berean or logging onto Amazon, Christianbook.com or zondervan.com. Email the office with any questions.**

### DVD Studies

#### **Faith Lessons on the Life & Ministry of the Messiah**

DVD & User Guide

Filmed on location in Israel, this study provides a video tour of the buried, distant, or otherwise forgotten places where the stories of the Bible actually happened. Historian Ray Vander Laan helps us better understand the “world” or culture of the Bible. He provides insights into the New Testament and explores Jesus’ life embedded in the specific culture in which he lived. We explore truth from a Greek or western perspective describing events in words. Eastern culture, instead, uses metaphors and pictures. The presentation takes viewers to archaeological sites few people ever see, where the geographical and historical contexts of the Bible take on powerful relevance for present-day believers.

#### **Jesus, Fact or Fiction?**

DVD & Map

Experts address more than 50 questions about Jesus, God and the Bible. You can use this study in 2 ways. Go through the Journey section. All the questions are woven together and you choose the topic of greatest interest. In addition to answers to the questions, there are also personal stories relating to the questions. Many questions also have articles and book suggestions linked to them. The articles can be printed from the DVD in a PC. The second method of utilizing this study is through the question index. The questions are grouped into categories.

Also includes The Jesus Film. It can be 1) viewed like a regular movie; 2) activate the discovery glass so that the movie can be stopped to hear answers to typical questions; 3) turn on a full length audio commentary.

#### **The Creation Museum Collection**

5 DVDs

- **Dinosaurs & Dragon Legends - 2 programs totaling 14 min.** plus bonus items
  - Man really did walk with dinosaurs! Both were created on Day Six of Creation Week, both were destroyed in massive numbers during Noah’s Flood, and both had to survive in the new world that followed. Includes articles and web links.
- **Heaven & Earth – 8 programs totaling 18 min.** plus bonus items
  - Explore what science and the Bible show us about the marvelous work of the Creator. Includes articles and web links.
- **The Last Adam – 3 programs totaling 33 min.** plus bonus items
  - Sin changed everything. This is a concise history of mankind and of the One who became our Savior. Includes articles and web links.
- **Life – 9 programs totaling 25 min.** plus bonus items
  - The earth abounds with a fantastic variety of living things – birds, cattle, fish, people. Each has an amazing design. These programs explore design answers from science and the Bible. Includes articles and web links
- **Six Days – 8 programs totaling 27 min.** plus bonus items
  - The words of Genesis are set to a sweeping musical score. This unique collection of short films will inform, inspire, and remind you of God’s purpose for mankind. Includes articles and web links.

# Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

## **Choose the Life, Exploring a Faith That Embraces Discipleship**

DVD, book & study guide

*DVD includes ten 10-minute video insights*

This study challenges us to accept that Jesus is calling us to think as He thought, live as he lived, love as he loved, minister as he ministered, and lead as he led.

## **Just Walk Across the Room** (Bill Hybels)

DVD & Study Guide

4 sessions

This series brings personal evangelism into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a natural and empowering approach modeled after Jesus himself. This series will equip and inspire you to leave your “circle of comfort” and, in simple ways, extend hands of care, compassion, and inclusiveness to people who might need a touch of God’s love.

## **If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat** (John Ortberg)

DVD & Study Guide

6 sessions

Walking on water means

- Facing your fears and choosing not to let fear have the last word
- Discovering and embracing the unique calling of God on your life
- Experiencing the power of God to accomplish what you would not be capable of doing on your own

This series helps you answer Christ’s call to greater faith, power-filled deeds, and a new way of knowing him. You will discover how to discern God’s call, transcend fear, risk faith, manage failure, and trust God. You are asked to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone.

## **Beginning Life Together**

DVD & Study Guide

This is a small group curriculum built on the Purpose Driven paradigm. Based on the five biblical purposes, this series will help your group discover what God created you for and how you can turn this dream into an everyday reality. It helps leaders lead and small groups form and develop the different elements of being a Terrific small group.

Each session includes:

Leader Lifter – pre-session leader training talk

Creative Element – a personal story, interview, drama, or music video

Dynamic Teaching – featuring well-known teachers

Worship Music – songs, lyrics, uplifting and video images

- **Beginning Life Together (God’s Purpose for Your Life)** 6 sessions
  - God never intended for you to do life alone, but to do life together in community. This introductory group study gives you an overview of the five biblical purposes that God intends for your life.
- **Connecting With God’s Family (Fellowship)** 6 sessions
- **Developing Your SHAPE to Serve Others (Ministry)** 6 sessions
- **Sharing Your Life Mission Every Day (Evangelism)** 6 session
- **Growing To Be Like Christ (Discipleship)** 6 sessions
  - Spiritual maturity doesn’t happen by accident. This series equips you for the basic habits of spiritual growth: relying on the Holy Spirit, cultivating time in the Bible and prayer, seeing life’s obstacles as opportunities for growth, and partnering with Christians who are committed to supporting your growth.
- **Surrendering Your Life for God’s Pleasure (Worship)**

# Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

## Nooma Studies

## DVD & Discussion Guide

Each study is self-contained, with a new format for getting Christian perspectives. These are short films with communicators that really speak to today's generation. Compact, portable and concise. Each DVD touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about, and it fits our world.

- **Rain** – Things don't always work out the way we want them to, or the way we think they will. It makes us wonder how God can let these things happen to us.. Maybe it's when we're in these situations that God gets an opportunity to remind us of how much he really loves us.
- **Flame** – I love those shoes. The same way I love my wife? What's up with the word "love"? It doesn't have much meaning when we use it so loosely. God created love and wants us to feel it all in the way it's meant to be felt.
- **Trees** – We want to know why we are here, if our lives really matter, how our religion is relevant to this life.
- **Sunday** – Why do we go to church or give money away? Because we're supposed to or because we think God needs it? God hates it when we call ourselves Christians but ignore all the things he really cares about. God doesn't want the meaningless rituals, God wants our hearts.
- **Noise** – Why is silence so hard to deal with? Why is it so much easier to live our lives with a lot of things going on all the time? Maybe there's a connection between the amount of noise in our lives and our inability to hear God.
- **Kickball** – We always think we know what's missing from our lives in order to really make us happy. If only I had that car, or that job. Do we trust that God is good and sees a bigger picture than we ever could?
- **Luggage** – Maybe a friend turned their back on you. Maybe someone you loved betrayed you. We all have wounds and we end up carrying around these things that people have done to us for weeks, months, and sometimes even years. Can we forgive or do we seek revenge? God didn't create you to carry these wounds around. God created you to be free.
- **Dust** – Believing in God is important, but what about God believing in us? Believing that we can actually be the kind of people we were meant to be. People of love, compassion, peace, forgiveness, and hope. Maybe if we had more insight into the culture that Jesus grew up in and some of the radical things he did, we'd understand the faith that God has in all of us.
- **Bullhorn** – Jesus said that the most important thing in life is to love God with everything we've got and love others the same way. But it's not always easy to love everyone around us. Maybe the best way for us to show our love for God is actually by loving other people no matter how hard it sometimes is.
- **Lump** – A lot of us have done things in our lives that we're ashamed of. But no matter how big our junk is, it hasn't changed how God feels about us.
- **Rhythm** – What does it mean to have a relationship with God? What does it look like? Maybe the way we live every day, every single choice we make, determines how in tune with God we are.
- **Matthew** – Suffering the loss of someone we love can be the most difficult thing in life to deal with. What might help us is to understand how Jesus dealt with this kind of loss.
- **Rich** – It's easy for us to fall into a mindset of viewing "our" world as "the" world, because it's all we generally see. But how does what we have compare to what most people in the world have? Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others.
- **Breathe** – With everything that we've got going on every day, how many of us ever think about our breathing and the meaning of breathing? Yet, for thousands of years, people have understood that our physical breath is a picture of a deeper spiritual reality. Maybe if we had more insight into the meaning of breathing, we would better understand how God created us as human beings.
- **You** – Some of the central claims of the Christian faith are the source of many discussions and heated debates. But are we always debating the right things? Maybe some of the claims of the Christian faith that we typically perceive to be unique aren't really that special at all. And at the

## Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

same time, maybe we don't always put enough emphasis on the things that truly should matter in our lives.

- **Store** – We all get angry about things from time to time – some of us more often than others. What is really at the root of our anger? Maybe if we had a better understanding of our anger and where it comes from, we could learn how to channel it towards something constructive – something that's bigger than ourselves.
- **Today** – How much time and energy do we spend wishing things were how they used to be? Some of us have even come to believe that our best days may actually be behind us. Maybe we need to learn to embrace our past for what it is, in order to live our lives to the fullest right here, right now.
- **Name** – We all compare ourselves to others. WE spend our lives wondering what others think and say about us. Some of us even wish we were someone else. Maybe if we really knew our true selves, we wouldn't give so much attention to other people's lives and live more in tune with the life God wants for us.
- **Open** – Many of us have experiences situations where we've prayed and it felt like God wasn't listening. Does God answer prayer? Maybe if we understood how Jesus prayed, our concepts and expectations of prayer would change.
- **Shells** – Do you frequently find yourself saying "I'm so busy". But what are we really doing with our time?

## Video Studies

**The Purpose Driven Life** (Small Group Series) 40 week video curriculum, Study Guides, Book

There is learning here, as well as built-in help with the small group process.

This series helps you build greater spiritual health and balance in your life. Each of the six volumes explores, in depth, one of the five Biblical purposes of the Church found in the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). 6 modules – about 7 sessions each

- What On Earth Am I Here For?
- You Were Planned for God's Pleasure – what it means to live a lifestyle of worship
- You Were Formed for God's Family – what it means to have true Christian fellowship
- You Were Created to Become Like Christ
- You Were Shaped for Serving God – how God uses your spiritual gifts, passions, personality, and experiences to prepare you for ministry
- You Were Made for a Mission – how God wants to use your life to reach the world for Jesus Christ

**Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?** (Philip Yancey)

Book & Video

Yancey explores the questions surrounding prayer that you may wonder about but not know how to express. Above all, Yancey shows you how to pray to a God who sees what lies ahead of you, knows what lies within you, and who invites you into an eternal partnership with Him---through prayer.

*Tim & Karen DeRosett's Life Group*

# Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

## Study Guides

### **Bill Hybel's InterActions Series**

**Authenticity: Being Honest with God and with Others** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

Maybe the greatest challenge facing the church is the disease that is eating away at its power and integrity – inauthentic Christianity. In the pulpits and in the pews, there are too many inconsistent Christians. There are six manifestations of inconsistent Christian living: 1) external methods of Christianity vs. internal change; 2) relationships marked by deception rather than honesty; 3) heartache and grief hidden behind smiling masks; 4) evangelizing out of guilt; 5) workers whose jobs are drudgery or obsessions; 6) out of control budgets. Discover what it means to live authentic lives as fully devoted followers of Christ.

**Character: Reclaiming Six Endangered Qualities** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

These six character traits are endangered. None comes easily. They must be developed over time. Search your heart and decide what your life would be like if you had courage, self-discipline, confidence, patience, contentment, and endurance.

**Freedom: Breaking the Chains that Bind You** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

Most adults are all about change – for the worst! Our bodies and our behavior patterns have a way of deteriorating over time – eating too much, the wrong things, giving into sexual temptations, worrying. We spend years of unsuccessful attempts at trying to change these patterns. God gives us the hope of freedom from these “chains that bind”.

**Getting a Grip: Finding Balance in Your Daily Life** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

Discover how you can regain control of your life. This study will focus on five primary areas; 1) the big picture, where our lives are out of control; 2) our schedules; 3) our bodies; 4) our finances; 5) our devotions; 6) our relationships

**Jesus: Seeing Him More Clearly** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

God not only provided us with a Savior, he provided a sympathetic Savior – One who has been here as a man, One who understands, One who you can identify with, feel close to, talk with learn to love. One who is going to make a difference in your life every day. These sessions help you see Jesus more clearly. When He walked on this earth, Jesus revealed Himself as a man, a great teacher, a physician, a servant, a good shepherd, and a king.

**Marriage: Building Real Intimacy** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

This series provides opportunities to honestly look at your marriage and identify areas of strength as well as areas that need growth. Whether in a stormy time or inexpressible bliss, this series will help you build real intimacy with your marriage partner.

## Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

### **Prayer: Opening Your Heart to God** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

Prayer is alien to our independent human tendencies. However, as we grow in prayer, we discover that God actually wants to be in relationship with us. This series will help you discover that true prayer has a way of releasing the life of God in your spirit, of activating and liberating the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life. A qualitative difference will be made in your relationship with God as you learn to talk with God through personal prayer.

### **Psalms: Deepening Your Relationship with God** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

Psalms: a collection of 150 songs that has given inspiration to the people of God for thousands of years. They express profound joy as well as deep sorrow. Reading them helps us deepen our relationship with God. They will capture your heart and fill you with expressions of gratitude, worship, and hope.

### **The Real You: Discovering Your Identity in Christ** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

When you become a Christ follower, your being does not immediately change. Over time you learn how to be like Christ and how God views you. As the months and years pass, you understand this new identity, and begin to think and feel and act as: 1) sons and daughters; 2) saints; 3) soldiers; 4) ambassadors; 5) friends; 6) managers.

### **Serving Lessons: Putting God and Others First** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

There is little diversity in our culture when it comes to one thing: self-interest. All of us struggle with self-centeredness and the “Me First” mind-set. However, followers of Christ are called to be servants. The pursuit of a life of service is not easy, but it is a journey like no other.

### **Transparency: Discovering the Rewards of Truth-Telling** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

Truth-telling has fallen on hard times. In the pressure of real-life relationships, truth does not always come out of our mouths. Too often our natural tendency is to “keep the peace”. However, we all have inner yearnings to be in a significant relationship with someone with whom we can be completely honest and vulnerable. This series will challenge you to levels of transparency that go beyond your relational comfort zone. You will discover that God’s true plan for human relationship is real community, real intimacy, and real transparency.

### **Transformation: Letting God Change You from the Inside Out** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

We spend billions on our outside appearance, millions on health foods, vitamins, diets and exercise. People hope that looking better will make them feel better about themselves. But God is concerned with the interior. He looks at the heart – the core of our being.

# Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

## Books

### **Facing Your Giants** (Max Lucado)

Book & Study Questions

*19 chapters can be done in 6 sessions*

Define your Goliath – bills you can't pay, people you can't please, habits you can't break, failures you can't forget, a future you can't face. Just like David, you can face your giant, even if you aren't the strongest, the smartest, the best equipped or the holiest. Read David's story in your own life's context and learn how to focus on God rather than your giants.

*Brent & Betsy Carter's Life Group*

### **Raising Great Kids** (Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend)

Book & age specific workbooks

This book helps you provide the care and acceptance that makes grace real to your child, and the firmness and discipline that give direction. Avoiding the twin extremes of permissiveness and over-control, the authors show how you can help your child cultivate six necessary character traits: attachment, responsibility, reality, competence, morality, and worship/spiritual life.

*Tim & Karen DeRosett's Life Group*

### **The ABCs of Financial Success**

Book & Workbook

There is a better way to live than most Americans do. Discover how to get rid of all your debt and receive God's blessings on our finances. This series is a hands-on approach to applying God's principles to our finances.

### **He Chose the Nails** (Max Lucado)

Book & Study Questions

Pre-Easter study

Unwrap the gifts of grace given by Jesus. Much has been said about the gift of the cross itself, but what of the other gifts? What of the nails, the crown of thorns? What about the garment taken? What about the garments given? Have you taken the time to open these gifts?

*Chris Kylander's Life Group*

### **No Wonder They Call Him the Savior** (Max Lucado)

Book & Study Questions

Pre-Easter study

Max Lucado takes you through the drama of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – bringing to life Peter's denial, Pilate's hesitancy, and John's loyalty. Relive the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, from the foggy garden of Gethsemane to the incandescent room of the resurrection.

*Chris & Mandy Kylander's Life Group*

### **It's Not About Me** (Max Lucado)

Book & Study Questions

*Chris & Mandy Kylander's Life Group*