

Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

Study/Resource Name	Author	Description	Misc.	Leader Resources	Experience Required	Target Audience	Homework	Reviews	Location*
Wesley for Armchair Theologians	Abraham, William J.	Wesley for Armchair Theologians engagingly presents the life and theology of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Written by prominent Wesley scholar William Abraham, who aimed to "make Wesley come alive for those who would truly love to become armchair theologians," the book is an excellent, entertaining, and expert guide to the work of this important Christian figure. Written by experts but designed for the novice, the Armchair series provides accurate, concise, and witty overviews of some of the most profound moments and theologians in Christian history. These books are essential supplements for first-time encounters with primary texts, lucid refreshers for scholars and clergy, and enjoyable reads for the theologically curious.	Reference Materials	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Bible Dictionary	Achtemeier, Paul J.	Harper's Bible Dictionary is a scholarly reference book of the Bible, containing the texts of the Old Testament, the Apocrypha, and the New Testament		N/A	None	Facilitators	N/A		Glen Mar
Have a Little Faith A True Story	Albom, Mitch	In Have a Little Faith, Mitch Albom offers a beautifully written story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds--two men, two faiths, two communities--that will inspire readers everywhere. Albom's first nonfiction book since Tuesdays with Morrie, Have a Little Faith begins with an unusual request: an eighty-two-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy. Feeling unworthy, Albom insists on understanding the man better, which throws him back into a world of faith he'd left years ago. Meanwhile, closer to his current home, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor--a reformed drug dealer and convict--who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof. Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, Albom observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat. As America struggles with hard times and people turn more to their beliefs, Albom and the two men of God explore issues that perplex modern man: how to endure when difficult things happen; what heaven is; intermarriage; forgiveness; doubting God; and the importance of faith in trying times. Although the texts, prayers, and histories are different, Albom begins to recognize a striking unity between the two worlds--and indeed, between beliefs everywhere. In the end, as the rabbi nears death and a harsh winter threatens the pastor's wobbly church, Albom sadly fulfills the rabbi's last request and writes the eulogy. And he finally understands what both men had been teaching all along: the profound comfort of believing in something bigger than yourself. Have a Little Faith is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story. Ten percent of the profits from this book will go to charity, including The Hole In The Roof Foundation, which helps refurbish places of worship that aid the homeless.	2009	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Heaven	Alcorn, Randy C.	What will heaven be like? Randy Alcorn presents a thoroughly biblical answer, based on years of careful study, presented in an engaging, reader-friendly style. His conclusions will surprise readers and stretch their thinking about this important subject. Heaven will inspire readers to long for heaven while they're living on earth.	2004	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
If God is Good Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil	Alcorn, Randy C.	Every one of us will experience suffering. Many of us are experiencing it now. As we have seen in recent years, evil is real in our world, present and close to each one of us. In such difficult times, suffering and evil beg questions about God--Why would an all-good and all-powerful God create a world full of evil and suffering? And then, how can there be a God if suffering and evil exist? These are ancient questions, but also modern ones as well. Atheists such as Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and even former believers like Bart Ehrman answer the question simply: The existence of suffering and evil proves there is no God. In this captivating new book, best-selling author Randy Alcorn challenges the logic of disbelief, and brings a fresh, realistic, and thoroughly biblical insight to the issues these important questions raise. Alcorn offers insights from his conversations with men and women whose lives have been torn apart by suffering, and yet whose faith in God burns brighter than ever. He reveals the big picture of who God is and what God is doing in the world--now and forever. And he equips you to share your faith more clearly and genuinely in this world of pain and fear. "As he did in his best-selling book, Heaven, Randy Alcorn delves deep into a profound subject, and through compelling stories, provocative questions and answers, and keen biblical understanding, he brings assurance and hope to all." -Publishers Weekly	2009	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
To Be Told Know Your Story, Shape Your Future	Allender, Dan B.	Would you willingly overlook clear direction from God that speaks directly to you and where you are in life right now? God's guidance is near at hand. He is not only your Authority, he is also your Author. As God writes the stories of your life, he uses your past to open up your future. It is your privilege to listen to your own story so you can live boldly for the sake of the Greatest Story, the good news of Jesus Christ. God reveals himself to you and to others through the story he has written in your life. In this insightful and compelling book, Dr. Dan B. Allender shows you how to read the stories of your life. He helps you understand the meaning that God has written into every detail of who you are. As a result, you can share your story with others and listen to their story, revealing unique aspects of God's hand at work. Starting today, you can find deeper meaning in your story - a story To Be Told.	2006	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
In His Light	Anderson, Rev. William A.	A catechetical resource	1994	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar

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The Confessions	Augustine, Saint	'God is our home but many of us have strayed from our native land. The venerable authors of these Spiritual Classics are expert guides--may we follow their directions home.-- Archbishop Desmond Tutu The Vintage Spiritual Classics present the testimony of writers across the centuries who have pondered the mysterious ways, unfathomable mercies, and deep consolations afforded by God to those who call upon Him from out of the depths of their lives. These writers are our companions, even our champions, in a common effort to discern the meaning of God in personal experience. The questions, discussion topics, and background information that follow are designed to enhance your group's reading of the six works that make up the first series in Vintage Spiritual Classics. We hope they will provide you with a variety of ways of thinking and talking about these ancient and important texts. We offer this word about the act of reading these spiritual classics. From the very earliest accounts of monastic practice--dating back to the fourth century--it is evident that a form of reading called lectio divina ('divine' or 'spiritual' reading) was essential to any deliberate spiritual life. This kind of reading is quite different from that of scanning a text for useful facts and bits of information, or advancing along an exciting plot line to a climax in the action. It is, rather, a meditative approach, by which the reader seeks to taste and savor the beauty and truth of every phrase and passage. There are four steps in lectio divina: first, to read, next to meditate, then to rest in the sense of God's nearness, and, ultimately, to resolve to govern one's actions in the light of new understanding. This kind of reading is itself an act of prayer. And, indeed, it is in prayer that God manifests His Presence to us.	1998	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Introducing the Bible	Barclay, William	William Barclay testifies to the Bible's unique value as an inspired book and gives clear advice on the best way to read it. He tells how the biblical writings came into being and finally gained acceptance as Scripture. And he explains the significance and the status of the Apocrypha. Most important of all, William Barclay presents the Bible as a book to be read and enjoyed today - a light in the darkness of a world that has lost its way.	Table of Contents: Forward by Ronnie Barclay Prayers for Bible Study Introduction by John Rogerson The Making of the Old Testament The Making of the New Testament The Apocrypha How to Study the Bible The Inspired Book Aids to Reading Maps Index 189 pages	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
The Acts of the Apostles	Barclay, William	In this volume, William Barclay discusses among other things the plan in Acts, Luke's skill as a historian, the accuracy of his sources, and the honesty with which he uses them. Full of unique insights and little-known information about the background of the early Church, this volume again displays Barclay's great ability for clear and perceptive expression. For almost fifty years and for millions of readers, the Daily Study Bible commentaries have been the ideal help for both devotional and serious Bible study. Now, with the release of the New Daily Study Bible, a new generation will appreciate the wisdom of William Barclay. With clarification of less familiar illustrations and inclusion of more contemporary language, the New Daily Study Bible will continue to help individuals and groups discover what the message of the New Testament really means for their lives.	Reference Materials	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar Offsite
The Gospel of Luke	Barclay, William	With a historian's precision, Luke's Gospel shows painstaking care both in detail and in expression. Of equal distinction is the universal appeal of the Gospel. Barclay's insightful comments help each of us to see the infinitude of God's love through Luke's eyes. For almost fifty years and for millions of readers, the Daily Study Bible commentaries have been the ideal help for both devotional and serious Bible study. Now, with the release of the New Daily Study Bible, a new generation will appreciate the wisdom of William Barclay. With clarification of less familiar illustrations and inclusion of more contemporary language, the New Daily Study Bible will continue to help individuals and groups discover what the message of the New Testament really means for their lives.	Reference Materials 1956	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar Offsite
The Letter to the Romans	Barclay, William	To enable men and women to know Jesus Christ more dearly, and to follow Him more clearly and to love Him more.	1957	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Letters to the Corinthians	Barclay, William	Corinth was not only one of the most flourishing commercial centers of the ancient world, but also a symbol of vile debauchery. "In this hotbed of vice," writes William Barclay, "some of the greatest work of Paul was done." In his endearing, simple, and illustrative manner, Barclay shows how the message that Paul communicated to the Corinthians continues to help us who live today in the midst of twenty-first century temptations. For almost fifty years and for millions of readers, the Daily Study Bible commentaries have been the ideal help for both devotional and serious Bible study. Now, with the release of the New Daily Study Bible, a new generation will appreciate the wisdom of William Barclay. With clarification of less familiar illustrations and inclusion of more contemporary language, the New Daily Study Bible will continue to help individuals and groups discover what the message of the New Testament really means for their lives.	2002	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite

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The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians	Barclay, William	Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians to refute a belief that restricted God's grace alone to those who followed Jewish ritualistic law. In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul was more meditative and poetic in his style as he wrestled with problems of good and evil to present that unity will be achieved ultimately when all things are gathered together in Christ. Here William Barclay offers his own translations of these texts, as well as insightful commentaries. For almost fifty years and for millions of readers, the Daily Study Bible commentaries have been the ideal help for both devotional and serious Bible study. Now, with the release of the New Daily Study Bible, a new generation will appreciate the wisdom of William Barclay. With clarification of less familiar illustrations and inclusion of more contemporary language, the New Daily Study Bible will continue to help individuals and groups discover what the message of the New Testament really means for their lives.	1958	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Seven Faith Tribes Who They Are, What They Believe, and Why They Matter	Barna, George	In this groundbreaking book, now available in softcover, acclaimed researcher and author George Barna identifies, describes, and analyzes seven major faith tribes in America documenting who they are, what they believe, how they vote, and what they are passionate about. Barna provides helpful insight into how these groups influence our economy, politics, and values and what their potential is to change America. Through his in-depth study of all seven tribes, Barna has identified potential strategies that faith tribes if they choose to could employ to facilitate healing and restoration in American culture, and cultures across the world.	2014	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Prayer	Barth, Karl	This anniversary edition of Karl Barth's lectures on the Lord's Prayer, along with supplementary essays by 3 Barth scholars, introduces us to what this preeminent theologian had to say about the Christian practice of prayer, understanding worship to be the ultimate aim of all theology. Barth here mines the theological and spiritual wisdom of Luther, Calvin and the Heidelberg catechism and urges us to participate in the work of God through prayer.	2002	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Humanity of God	Barth, Karl	Karl Barth is generally regarded as the greatest Protestant thinker of modern times. The three essays in this book, & Humanity of God, Evangelical Theology in the 19th Century, The Gift of Freedom, show how Barth's later work moved beyond his revolt against the theology dominant in the first decades of the twentieth century.	1960	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
From the Library of C. S. Lewis Selections from Writers Who Influenced His Spiritual Journey	Bell, James S.	C. S. Lewis was perhaps the greatest Christian thinker of the twentieth century. He delighted us in The Chronicles of Narnia, intrigued us in The Screwtape Letters, mystified us in The Space Trilogy, and convinced us in Mere Christianity. His influence on generations of Christians has been immeasurable. But who influenced C. S. Lewis? What were the sources of his inspiration? Who were his spiritual mentors? Who were his teachers? Drawn from Lewis' personal library, annotations, and references from his writings, the selections in this book bring us into contact with giants such as Dante, Augustine, and Chaucer, as well as introduce us to more contemporary writers such as G. K. Chesterton, Charles Williams, George MacDonald, and J. R. R. Tolkien. Over 250 selections provide a vast array of inspiration from those who have shone forth as messengers of light in Lewis' own thinking, writing, and spiritual growth. A rare glimpse into the intellectual, spiritual, and creative life of one of literature's great writers.	2004	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Love Wins A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived	Bell, Rob	In Love Wins, bestselling author, international teacher, and speaker Rob Bell (Velvet Elvis, Drops Like Stars) addresses one of the most controversial issues of faith—hell and the afterlife—arguing, would a loving God send people to eternal torment forever? Rob Bell is an electrifying, unconventional pastor whom Time magazine calls "a singular rock star in the church world," with millions viewing his NOOMA videos. With searing insight, Bell puts hell on trial with a hopeful message—eternal life doesn't start when we die; it starts right now. And ultimately, Love Wins.	2011	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Dietrich Bonhoeffer Writings	Bonhoeffer, Dietrich	Dietrich Bonhoeffer - theologian, pastor, martyr - is one of the most significant Christian witnesses of the twentieth century. His writings challenge us to address the presence of God in the world and history. His courageous resistance against Hitler, his imprisonment and execution dramatize "the cost of discipleship." These selections, with a poignant introduction by Robert Coles, provide a penetrating entry to the heart of Bonhoeffer's message.	1997	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Cost of Discipleship	Bonhoeffer, Dietrich	One of the most important theologians of the twentieth century illuminates the relationship between ourselves and the teachings of Jesus in this classic text on ethics, humanism, and civic duty. What can the call to discipleship, the adherence to the word of Jesus, mean today to the businessman, the soldier, the laborer, or the aristocrat? What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is his will for us today? Drawing on the Sermon on the Mount, Dietrich Bonhoeffer answers these timeless questions by providing a seminal reading of the dichotomy between cheap grace and costly grace. Cheap grace, Bonhoeffer wrote, is the grace we bestow on ourselves...grace without discipleship...Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock....It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. The Cost of Discipleship is a compelling statement of the demands of sacrifice and ethical consistency from a man whose life and thought were exemplary articulations of a new type of leadership inspired by the Gospel, and imbued with the spirit of Christian humanism and a creative sense of civic duty.	2012	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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The Jewish Gospels - The Story of the Jewish Christ	Boyarin, Daniel	In July 2008 a front-page story in the New York Times reported on the discovery of an ancient Hebrew tablet, dating from before the birth of Jesus, which predicted a Messiah who would rise from the dead after three days. Commenting on this startling discovery at the time, noted Talmud scholar Daniel Boyarin argued that "some Christians will find it shocking—a challenge to the uniqueness of their theology." Guiding us through a rich tapestry of new discoveries and ancient scriptures, The Jewish Gospels makes the powerful case that our conventional understandings of Jesus and of the origins of Christianity are wrong. In Boyarin's scrupulously illustrated account, the coming of the Messiah was fully imagined in the ancient Jewish texts. Jesus, moreover, was embraced by many Jews as this person, and his core teachings were not at all a break from Jewish beliefs and teachings. Jesus and his followers, Boyarin shows, were simply Jewish. What came to be known as Christianity came much later, as religious and political leaders sought to impose a new religious orthodoxy that was not present at the time of Jesus's life. In the vein of Elaine Pagels' The Gnostic Gospels, here is a brilliant new work that will break open some of our culture's most cherished assumptions.	Reference Materials	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
A Visual History of the English Bible The Tumultuous Tale of the World's Bestselling Book	Brake, Donald L.	With a full color layout and over one hundred illustrations, A Visual History of the English Bible covers the fascinating journey of the Bible from the pulpit to the people. Renowned biblical scholar Donald L. Brake invites readers to explore the process of transformation from medieval manuscripts to the contemporary translations of our day. Along the way, readers will meet many heroes of the faith—men and women who preserved and published the Scriptures, often at risk of their own lives. From Wycliffe and Tyndale to King Henry VIII and the Geneva Bible, from the Bishop's Bible and the King James Version to the American Revolution and the Civil War, this tumultuous tale is history come alive. This book is perfect for history buffs, bibliophiles, and anyone interested in the colorful account of the world's most popular book.	2008	N/A	in Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary	Brand , Chad	Packed full of new information, this book has become one of the bestselling Bible reference tools since its publication in 1991. This revised, updated, and expanded edition offers greater value to Bible students and teachers with 250 new articles, maps, charts, and 90 new contributors.	2003	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Fearfully & Wonderfully Made	Brand, Paul	Mysterious, intricate, pulsing with energy... The human body is an endlessly fascinating repository of secrets. The miracle of the skin, the strength and structure of the bones, the dynamic balance of the muscles . . .your physical being is knit according to a pattern of incredible purpose. In Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, renowned surgeon Dr. Paul Brand and best-selling writer Philip Yancey explore the human body. Join them in a remarkable journey through inner space -- a spellbinding world of cells, systems, and chemistry that bears the impress of a still deeper, unseen reality. This Gold medallion Award-winning book uncovers eternal statements that God has made in the very structure of our bodies, presenting captivating insights into the Body of Christ.		N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
In His Image - The Sequel to Fearfully & Wonderfully Made	Brand, Paul	In Fearfully & Wonderfully Made, Philip Yancey and Dr. Paul Brand revealed how God's voice is encoded in the very structure of our bodies. In His Image takes up where its predecessor left off, beckoning us once again inward and onward to fresh exploration and discovery. Yancey and Brand show how accurately and intricately the human body portrays the Body of Christ. In five sections—Image, Blood, Head, Spirit, and Pain—the acclaimed surgeon and the award-winning writer unlock the remarkable, living lessons contained in our physical makeup. This Gold Medallion Award-winning book will open your eyes to the complex miracle of the human body, and the even more compelling spiritual truths that it reflects.	Reference Materials	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Taking God Seriously Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets	Briscoe, Stuart	Seasoned pastor Stuart Briscoe examines each of the Minor Prophets, providing both helpful historical context, and demonstrating the relevance of each prophet's message to believers today. If you want to take God's words from the Minor Prophets seriously, this book will help enrich your Bible study.		N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
7 Ways of Teaching the Bible to Adults Using Our Multiple Intelligences to Build Faith	Bruce, Barbara	This book shows teachers of adults how to use styles of learning to enhance the student's experience and enrich their own teaching. A chapter is devoted to each of the seven styles: verbal, independent, social, visual, physical, musical and logical. Each chapter includes: suggestions for blending the style into lessons, questions to help teachers determine their own preferences, a lesson focusing on the learning style, and a prayer demonstrating the style. A bibliography, appendices and a self-discovery sheet are included. Appropriate for group or individual study and teacher training.	2000	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar

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An Introduction to the Old Testament The Canon and Christian Imagination	Brueggemann, Walter	In this updated edition of the popular textbook, Walter Brueggemann and Tod Linafelt introduce the reader to the broad theological scope of the Old Testament, treating some of the most important issues and methods in contemporary biblical interpretation. This clearly written textbook focuses on the literature of the Old Testament as it grew out of religious, political, and ideological contexts over many centuries in Israel's history. Covering every book in the Old Testament (arranged in canonical order), the authors demonstrate the development of theological concepts in biblical writings from the Torah through post-exilic Judaism. This introduction invites readers to engage in the construction of meaning as they venture into these timeless texts.	2012	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Half Time - Changing Your Life Plan from Success to Significance	Buford, Bob	Bob Buford believes the second half of your life can be better than the first. Much better. But first, you need time to figure out what you want to do with the rest of your life. So he recommends that a reader call "halftime" to reflect not only on where he's going, but why. In Halftime, Buford focuses on this important time of transition--the time when, as he says, a person moves beyond the first half of the game of life. It's halftime, a time of revitalization and for catching new vision for living the second, most rewarding half of life. As Buford explains, "My passion is to multiply all that God has given me, and in the process, give it back." That requires asking important questions: What am I really good at? What do I want to do? What is most important to me? What do I want to be remembered for? If my life were absolutely perfect, what would it look like? Buford fills Halftime with a blend of personal insight, true-life examples, and quotes from those who have successfully navigated the exhilarating and potentially dangerous shoals of midlife. Complete with a discussion guide, Halftime provides the encouragement and wisdom to propel your life on a new course away from mere success to true significance--and the best years of your life.	Points covered in the book include: 1. Do not allow the second half of life to be characterized by boredom, decline, and decreasing effectiveness for God's kingdom. 2. A challenge to think about what you believe and to find the one most important thing in your life and build on that. 3. How to continue to learn in the second half of life. 4. The more you submit to Christ, the freer you become. 5. Practical ways on how to regain more control over your life. 6. Questions to ask and answer as you "go in to the locker" and prepare for the second half of your life. 7. Find something that fits within the following 2 questions: What have you achieved? What do you care deeply about?	N/A	In-Depth	Men	N/A		Glen Mar
Stuck in Halftime - Reinvesting Your One and Only Life	Buford, Bob	Stuck in Halftime coaches readers how to get past the barriers that stand in their way to maturity and fulfillment. It outlines eight "myths of halftime" and explains the new set of rules for this second half of life's journey. Combining practical guidance with personal stories of people who have become "unstuck," Stuck in Halftime renews the vision and determination of those who heard the "still, small voice of God" calling them to a life of significance.		N/A	None	Men	N/A		Glen Mar
The 5 Love Languages The Secret to Love that Lasts	Chapman, Gary D.	Marriage should be based on love, right? But does it seem as though you and your spouse are speaking two different languages? #1 New York Times bestselling author Dr. Gary Chapman guides couples in identifying, understanding, and speaking their spouse's primary love language-quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service, or physical touch. By learning the five love languages, you and your spouse will discover your unique love languages and learn practical steps in truly loving each other. Chapters are categorized by love language for easy reference, and each one ends with specific, simple steps to express a specific language to your spouse and guide your marriage in the right direction. A newly designed love languages assessment will help you understand and strengthen your relationship. You can build a lasting, loving marriage together. This beautiful faux leather edition is the perfect gift for weddings, holidays, or any special occasion. Includes a promotional code to gain exclusive online access to the new comprehensive love languages assessment.	2010	N/A	None	Couples	N/A		Offsite
Theological Transition in American Methodism: 1790-1935	Chiles, Robert E.	A historical study that traces the changes in Wesleyan theology through 3 generations of Methodists theologians.	1965	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
ChristCare Group Leader Training Manuals (Volume 1 & 2)	ChristCare Series	Leader Training Resource - 2 volumes.	Volume 1: A-J & Volume 2: K-V	N/A	in Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
The Language of God A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief	Collins, Francis S.	An instant bestseller, The Language of God provides the best argument for the integration of faith and logic since C.S. Lewis' Mere Christianity. It has long been believed that science and faith cannot mingle. Faith rejects the rational, while science restricts us to a life with no meaning beyond the physical. It is an irreconcilable war between two polar-opposite ways of thinking and living. Written for believers, agnostics, and atheists alike, The Language of God provides a testament to the power of faith in the midst of suffering without faltering from its logical stride. Readers will be inspired by Collin's personal story of struggling with doubt, as well as the many revelations of the wonder of God's creation that will forever shape the way they view the world around them.	2007	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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The Reformation A History	Collinson, Patrick	No revolution however drastic has ever involved a total repudiation of what came before it. The religious reformations of the sixteenth century were the crucible of modern Western civilization, profoundly reshaping the identity of Europe's emerging nation-states. In The Reformation, one of the preeminent historians of the period, Patrick Collinson, offers a concise yet thorough overview of the drastic ecumenical revolution of the late medieval and Renaissance eras. In looking at the sum effect of such disparate elements as the humanist philosophy of Desiderius Erasmus and the impact on civilization of movable-type printing and vulgate scriptures, or in defining the differences between the evangelical (Lutheran) and reformed (Calvinist) churches, Collinson makes clear how the battles for men's lives were often hatched in the battles for men's souls. Collinson also examines the interplay of spiritual and temporal matters in the spread of religious reform to all corners of Europe, and at how the Catholic Counter-Reformation used both coercion and institutional reform to retain its ecclesiastical control of Christendom. Powerful and remarkably well written, The Reformation is possibly the finest available introduction to this hugely important chapter in religious and political history.	2006	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
A Harmony of the Four Gospels The New International Version	Daniel, Orville E.	One of the easiest-to-use parallel text harmonies of the Gospels looks more inviting. Improved type design aids readability of the four parallel columns. Boldface type sets out a unified narrative.	1996	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
New International Biblical Commentary - James	Davids, Peter H.	This volume in the New International Biblical Commentary provides insightful answers for the modern reader confronted by the puzzles of James's thoroughgoing Jewish character. Davids demonstrates how the Jewishness of the epistle, including its stress on poverty and piety, stems actually from its primitive Christian character. Careful section-by-section exegesis with the NIV as the base text renders James's message accessible and relevant to students of all abilities. The NIBC has been written by internationally respected experts in Biblical Studies. Scholarly arguments are carefully analyzed and presented in a way that anyone concerned to gain a deeper understanding of the New Testament will find both accessible and helpful. Christians of many different traditions will welcome this series as a valuable resource that will promote better understanding of the Bible and its message. John W. Drane, University of Stirling	Reference Materials	N/A	In-Depth	Facilitators	N/A		Glen Mar
Choosing Gratitude Your Journey to Joy	DeMoss, Nancy Leigh	Gratitude is a choice. If we fail to chose it, by default we choose ingratitude. And once allowed into the heart, ingratitude does not come by itself, but with other seedy companions that only succeed in stealing joy. Derived from a popular Revive Our Hearts radio series, "Choosing Gratitude: Your Journey to Joy" challenges and equips the reader to live a life of intention, a life based on thankfulness for the freedom Christ has provided and for the blessings of others. By intentionally thanking God and others, bitterness and entitlement are replaced with joy and the humble realization of just how undeserving we really are. To not choose gratitude is more costly than we usually realize. When we do choose a lifestyle of heartfelt, humble gratitude, we are mindful of the benefits received from our gracious Savior and those He has placed around us, and our joy becomes full.	2011	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Finding God's Will for You	DeSales, St Francis	Discover the particular plan God has for your life. Learn what God's will is and how He reveals it in even the seemingly random events of your life. You'll see why you should love and trust in God's will, and you'll learn a sure method for discovering God's will in any situation.	1998	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
One 52 Weekly Marriage-Building Devotions for Thriving Couples	Evans, Jimmy	Of all your relationships-family, friends, coworkers, neighbors-one has the greatest potential to make your life joyful or miserable: your marriage. But too often the most important relationship in life is overlooked in the hectic pace of today's world and couples find themselves less and less satisfied as the months and years go by. There's a solution, however, and it's simple. You can rediscover the joy of your relationship by making your marriage a top priority, and that's what the One Devotional is about. This 52-week devotional book provides basic principles for building the marriage of your dreams, plus thought-provoking discussion starters and fun activities to complete together. In his open and honest style, Jimmy shares truths that he and Karen have discovered in their 35+ years of marriage. Filled with biblical wisdom and practical tips, this book provides you with everything that you need to make this the best year of your marriage!		Book	None	Couples			Glen Mar
The Mountaintop of Marriage A Vision Retreat Guidebook for Couples	Evans, Jimmy & Karen	In this powerful 40 page guidebook couples take a journey into the areas of spiritual and personal growth, preparation and vision for their family. Serving as a hands on, practical tool the information contained in this journal leads couples to addresses important topics such as marriage priorities and values. With thought provoking questions and a 12 month planning calendar couples can record milestone events, family accomplishments and much more while creating a family keepsake to reference for years to come.		Book	None				Glen Mar
Abraham A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths	Feiler, Bruce	Both immediate and timeless, Abraham tells the powerful story of one man's search for the shared ancestor of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Traveling through war zones, braving violence at religious sites, and seeking out faith leaders, Bruce Feiler uncovers the defining yet divisive role that Abraham plays for half the world's believers. Provocative and uplifting, Abraham offers a thoughtful and inspiring vision of unity that redefines what we think about our neighbors, our future, and ourselves.	2004	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

Study/Resource Name	Author	Description	Misc.	Leader Resources	Experience Required	Target Audience	Homework	Reviews	Location*
Walking the Bible A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses	Feiler, Bruce	Both a heart-racing adventure and an uplifting quest, Walking the Bible describes one man's epic odyssey—by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel—through the greatest stories every told. From crossing the Red Sea to climbing Mount Sinai to touching the burning bush, Bruce Feiler's inspiring journey will forever change your view of some of history's most storied events.	Reference Materials 2002	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar Offsite
The Coming of Jesus	Felton, Gayle Carlton	The Coming of Jesus will help learners gain a deeper understanding of Jesus through a careful look at the setting into which he was born. Events included are: the Old Testament prophecies of a Messiah, Jesus' birth foretold to Zechariah, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, Joseph visited by the angel, the appearance by the shepherds and then the Magi, the Temple rituals for the newborn baby boy, and the flight to Egypt and return to Nazareth. In addition, the text will explore some of the traditions that deal with Jesus' "hidden" years and will describe the physical, cultural, and religious surroundings in which Jesus was raised.	2000	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Freedom of Simplicity Finding Harmony in a Complex World	Foster, Richard J.	A revised and updated edition of the manifesto that shows how simplicity is not merely having less stress and more leisure but an essential spiritual discipline for the health of our soul.	2005	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Life with God Reading the Bible for Spiritual Transformation	Foster, Richard J.	Too often, our study of the Bible focuses on searching for specific information or some formula that will solve our pressing needs of the moment. But what if we approached the Bible differently, and instead of transforming the text to meet our needs, allowed it to transform us? That's exactly the idea behind Life with God, Richard J. Foster's much-anticipated book on the Bible. Foster, bestselling author of Celebration of Discipline and general editor of The Renovar's Spiritual Formation Bible, claims that God has superintended the writing of Scripture so that it serves as the most reliable guide for Christian spiritual formation. According to Foster, the Bible is all about human life "with God." As we read Scripture, we should consider how exactly God is with us in each story and allow ourselves to be spiritually transformed. By opening our whole selves - mind, body, spirit, thoughts, behavior, and will - to the page before us, we begin to grasp all the Bible has to teach about prayer, obedience, compassion, virtue, and grace and apply it to our everyday lives to achieve a deeper relationship with God. With a wealth of examples and simple yet crucial insights, Life with God is an indispensable guide to approaching the Bible through the lens of Christian spiritual formation, revealing that reading the Bible for interior transformation is a far different endeavor than reading the Bible for historical knowledge, literary appreciation, or religious instruction.	2008	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Prayer Finding the Heart's True Home	Foster, Richard J.	Best-selling author Richard J. Foster offers a warm, compelling, and sensitive primer on prayer, helping us to understand, experience, and practice it in its many forms—from the simple prayer of beginning again to unceasing prayer. He clarifies the prayer process, answers common misconceptions, and shows the way into prayers of contemplation, healing, blessing, forgiveness, and rest. Coming to prayer is like coming home, Foster says. "Nothing feels more right, more like what we are created to be and to do. Yet at the same time we are confronted with great mysteries. Who hasn't struggled with the puzzle of unanswered prayer? Who hasn't wondered how a finite person can commune with the infinite Creator of the universe? Who hasn't questioned whether prayer isn't merely psychological manipulation after all? We do our best, of course, to answer these knotty questions but when all is said and done, there is a sense in which these mysteries remain unanswered and unanswerable . . . At such times we must learn to become comfortable with the mystery." Foster shows how prayer can move us inward into personal transformation, upward toward intimacy with God, and outward to minister to others. He leads us beyond questions to a deeper understanding and practice of prayer, bringing us closer to God, to ourselves, and to our community.	1992	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Streams of Living Water Essential Practices from the Six Great Traditions of Christian Faith	Foster, Richard J.	The author of the bestselling celebration of discipline explores the great traditions of Christian spirituality and their role in spiritual renewal today. In this landmark work, Foster examines the "streams of living water" the six dimensions of faith and practice that define Christian tradition. He lifts up the enduring character of each tradition and shows how a variety of practices, from individual study and retreat to disciplines of service and community, are all essential elements of growth and maturity. Foster examines the unique contributions of each of these traditions and offers as examples the inspiring stories of faithful people whose lives defined each of these "streams."	2001	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
No Experience Necessary Everybody's Welcome	Fryer, Kelly A.	Lays out the overarching approach and works as a companion to the Bible study along the way.	2005	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Reclaiming the C Word Daring to Be Church Again	Fryer, Kelly A.	God is up to something! God is on a mission to save and bless the world, and God calls the church to be part of this mission. That means getting focused, setting people free, taking action, expecting surprises, and being hopeful. A church on God's mission isn't a building or a building plus a pastor. It's people's people who carry out God's mission in the world. Building on her bestselling book, Reclaiming the "L" Word, Kelly A. Fryer gives practical advice on how to transform our idea of church and what that means for our lives as Christians.	2006	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Christian Apologetics	Geisler, Norman L.	At a time when the Christian church faces an ever-increasing challenge from a secular and pluralistic culture, leading apologist Norman Geisler provides a substantive resource for answering the challenge. "Christian Apologetics" addresses issues such as Deism, Theism, Christ's authority, and inspiration of the Bible. Geisler's systematic approach presents both methods and reasons for defending the claims of Christianity.	1988	N/A	in Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature	Gingrich , F Wilbur	Described as an "invaluable reference work" (Classical Philology) and "a tool indispensable for the study of early Christian literature" (Religious Studies Review) in its previous edition, this new updated American edition of Walter Bauer's Wörterbuch zu den Schriften des Neuen Testaments builds on its predecessor's staggering deposit of extraordinary erudition relating to Greek literature from all periods. Including entries for many more words, the new edition also lists more than 25,000 additional references to classical, intertestamental, Early Christian, and modern literature.	2 Copies	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
The Journey Living by Faith in an Uncertain World	Graham , Billy	In this culminating work of a lifetime, the remarkable Billy Graham invites you to join him in discovering God's plan for this exciting journey called life. Wherever you are in your journey - just beginning, at the middle, or near the end - you've already learned that life offers a variety of paths. The good news is that we aren't alone, says Graham. Not only did God carve out the path for us, but He wants to join us on the journey to help us with challenges along the way, and eventually lead us home. This magnum opus from Billy Graham, seasoned with many personal stories from his own life, offers wisdom, encouragement, hope, and inspiration for anyone who wants to make the most of The Journey.	2007	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Gospel According to Paul The Creative Genius Who Brought Jesus to the World	Griffith-Jones, Robin	In this compelling portrait of Paul the man, his message, and his world, Robin Griffith-Jones reveals the apostle as a brilliantly entrepreneurial witness to the transforming presence of Jesus himself. This groundbreaking book unlocks Paul's letters, revealing their purpose and power as never before.	2005	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Forgiveness - Finding Peace Through Letting Go	Hamilton, Adam	"If your enemies are starving, feed them some bread; if they are thirsty, give them water to drink." Proverbs 24:17 (CEB) There is nothing more crippling than holding on to anger. Anger, more than any other emotion, has the power to consume all aspects of our lives, distort our sense of purpose, and destroy our relationship with God. In the passionate and life-changing book Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings the same insight that he applied in the bestseller "Why?" to the challenge of forgiveness. Hamilton argues that revelation comes when we realize that forgiveness is a gift we give ourselves rather than to someone else. He also contends that only when we learn to forgive others and ourselves can we truly receive forgiveness from God.	2012	Book only DVD and Leader's Guide is also available but not in the Resource Center	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Embracing God's Plan for Marriage A Scripture Study for Couples	Hart, Mark & Melanie	Marriage is one of Gods most beautiful gifts and is intended to bless us, fulfill us, and give us a path to sanctity. Understanding what true love entails and how grace works to overcome our wounded human nature is the key to a holy, happy, and passionate		Book	None	Couples			Glen Mar
Basic Bible Commentary Romans	Jewett, Robert	The Basic Bible Commentary series is a 29-volume commentary written to enhance Bible study for all students of the Bible. Based on the NRSV and NIV translations, the commentary covers every book verse by verse. Each volume also contains maps, charts, a pronunciation guide, and a glossary. In Volume 22, Romans is outlined and structured as follows: Outline of Romans, Introduction to Romans, Romans 1:1-15, Romans 1:16-32, Romans 2, Romans 3:1-20, Romans 3:21-4:25, Romans 5, Romans 6, Romans 7, Romans 8, Romans 9-11, Romans 12, Romans 13:1-15:13, Romans 15:14-16:27, Glossary of Terms, Guide to Pronunciation, Map of the Mediterranean World at the Time of Paul.		Book only					Glen Mar
Job Speaks to Us Today	Job, John	Job speaks to us today address the question of how to handle personal suffering. By concentrating on the message rather than the problems of text, John Job demonstrates the practical value of the Book of Job and shows its relevance to contemporary life.	1980	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Three Simple Rules - A Wesleyan Way of Living	Job, Rueben P.	In Three Simple Rules, Rueben Job offers an interpretation of John Wesley's General Rules for today's readers. For individual reading or group study, this insightful work calls us to mutual respect, unity and a deeper daily relationship with God. This simple but challenging look at three commands, "do no harm, do good, stay in love with God." "Every year I review the three general rules of the United Methodist Church with those who are being ordained. Now I have a wonderful ordination gift to give them in Bishop Job's, Three Simple Rules, to start and deepen the conversation as they enter a new relationship with the church. Bishop Job has described "by attending upon all the ordinances of God" to be to "stay in love with God." It's a fresh language that speaks especially to long-time Christians and United Methodists." Sally Dyck, Resident Bishop, Minnesota Area "Three Simple Rules is a new catechism for everyone wanting to follow Jesus Christ. These practices for holy living should replace the membership vows in every church! Don't let the title fool you. Bishop Job writes, "The rules are simple, but the way is not easy. Only those with great courage will attempt it, and only those with great faith will be able to walk this exciting and demanding way.'" John Hopkins, Resident Bishop, East Ohio Area	2007	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar

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Savoring God's Word Cultivating the Soul-Transforming Practice of Spiritual Meditation	Johnson, Jan	The word "meditation" appears in the Bible more than 30 times, but many Christians don't understand what it's all about. Savoring God's Word explores the Bible using lectio divina, an ancient approach to studying Scriptures. With helpful how-to exercises and tips, this book explains how meditating on Scripture can help you hear what God is saying to you today. This book • demystifies the spiritual discipline of meditation • dispels fears and misunderstandings • describes how to form a new, profound way of seeking God	2004	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Discipleship Journal's Best Small- Group Ideas	Journal, Discipleship	Revive your small group tonight! If you've ever led a small group, you know firsthand how rewarding it is to see participants grow deeper in their relationship with God and with one another. And you've also probably discovered (or will!) that effectively shepherding a healthy, dynamic small group toward spiritual maturity is no small task. To help you face the perennial challenges of small-group leadership, we've compiled 101 of the best articles on this subject from the pages of Discipleship Journal. These concise, field-tested ideas from seasoned practitioners cover a broad range of common issues faced by small-group leaders, such as Finding and developing new leaders Dealing with tricky interpersonal problems Understanding tough passages Interacting with the Scriptures in fresh, creative ways Learning to pray together-and enjoying it! Integrating evangelism into your small group Serving others together Supporting world-missions efforts as a team In Discipleship Journal's Best Small-Group Ideas, Volume 1 you'll discover practical, proven, and innovative ideas to inject new passion into the life of your small group. For even more hands-on small-group tips and group-building principles, pick up a copy of Discipleship Journal's Best Small-Group Ideas, Volume 2. Together, these two guides will give you the immediate help needed to energize your small group!	Vol. 1 & Vol. 2 2004	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
The Imitation of Christ A Timeless Classic for Contemporary Readers	Kempis, Thomas	Working from the 1441 Latin Autograph Manuscript, Creasy succeeds in creating a dramatically different interpretation of the Imitation by working through its historical, cultural and linguistic contexts. For Creasy, Thomas Kempis offers profound insights into a person's relationship with God, insights that only deepen when they accommodate a post-Vatican II understanding of what he has to say.	2003	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Love Dare	Kendrick, Stephen	Unconditional love is eagerly promised at weddings, but rarely practiced in real life. As a result, romantic hopes are often replaced with disappointment in the home. But it doesn't have to stay that way. The Love Dare, as featured in the popular new movie Fireproof (from the makers of Facing the Giants), is a 40-day challenge for husbands and wives to understand and practice unconditional love. Whether your marriage is hanging by a thread or healthy and strong, The Love Dare is a journey you need to take. It's time to learn the keys to finding true intimacy and developing a dynamic marriage. Take the dare!		Book and Devotional	None	Couples			Glen Mar
How to Lead a LifeGuide - Bible Study	Kuhatschek, Jack	You can be the match that ignites a great Bible discussion! You only need a few basic skills. This guidebook by Jack Kuhatschek and Cindy Bunch (both veteran discussion leaders and experienced Bible study creators) will show you how to start a group how to decide what to study how to prepare to lead how to study the Bible how to use a study guide how to write your own questions how to lead the discussion how to evaluate the study Over 100,000 copies of this handbook (now revised and expanded from the original, Leading Bible Discussions) have been used by Bible study leaders and Sunday school teachers. Along with practical suggestions and the answers to common questions offered in each brief chapter, you'll find two appendices: "Guidelines for Interpreting Scripture" and "A Sample Study." The resources section also leads you to more training guides, website references and study guides to use with your group. Here is the help you need to lead a great Bible discussion.	2002	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
How to Ask Great Questions Guide Your Group to Discovery with These Proven Techniques	Lee-Thorp, Karen	In How to Ask Great Questions, you'll learn how to ask effective questions, and how to promote follow-up discussions that will lead from good thinking to life application. Ideal for small-group leaders, Sunday School teachers, and discussion leaders	1997	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
What Went Wrong? The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East	Lewis, Bernard	For centuries, the world of Islam was in the forefront of human achievement -- the foremost military and economic power in the world, the leader in the arts and sciences of civilization. Christian Europe was seen as an outer darkness of barbarism and unbelief from which there was nothing to learn or to fear. And then everything changed. The West won victory after victory, first on the battlefield and then in the marketplace. In this elegantly written volume, Bernard Lewis, a renowned authority on Islamic affairs, examines the anguished reaction of the Islamic world as it tried to make sense of how it had been overtaken, overshadowed, and dominated by the West. In a fascinating portrait of a culture in turmoil, Lewis shows how the Middle East turned its attention to understanding European weaponry, industry, government, education, and culture. He also describes how some Middle Easterners fastened blame on a series of scapegoats, while others asked not "Who did this to us?" but rather "Where did we go wrong?" With a new Afterword that addresses September 11 and its aftermath, What Went Wrong? is an urgent, accessible book that no one who is concerned with contemporary affairs will want to miss.	2003	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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Surprised by Joy The Shape of My Early Life	Lewis, C. S.	A young man who wishes to remain a sound Atheist cannot be too careful of his reading. There are traps everywhere . . . God is, if I may say it, very unscrupulous. This book is not an autobiography. It is not a confession. It is, however, certainly one of the most beautiful and insightful accounts of a person coming to faith. Here, C.S. Lewis takes us from his childhood in Belfast through the loss of his mother, to boarding school and a youthful atheism in England, to the trenches of World War I, and then to Oxford, where he studied, read, and, ultimately, reasoned his way back to God. It is perhaps this aspect of Surprised by Joy that we believers and nonbelievers find most compelling and meaningful; Lewis was searching for joy, for an elusive and momentary sensation of glorious yearning, but he found it, and spiritual life, through the use of reason. In this highly personal, thoughtful, intelligent memoir, Lewis guides us toward joy and toward the surprise that awaits anyone who seeks a life beyond the expected. "Lewis tempered his logic with a love for beauty, wonder, and magic . . . He speaks to us with all the power and life-changing force of a Plato, a Dante, and a Bunyan. "Christianity Today "The tension of these final chapters holds the interest like the close of a thriller. "Times Literary Supplement" C. S. (Clive Staples) Lewis (1898-1963), one of the great writers of the twentieth century, also continues to be one of our most influential Christian thinkers. He wrote more than thirty books, both popular and scholarly, including The Chronicles of Narnia series, The Screwtape Letters, The Four Loves, Mere Christianity, and Till We Have Faces.	1966	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Great Divorce	Lewis, C. S.	What if anyone in Hell could take a bus trip to Heaven and stay there forever if they wanted to? In The Great Divorce C. S. Lewis again employs his formidable talent for fable and allegory. The writer finds himself in Hell boarding a bus bound for Heaven. The amazing opportunity is that anyone who wants to stay in Heaven, can. This is the starting point for an extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, grace and judgment. Lewis's revolutionary idea is the discovery that the gates of Hell are locked from the inside. In Lewis's own words, "If we insist on keeping Hell (or even earth) we shall not see Heaven: if we accept Heaven we shall not be able to retain even the smallest and most intimate souvenirs of Hell."	2009	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Problem of Pain	Lewis, C. S.	In The Problem of Pain, C.S. Lewis, one of the most renowned Christian authors and thinkers, examines a universally applicable question within the human condition: If God is good and all-powerful, why does he allow his creatures to suffer pain? With his signature wealth of compassion and insight, C.S. Lewis offers answers to these crucial questions and shares his hope and wisdom to help heal a world hungering for a true understanding of human nature.	2009	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Screwtape Letters	Lewis, C. S.	In this humorous and perceptive exchange between two devils, C. S. Lewis delves into moral questions about good vs. evil, temptation, repentance, and grace. Through this wonderful tale, the reader emerges with a better understanding of what it means to live a faithful life.	2001	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Weight of Glory	Lewis, C. S.	Selected from sermons delivered by C. S. Lewis during World War II, these nine addresses offer guidance and inspiration in a time of great doubt. These are ardent and lucid sermons that provide a compassionate vision of Christianity.	2001	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The World's Last Night And Other Essays	Lewis, C. S.	We are not the playwright, we are not the producer, we are not even the audience. We are on the stage. To play well the scenes in which we are "on" concerns us much more than to guess about the scenes that follow it's in these seven witty, lucid, and tough-minded essays, the famous infamous Screwtape makes a special appearance, proposing a toast that brilliantly explores the many opportunities for exploiting evil in the world. Lewis also considers the evidence for whether and how prayer works, plays with the meaning of the words believe and asks what happens to our concept of God when we send rockets into outer space. And, in a moving final piece, he forces us to wonder how we should live if any day might bring the world's last night. Anyone who ever appreciated his unique blend of humor, paradox, and searing insight will find these further thoughts from C.S. Lewis richly illuminating and remember that he is, as ever, one of the greatest writers and challengers of living faith. "[Lewis] addresses himself to the task of disputing belief with energy, humor, and intense conviction." Los Angeles Times "Reveals the expected wit, the Chestertonian ability to make Christian orthodoxy exciting and fit for the brave rebel, and an abundance of offbeat insights into the human scene." New York Times Book Review. S. (Clive Staples) Lewis (1898-1963), one of the great writers of the twentieth century, also continues to be one of our most influential Christian thinkers. He wrote more than thirty books, both popular and scholarly, including The Chronicles of Narnia series, The Screwtape Letters, The Four Loves, Mere Christianity, and Surprised by Joy.	2002	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Joyful Christian	Lewis, C.S.	C.S. Lewis, himself a convert, wrote of being "surprised by joy" when he discovered his belief in Jesus Christ. In these 127 devotional readings, selected from Lewis's many works on faith and spirituality, Christians everywhere can share in the joy of this master theologian as he discusses topics ranging from the nature of prayer and good works to psychoanalysis and fascism. In The Joyful Christian, Lewis offers inspiration for all those who hunger and thirst after joy.	1996	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Mere Christianity	Lewis, C.S.	In the classic Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis, the most important writer of the 20th century, explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. Bringing together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War Two from his three previous books The Case for Christianity, Christian Behavior, and Beyond Personality, Mere Christianity provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear this powerful apologetic for the Christian faith.	Reference Materials 2001	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

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Miracles	Lewis, C.S.	In the classic <i>Miracles</i> , C.S. Lewis, the most important Christian writer of the 20th century, argues that a Christian must not only accept but rejoice in miracles as a testimony of the unique personal involvement of God in his creation. Do miracles really happen? Can we know if the supernatural world exists? "The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares the way for this, or results from this." In <i>Miracles</i> , C. S. Lewis takes this key idea and shows that a Christian must not only accept but rejoice in miracles as a testimony of the unique personal involvement of God in creation. Using his characteristic warmth, lucidity, and wit, Lewis challenges the rationalists and cynics who are mired in their lack of imagination and provides a poetic and joyous affirmation that miracles really do occur in everyday lives.	2001	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar Offsite
Miracles - How God Intervenes in Nature and Human Affairs	Lewis, C.S.	"The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares the way for this, or results from this." This is the key statement of <i>Miracles</i> , in which C.S. Lewis shows that a Christian must not only accept but rejoice in miracles as a testimony of the unique personal involvement of God in His creation. Using his characteristic lucidity and wit to develop his argument, Lewis challenges the rationalists, agnostics and deists on their own grounds and makes out an impressive case for the irrationality of their assumptions by positing: "Those who assume that miracles cannot happen are merely wasting their time by looking into the texts: we know in advance what results they will find for they have begun by begging the question."	Reference Materials	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
The Abolition of Man - How Education Develops Man's Sense of Morality	Lewis, C.S.	The <i>Abolition of Man</i> is a 1943 book by C. S. Lewis. It is subtitled "Reflections on education with special reference to the teaching of English in the upper forms of schools," and uses that as a starting point for a defense of objective value and natural law, and a warning of the consequences of doing away with or "debunking" those things. It defends science as something worth pursuing but criticizes using it to debunk values—the value of science itself being among them—or defining it to exclude such values. The book was first delivered as a series of three evening lectures at King's College, Newcastle, part of the University of Durham, as the Riddell Memorial Lectures on February 24–26, 1943.	Reference Materials	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Till We Have Faces A Myth Retold	Lewis, C.S.	I saw well why the gods do not speak to us openly, nor let us answer . . . Why should they hear the babble that we think we mean? How can they meet us face to face till we have faces? Haunted by the myth of Cupid and Psyche throughout his life, C.S. Lewis wrote this, his last, extraordinary novel, to retell their story through the gaze of Psyche's sister, Orual. Disfigured and embittered, Orual loves her younger sister to a fault and suffers deeply when she is sent away to Cupid, the God of the Mountain. Psyche is forbidden to look upon the god's face, but is persuaded by her sister to do so; she is banished for her betrayal. Orual is left alone to grow in power but never in love, to wonder at the silence of the gods. Only at the end of her life, in visions of her lost beloved sister, will she hear an answer.	1956	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Most Beloved Works of C.S. Lewis	Library, The Family Christian	One of the world's most celebrated authors writes candidly, clearly and from the heart about the deepest human concerns of faith, joy and love. Includes four of CS Lewis' most beloved works: <i>Surprised by Joy</i> ; <i>Reflections on the Psalms</i> ; <i>The Four Loves</i> ; <i>The Business of Heaven</i>		N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
How to Read Proverbs	Longman, Tremper	Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife. A perverse person spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends. Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Everyday we make choices on the path of life. Proverbs are memorable capsules of wisdom, chiseled in words and polished through use by those who have traveled that path ahead of us. But the proverbs of the Bible make a greater claim than "a penny saved is a penny earned." They are woven into the web of divine revelation, rooted in the "fear of the Lord" that is the beginning of wisdom. While many proverbs speak to us directly, we can gain much greater insight by studying the book of Proverbs as a whole, understanding its relationship to ancient non-Israelite wisdom and listening to its conversation with the other great voices of wisdom in Scripture—Job and Ecclesiastes. In <i>How to Read Proverbs</i> Tremper Longman III provides a welcome guide to reading and studying, understanding and savoring the Proverbs for all their wisdom. Most important for Christian readers, we gain insight into how Christ is the climax and embodiment of wisdom.	2009	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Come Thirsty No Heart Too Dry for His Touch	Lucado, Max	Are you feeling a little dry? Edgy and rigid? Ineffective? What would it take to be more useful in the hands of the One who made you? Just come to the well, says bestselling author Max Lucado. In this renewing and life-giving book Max leads us to the four essential nutrients every soul needs. Experience Christ's work on the cross and know that your sins are pardoned and your death is defeated. Receive Christ's energy and believe that you can do all things through the one who gives you strength. Receive his Lordship, knowing that you belong to him and that he looks out for you. Receive his love and feel confident that nothing can separate you from it. Come to the well...to Christ's work on the cross, his energy, his Lordship and his Love.	2012	N/A	Beginning to Moderate	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

Study/Resource Name	Author	Description	Misc.	Leader Resources	Experience Required	Target Audience	Homework	Reviews	Location*
Grace Happens Here - You Are Standing Where Grace Is Happening	Lucado, Max	A wonderful message about God's grace and how to apply it to every aspect of your life. Max Lucado looks at grace from all directions and reveals that no matter which way you look at it, God's grace is always there, ready to do wonders in your life. This beautiful gift book is filled with powerful quotes, Scripture, and stories that will transform your heart and mind with a deeper understanding of God's healing grace. The message gently and eloquently encourages you to accept completely His grace and forgiveness as well as extend the same blessing toward others. "When grace happens, generosity happens. Unsquashable, eye-popping big heartedness happens. Receiving grace today? Liberality is in the forecast for tomorrow. When you meet a bountiful person, you are standing where grace is happening."	Throughout the six chapters, the message was consistent: God's grace is undeserved and cannot be earned. It's God's unconditional, freely given gift to us all.	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
In the Grip of Grace - Your Father Always Caught You. He Still Does.	Lucado, Max	Get caught! Life is full of fumbles and stumbles. Fraught with opportunities to make mistakes, occasions to feel guilty, and the drive to do it yourself. The pressure to be self-sufficient is high, but it isn't the life God offers. The way of the world will direct you to try harder and work smarter so that you can take care of yourself and even make yourself successful. But the way of the cross will point toward the place where you stop striving . . . stop pushing . . . stop every self-initiated effort so that you can fall into the boundless, liberating, refreshing grace of God! Just imagine being love-driven instead of self-propelled. Imagine abandoning your life to Jesus instead of trying to save yourself. Can you imagine exchanging your fears for that peace that passes understanding? Being relaxed and free instead of stressed-out and anxious? If you can imagine enjoying God instead of trying to repay him, then you can imagine grace. So go ahead! Jump off the cliff of self-sufficiency. Leap out of legalism. Walk off the pier of guilt and condemnation. That's the only way you'll land in the strong arms of the Father who loves you . . . the Father who catches you every time in the grip of his grace.	2011	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Twelve Ordinary Men How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness, and What He Wants to Do with You	MacArthur, John F.	Contrary to popular belief, we do not have to be perfect to do God's work. Look no further than the twelve disciples whose many weaknesses are forever preserved throughout the pages of the New Testament. Jesus chose ordinary men - fisherman, tax collectors, political zealots - and turned their weakness into strength, producing greatness from utter uselessness. MacArthur draws principles from Christ's careful, hands-on training of the original twelve disciples for today's modern disciple - you.	2006	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Reformation	MacCulloch, Diarmaid	The Reformation and Counter-Reformation represented the greatest upheaval in Western society since the collapse of the Roman Empire a millennium before. The consequences of those shattering events are still felt today from the stark divisions between (and within) Catholic and Protestant countries to the Protestant ideology that governs America, the world's only remaining superpower. In this masterful history, Diarmaid MacCulloch conveys the drama, complexity, and continuing relevance of these events. He offers vivid portraits of the most significant individuals - Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Loyola, Henry VIII, and a number of popes - but also conveys why their ideas were so powerful and how the Reformation affected everyday lives. The result is a landmark book that will be the standard work on the Reformation for years to come. The narrative verve of The Reformation as well as its provocative analysis of American culture's debt to the period will ensure the book's wide appeal among history readers.	2005	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Small Group Vital Signs: Seven Indicators of Health that Make Groups Flourish	Mack, Michael C.	Is your small group healthy? Is it thriving, surviving, or declining? Is your group missional or in maintenance mode? Do you want answers to these questions? How about a viable plan of action for the future of your group? This book contains a revealing small group health evaluation and principles that will help you determine and increase your group's level of health in seven vital areas: - Christ-centered Community - Overflowing Leadership - Shared Leadership - Proactive Leadership - Authentic Community - Ministry to Others - Discipling Environment In SMALL GROUP VITAL SIGNS, you'll gain a new appreciation for the way Mike Mack explains why each of the areas above are critical to your group's health. His helpful stories, biblical principles, and practical ideas for health and vitality will help you and your group grow in each area. If you've wondered why some small groups thrive and their leaders seem so energized and happy, you'll discover it in this revealing book-and learn how to become this kind of leader!	Reference Materials	N/A	None	Facilitators	N/A		Glen Mar Offsite
The Ragamuffin Gospel Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out	Manning, Brennan	Many of us believe in grace, yet we live as if we still have to earn God's love. We picture God hanging His head in disappointment, tallying our successes and failures on a score sheet. We assume we have to do more, or be a different person, for God to be pleased with us. Brennan Manning shows us a different, truer image of our relationship with God: We come to God as ragamuffins. Bedraggled, dirty, exhausted. But as we sit at God's feet, He smiles upon us. He embraces us. He treats us not as failures but as the chosen objects of His love. In this twenty-fifth anniversary edition of Manning's classic meditation on grace, Manning reminds us that we don't need to apply spiritual cosmetics to make ourselves presentable to God. We can recognize our poverty and powerlessness as what bring us closer to a God whose love embraces us no matter what. In The Ragamuffin Gospel, Brennan Manning explores the true meaning of the word grace in all its power. When we beat ourselves up over who we are or what we've done, we pull away from God. When we acknowledge that it is only grace that can save us, we draw near to a God who delights in who He created us to be.	2015	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

Study/Resource Name	Author	Description	Misc.	Leader Resources	Experience Required	Target Audience	Homework	Reviews	Location*
Playful Journey for Couples Worship, Love, Play	Markin-Ryerson, Susan	Playful Journey for Couples Presenting a light-hearted approach to enjoying marriage, Playful Journey for Couples leads you and your spouse through a year of growing, loving, and laughing together that will last a lifetime. Through fifty-two Bible verses, Playful Journey for Couples suggests a new combination of studies, activities, and romantic dates to live out the love of Christ with each other. It offers practical marriage advice and tools to open your hearts so you can get to know each other in a brand new way, enhance communication and trust, and renew intimacy and romance. It communicates the importance of putting Christ first in your marriage so you may enjoy a deeper and richer love. Living the marriage of your dreams doesn't have to be complicated, in fact it can be a lot of fun. In Playful Journey for Couples, author Susan Markin-Ryerson offers a new way to live out your own love story while enjoying your marriage journey.		Book	None	Couples			Glen Mar
Treasures of the Transformed Life - Satisfying your Soul's Thirst for More	Mathison, John Ed	Help the members of your congregation begin 40 days of transformation by using this book to unify them in study. The daily readings are centered on the themes of Prayer, Presence, Gifts, & Service. Each reading helps the reader focus on discerning God's plan for them individually and how they can help live out God's plan for the church		N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Oxford Bible Atlas	May, Herbert G	This new fourth edition of the Oxford Bible Atlas, now with twenty-seven full-color maps and eighty-one color illustrations, has been thoroughly revised to bring it up to date with both the most recent biblical scholarship and the most modern discoveries in archaeology and topography. This authoritative Atlas illuminates the landscape of the biblical world, allowing readers to better understand the geographical context in which the Bible emerged and which formed its background. The colorful, highly accurate maps capture the many ancient locales of the Bible's stories and carefully reflect the successive stages of the Bible's accounts, while specially chosen full-color illustrations bring the countries and their peoples to life. The Atlas covers everything from Genesis to the stories of David and Solomon, the trade routes of the ancient world, the vast empires of Alexander the Great and Rome, and the ministry of Jesus and the formation of the early Church. The accompanying text describes the land of Palestine, and its wider ancient Near Eastern and east Mediterranean settings. It outlines the successive historical periods, and describes the major civilizations with which Israelites, Jews, and early Christians came into contact. There is also an illustrated survey of the relevance of archaeology for the study of the Bible. Finally, the book includes a full chronology, suggestions for further reading, an index of place names, and a general index. An essential resource for all students of the Bible, the Atlas provides a superb guide to the geography of the Holy Land throughout history, from the Exodus to New Testament times.	Reference Materials	N/A	None	Facilitators	N/A		Glen Mar
How to Lead Small Groups	McBride, Neal	Whether you are a veteran or a new small-group leader, this book will provide you with the leadership skills, tools, and information you need. This leader's resource can work with Bible study, fellowship, support, or task groups. Topics include the following: Defining your group's purpose, Stimulating healthy fellowship, Handling conflict, Evaluating your group, Asking great questions.	1990	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
How to Have Great Small-Group Meetings Dozens of Ideas You Can Use Right Now	McBride, Neal	Discover dozens of ideas you can implement right away to lead successful group meetings. From determining your purpose and learning to plan to getting everyone involved and staying on track, this book will equip you to make your small-group meetings great.	1997	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Nuts & Bolts Issues for Small Groups	McKay, William	"When, where, and for how long should our group meet?" "What are the four small group activities that will lead us into community, care, discipleship and service?" "When and how do I need to Communicate with group members between meets?" "How do I effectively share group leadership with other members?" "How can group members care for one another without being taken over by one member's overwheming needs?" These are the kinds of nuts and bolts questions that small group leaders ask and need to answer in order to lead healthy, Christ-centered groups. This book provides practical answers to these and many other questions, and also shows how each decision a small gorup leader makes can help the gorup serve Jesus more effectively.	1996	N/A	None	Facilitators	N/A		Glen Mar
Missional Renaissance Changing the Scorecard for the Church	McNeal, Reggie	Reggie McNeal's bestseller The Present Future is the definitive work on the "missional movement," i.e., the widespread movement among Protestant churches to be less inwardly focused and more oriented toward the culture and community around them. In that book he asked the tough questions that churches needed to entertain to begin to think about who they are and what they are doing: in Missional Renaissance, he shows them the three significant shifts in their thinking and behavior that they need to make that will allow leaders to chart a course toward being missional: (1) from an internal to an external focus, ending the church as exclusive social club model; (2) from running programs and ministries to developing people as its core activity; and (3) from professional leadership to leadership that is shared by everyone in the community. With in-depth discussions of the "what" and the "how" of transitioning to being a missional church, readers will be equipped to move into what McNeal sees as the most viable future for Christianity. For all those thousands of churches who are asking about what to do next after reading The Present Future, Missional Renaissance will provide the answer.	2009	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

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Contemplative Prayer	Merton, Thomas	In this classic text, Thomas Merton offers valuable guidance for prayer. He brings together a wealth of meditative and mystical influences, from John of the Cross to Eastern desert monasticism, to create a spiritual path for today. Most important, he shows how the peace contacted through meditation should not be sought in order to evade the problems of contemporary life, but can instead be directed back out into the world to affect positive change. Contemplative Prayer is one of the most well-known works of spirituality of the last one hundred years, and it is a must-read for all seeking to live a life of purpose in today's world.	2009	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Inner Experience Notes on Contemplation	Merton, Thomas	This is Thomas Merton's last book, in which he draws on both Eastern and Western traditions to explore the hot topic of contemplation/meditation in depth and to show how we can practice true contemplation in everyday life. Never before published except as a series of articles (one per chapter) in an academic journal, this book on contemplation was revised by Merton shortly before his untimely death. The material bridges Merton's early work on Catholic monasticism, mysticism, and contemplation with his later writing on Eastern, especially Buddhist, traditions of meditation and spirituality. This book thus provides a comprehensive understanding of contemplation that draws on the best of Western and Eastern traditions. Merton was still tinkering with this book when he died; it was the book he struggled with most during his career as a writer. But now the Merton Legacy Trust and experts have determined that the book makes such a valuable contribution as his major comprehensive presentation of contemplation that they have allowed its publication.	2012	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Best of F.B. Meyer	Meyer, F. B.	Dr. FB Meyer was a pastor in York, Leicester and Regent's Park, London during the latter part of the nineteenth century. His congregations were large with over 800 members in Melbourne Hall, Leicester; he also undertook prison visitation and social action to help the underprivileged. In addition to his pastoral work he preached regularly at the Keswick Convention. This selection from his writings is a good introduction to a prolific author who wrote commentaries, character studies, devotional and daily reading material.	1994	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Secret of Guidance	Meyer, F. B.	Many children of God are so deeply exercised on the matter of guidance that it may be helpful to give a few suggestions as to knowing the way in which our Father would have us walk, and the work He would have us do. The importance of the subject cannot be exaggerated; so much of our power and peace consists in knowing where God would have us be, and in being just there.	2013	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Love Walked Among Us Learning to Love Like Jesus	Miller, Paul E.	Nowhere was the vitality of Jesus more visible than in His love--compassionate, honest, powerful, humble, and sacrificial. Get to know Jesus, observe His life and His love as they unfold in the gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Combined with author Paul Miller's own life stories, Love Walked Among Us will encourage you to imitate Jesus' way of loving people in your relationships and community. Become more like Jesus and grow in your relationship with God.	2001 2 copies	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Praying Like Jesus The Lord's Prayer in a Culture of Prosperity	Mulholland, James	Jabez got it wrong. Praying is a central practice of spiritual life. Through prayer we turn our hearts and minds from our limited perspectives and concerns and begin to discern the divine will for the world. James Mulholland believes the self-correcting nature of prayer is being distorted by a culture of prosperity, which has refashioned prayer in its own image, making books such as The Prayer of Jabez huge bestsellers. Prayer today bears little resemblance to the kind Jesus taught. For many, it has become a means of personal success and material gain, taking the form of a shopping list rather than a transforming spiritual discipline. Mulholland warns that we have forgotten the true purpose of prayer: He believes, "The point of prayer is not to tell God what you want, but to hear what you need. It is not approaching God with our demands, but listening for God's commands. It is not seeking our will, but learning to discern God's will. This is so important to understand in a culture that caters to our every whim. Prayer isn't about me. It is about God. "Jesus understood the nature of prayer and taught his disciples to pray the beloved Lord's Prayer. Offering a fresh and compelling reading of this "Prayer of Jesus," Mulholland calls us back to the true essence of prayer. He shows how authentic prayer will lead us away from the self-interest of the prevailing culture of greed and move us toward the compassion, sacrifice, and love that are the hallmarks of the kingdom of God. Praying Like Jesus is an invitation to rediscover the life we are called to as Christians' vow to transform our culture and world. The early Christians prayed like Jesus and were legendary for their acts of compassion and service. Mulholland believes this can and should be the commitment of Christians today. Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.	2001	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

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Shaped by the Word The Power of Scripture in Spiritual Formation	Mulholland, M. Robert	Many people buy and read the Bible for the sake of gaining information, Robert Mulholland believes that people can read the Bible not only for information, but for formation. In this completely revised version of an Upper Room best-selling classic, Mulholland invites readers to embrace scripture in a new and more fulfilling way, letting the biblical text form our spiritual life. Mulholland's biggest hope is that people will begin to open themselves so they may regularly encounter God in reading the Bible. Dr. Mulholland examines the obstacles often encountered in spiritual reading. These obstacles include the attitudes that we bring to reading the Bible -- our view of self, our view of the Bible, our relationships with others. As Mulholland writes about these obstacles, he offers a gentle pastoral voice that guides the reader to meet God anew. Readers will grow spiritually as they read and digest Mulholland's insights into the ways we meet God in scripture.	2001	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
New Testament Lesson Maker Create Your Own Customized Bible Study on Any Passage in the New Testament-In Minutes!	Navigators, NavPress	The New Testament Lesson Maker allows you to pull together customized Bible studies quickly. Created by the developers of the bestselling Life Application Bible, Lesson Maker provides more than 18,000 questions from all 692 passage breakdowns of the NIV New Testament - 4 types of questions for each passage, "Ready to Go" questions for each passage. Ideal for Bible study leaders, small-group leaders, and pastors, this resource is indexed for easy reference.	1992	N/A	In-Depth	Facilitators	N/A		Offsite
Questioning Evangelism Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did	Newman, Randy	A much-needed look at sharing Christ with unbelievers, based not on the techniques of guerrilla hard-sell tactics, but on engaging questions and caring interaction. Filled with humor and stories, this book provides a challenging yet encouraging look at evangelism in our world today. This volume argues that asking questions and starting meaningful conversations is a far better method for sharing faith than prepared lectures or statements. It gives advice on what people need to hear in response to the world around them. Author was raised Jewish and has a unique, rabbinical outlook on evangelism Encouraging and useful Easy-to-read, conversational style Study guide at the end to aid in teaching and discussion	2003	Study guide is provided a part of the book.	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Question of God C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex, and the Meaning of Life	Nicholi, Armand M.	Throughout the ages, many of the world's greatest thinkers have wrestled with the concept of -- and belief in -- God. It may seem unlikely that any new arguments or insights could be raised, but the twentieth century managed to produce two brilliant men with two diametrically opposed views about the question of God: Sigmund Freud and C. S. Lewis. They never had an actual meeting, but in The Question of God, their arguments are placed side by side for the very first time. For more than twenty-five years, Armand Nicholi has taught a course at Harvard that compares the philosophical arguments of both men. In The Question of God, Dr. Nicholi presents the writings and letters of Lewis and Freud, allowing them to "speak" for themselves on the subject of belief and disbelief. Both men considered the problem of pain and suffering, the nature of love and sex, and the ultimate meaning of life and death -- and each of them thought carefully about the alternatives to their positions. The inspiration for the PBS series of the same name, The Question of God does not presuppose which man -- Freud the devout atheist or Lewis the atheist-turned-believer - is correct in his views. Rather, readers are urged to join Nicholi and his students and decide for themselves which path to follow.	2003	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Turn My Mourning into Dancing	Nouwen, Henri	In times of suffering, simplistic answers ring empty and hollow. But Henri Nouwen, beloved spiritual thinker and author, offers real comfort in the concrete truth of God's constancy. Nouwen suggests that by greeting life's pains with something other than despair, we can find surprising joy in our suffering. He suggests that the way through suffering is not in denial, but rather in living fully in the midst of the trials life brings our way.	2004	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Wounded Healer	Nouwen, Henri	The Wounded Healer is a hope-filled and profoundly simple book that speaks directly to those men and women who want to be of service in their church or community, but have found the traditional ways often threatening and ineffective. In this book, Henri Nouwen combines creative case studies of ministry with stories from diverse cultures and religious traditions in preparing a new model for ministry. Weaving keen cultural analysis with his psychological and religious insights, Nouwen has come up with a balanced and creative theology of service that begins with the realization of fundamental woundedness in human nature. Emphasizing that which is in humanity common to both minister and believer, this woundedness can serve as a source of strength and healing when counseling others. Nouwen proceeds to develop his approach to ministry with an analysis of sufferings -- a suffering world, a suffering generation, a suffering person, and a suffering minister. It is his contention that ministers are called to recognize the sufferings of their time in their own hearts and make that recognition the starting point of their service. For Nouwen, ministers must be willing to go beyond their professional role and leave themselves open as fellow human beings with the same wounds and suffering -- in the image of Christ. In other words, we heal from our own wounds. Filled with examples from everyday experience, The Wounded Healer is a thoughtful and insightful guide that will be welcomed by anyone engaged in the service of others.	1979	Book	None	All			Glen Mar

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Making All Things New An Invitation to the Spiritual Life	Nouwen, Henri J. M.	"During the past few years, various friends have asked me, 'What do you mean when you speak about the spiritual life?' Every time this question has come up, I have wished I had a small and simple book which could offer the beginning of a response. I have felt that there was a place for a text that could be read within a few hours and could not only explain what the spiritual life is but also create a desire to live it. This feeling caused me to write Making All Things New..." "The beginning of the spiritual life is often difficult not only because the powers which cause us to worry are so strong but also because the presence of God's Spirit seems barely noticeable. If, however, we are willing to live a life of prayer and practice the disciplines of solitude and community, a new hunger will make itself known. This new hunger is the first sign of God's presence. When we remain attentive to this divine presence, we will be led always deeper into the kingdom. There, to our joyful surprise, we will discover that the power of our worries is weakening and all things are being made new."	1981	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Power of Praying for Your Adult Children	Omartian, Stormie	In this important follow-up to her book "The Power of a Praying Parent", Stormie Omartian addresses the areas of concern parents have for their grown children and shares how to lift them up to God. With stories from other parents and insight gleaned from personal experience, Stormie helps parents pray with the power of God's Word over their adult children and their career choices and sense of purpose marriages and other vital relationships parenting skills and leadership struggles, addictions, or emotional trials faith commitment and prayer life Each year thousands of parents watch their grown children step out into the world and wish they could do more to support them. They can. Every parent can rest in the power of prayer to turn their child over to the care, protection, and guidance God provides.	2009	N/A	None	Parents	N/A		Offsite
When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box	Ortberg, John	What can we take with us to the kingdom of God? In When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box, bestselling author, pastor, and consummate storyteller John Ortberg tells us we can take pretty much only what we brought to the game. Everything else goes back in the box - the cash atop the corporate ladder, the vacation home at the lake, and the status vehicle in between. All the tokens, game pieces, and prizes are left behind when you walk away from the table. The only real "winnings" you claim and keep are your own soul and the love you have for Christ and each other. If you think you might need a better game plan one that offers an eternal perspective - this strategy-filled playbook walks you through what it takes to really win big at the game of life.	2009	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Time Together Meditations for Your Time-Starved Marriage	Parrott, Drs. Les & Leslie	Meditations on the importance of spiritual time together for married couples.		Book	None	Couples			Glen Mar
Reversed Thunder The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination	Peterson, Eugene	Peterson's eloquent meditation on the Revelation of St. John engages the imagination and awakens the intellect to the vitality and relevance of the last words on scripture, Christ, church, worship, evil, prayer, witness, politics, judgment, salvation, and heaven.	2011	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Message Promise Book	Peterson, Eugene	This pocket-sized book arranges passages from The Message by topic, making it easy to find out what God's Word says about a particular subject.	1997	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
A Long Obedience in the Same Direction Discipleship in an Instant Society	Peterson, Eugene	As a society, we are no less obsessed with the immediate than when Eugene Peterson first wrote this Christian classic. If anything, email and the Internet may have intensified our quest for the quick fix. But Peterson's time-tested prescription for discipleship remains the same—a long obedience in the same direction. Tucked away in the Hebrew Psalter, Peterson discovered "an old dog-eared songbook," the Songs of Ascents that were sung by pilgrims on their way up to worship in Jerusalem. In these songs (Psalms 120-134) Peterson finds encouragement for modern pilgrims as we learn to grow in worship, service, joy, work, happiness, humility, community and blessing. This 20th anniversary edition of A Long Obedience in the Same Direction features these Psalms in Peterson's widely acclaimed paraphrase, The Message. He also includes an epilogue in which he reflects on the themes of this book and his ministry during the twenty years since its original publication.	2000	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Living the Resurrection The Risen Christ in Everyday Life	Peterson, Eugene	Christ's friends were utterly transformed by His resurrection. Their friendship, their work, and even their meals together took on a new meaning and purpose. The same can happen to us today. Eugene Peterson, beloved pastor, scholar, and translator of The Message, takes you back to Jesus' time so you can experience the Resurrection through the eyes of biblical witnesses. You will be a participant in the story, so its meaning and wonder can enliven your soul as never before.	2014	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Run with the Horses	Peterson, Eugene	A Formation book. We all long to live life at its best--to fuse freedom and spontaneity with purpose and meaning. Why then do we often find our lives so humdrum, so unadventurous, so routine? Or else so frantic, so full of activity, but still devoid of fulfillment? How do we learn to risk, to trust, to pursue wholeness and excellence--to run with the horses in the jungle of life? In a series of profound reflections on the life of Jeremiah the prophet, Eugene Peterson explores the heart of what it means to be fully and genuinely human. His writing is filled with humor and self-reflection, insight and wisdom, helping to set a course for others in the quest for life at its best.	1983	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

Study/Resource Name	Author	Description	Misc.	Leader Resources	Experience Required	Target Audience	Homework	Reviews	Location*
90 Minutes in Heaven A True Story of Death & Life	Piper, Don	As he is driving home from a minister's conference, Baptist minister Don Piper collides with a semi-truck that crosses into his lane. He is pronounced dead at the scene. For the next 90 minutes, Piper experiences heaven where he is greeted by those who had influenced him spiritually. He hears beautiful music and feels true peace. Back on earth, a passing minister who had also been at the conference is led to pray for Don even though he knows the man is dead. Piper miraculously comes back to life and the bliss of heaven is replaced by a long and painful recovery. For years Piper kept his heavenly experience to himself. Finally, however, friends and family convinced him to share his remarkable story.	2006	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Heaven Is Real Lessons on Earthly Joy--What Happened After 90 Minutes in Heaven	Piper, Don	So how should we spend our time on Earth? Don Piper, the Minister of Hope who spent 90 minutes in Heaven, brings us God's message. Hope for the here and now from the multimillion-selling author of 90 Minutes in Heaven. Millions believe in Heaven. Don Piper's been there. He was pronounced dead after a car accident on January 18, 1989. Ninety minutes later, Piper came back to life with an extraordinary story. His 90 Minutes in Heaven has strengthened the faith of countless people. When Piper returned to this life, he had a long road back to health, dealing with painful treatments and physical disabilities-the "new normal," as Piper calls it. Still, he had been transformed spiritually and this allowed him not only to cope with his suffering, but to transcend it. Piper found purpose in his pain, he found the message in the mess, and so can anyone else who embraces God's grace in the here and now-as well as the Hereafter. Don Piper did not return from Heaven alone-he brought the gift of hope back with him. Those who read Heaven Is Real can use what he learned to live the lives God has called them to live.	2007	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Without Roots Europe, Relativism, Christianity, Islam	Ratzinger, Joseph	Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger-now Pope Benedict XVI-joins Marcello Pera, President of the Italian Senate, to offer a provocative critique of the spiritual, cultural, and political crisis afflicting the West	2013	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Shape - Finding & Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life	Rees, Erik	Filled with Scripture and real-life stories, S.H.A.P.E. presents a series of challenges that will guide you through the process of discovering your personal blend of Spiritual Gifts: A set of special abilities that God has given you to share his love and serve others. Heart: The special passions God has given you so that you can glorify him on earth. Abilities: The set of talents God gave you when you were born, which he also wants you to use to make an impact for him. Personality: The special way God wired you to navigate life and fulfill your unique Kingdom Purpose. Experiences: Those parts of your past, both positive and painful, which God intends to use in great ways. It's all here: insights that can change the way you look at yourself and how you live your life and practical guidance for applying them. Discover how to apply your amazing array of personal attributes in ways that bring confidence, freedom, clarity, and significance that can only come from your Creator.	Based on the purpose of ministry outlined in The Purpose Driven Life, this inspiring guidebook gives you the tools to: Unlock your God-given potential Uncover your specific Kingdom Purpose Unfold a kingdom plan for your life Based on the purpose of ministry outlined in The Purpose Driven Life, this inspiring guidebook gives you the tools to: Unlock your God-given potential Uncover your specific Kingdom Purpose Unfold a kingdom plan for your life	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Creative Bible Teaching	Richards, Lawrence O.	Are you a bridge builder? Communicating the Scriptures is much like building a bridge. However, instead of ravines or rivers, the teacher must span both cultural boundaries and great gulfs of time between the present and the past of Moses, David, Jesus, and Paul. This bridge must reach even further. The student must be able to cross both into the past and into his own future. God's Word is "living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). It is contemporary, relevant. But it is the teacher who has the task of helping the student to see its vast treasures. This is no easy task, but it can be done through creative Bible teaching. Together, Richards and Bredfeldt have written a book on bridge-building that reveals a detailed five-step process by which Christian educators can construct a bridge across time, geography, and culture.	1998	N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Creative Bible Teaching	Richards, Lawrence O.	Are you a bridge builder? Communicating the Scriptures is much like building a bridge. However, instead of ravines or rivers, the teacher must span both cultural boundaries and great gulfs of time between the present and the past of Moses, David, Jesus, and Paul. This bridge must reach even further. The student must be able to cross both into the past and into his own future. God's Word is "living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). It is contemporary, relevant. But it is the teacher who has the task of helping the student to see its vast treasures. This is no easy task, but it can be done through creative Bible teaching.Together, Richards and Bredfeldt have written a book on bridge-building that reveals a detailed five-step process by which Christian educators can construct a bridge across time, geography, and culture.	1998	N/A	All	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Unafraid	Rivers, Francine	In her fifth and final Lineage of Grace novella, renowned Christian writer Rivers tackles the most celebrated woman in Christian history Mary, the mother of Jesus. Using the biblical account of Jesus' life as a framework, Rivers adds such imaginative scenes as Mary watching the young Jesus healing his little sister, Anne, or Mary pondering Jesus' ability to see that there is always enough bread and oil in the larder to keep the family afloat. There are warm mother-son exchanges ("You're so thin!") and personal details ("Jesus had Mary's chin ... but no one ever said Jesus had her eyes ...").	2001	N/A	None	Women	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

Study/Resource Name	Author	Description	Misc.	Leader Resources	Experience Required	Target Audience	Homework	Reviews	Location*
Unashamed	Rivers, Francine	Five women whom God chose. Each was faced with extraordinary - even scandalous - challenges. Each took great personal risk to fulfill her calling. Each was destined to play a key role in the lineage of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. In Unashamed, you'll meet Rahab. Exploited by men who saw only her beauty, Rahab held fast to her faith in an all-powerful God. Learn along with her the overwhelming truth that God seeks and finds those whose hearts are tender toward him, no matter how far away they are.	2000	N/A	None	Women	N/A		Offsite
Unshaken	Rivers, Francine	Naomi's life is in ruins. Her husband and sons are dead, and she is left with only her beloved daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah. Ruth turns her back on her own family and risks everything to care for Naomi, insisting "I will go wherever you go! I will live wherever you live! Your God will be my God." Things get worse before they get better. Desperately poor, Ruth and Naomi arrive in Bethlehem and eke out an impoverished existence until Ruth's beauty and character turn the head of Boaz, a few decades older and the wealthiest man in town. Soon Ruth's desire to obey God is put to the test as she takes the biggest risk of all.	2000	N/A	None	Women	N/A		Offsite
Unspoken	Rivers, Francine	In award-winning writer Francine River's five-book Lineage of Grace series about women in the family tree of Jesus Christ, perhaps the most compelling installment is Unspoken, the love story of David and Bathsheba. This Old Testament saga of adultery, power, and battles fought both on the field of combat and in the human heart touches on the cost of poor choices, the need for forgiveness, and finding ultimate fulfillment -- themes that are relevant today. Rivers writes poignantly of how Bathsheba falls in love with David as a little girl, and of her bitterness when she comes of age and is given in marriage to Uriah, one of David's mighty warriors. Love cannot be commanded, however, and it's not long before the sexual tension between David and Bathsheba reaches its logical conclusion, with disastrous results.	2001	N/A	None	Women	N/A		Offsite
Unveiled	Rivers, Francine	Her name meant "date palm," and like her namesake, Tamar hoped to survive the harsh environment she was placed in: to bend but not to break. Rubbed with scented oil and arrayed in wedding finery, 14-year-old Tamar is thrust into a world of abuse, betrayal, and disillusionment when she is given in marriage to an evil, idol-worshiping man. In the face of her suffering, she must make choices: Will she let her new husband, Er, destroy her innocence and corrupt her? Will she leave the religion of the Canaanites and embrace the God of the Hebrews despite the life of misery she is cast into? Or will she fall into despair and become as wicked as her husband and his brothers?	2000	N/A	None	Women	N/A		Offsite
Servolution Starting a Church Revolution Through Serving	Rizzo, Dino	'Servolution is a must-read. It is inspirational. It is practical. And it has the potential to revolutionize your life.' Mark Batterson ---Lead Pastor, National Community Church A movement is rumbling through the body of Christ---a revolutionary army of people giving hope to a hurting world through practical, personal acts of service. In Servolution, Dino Rizzo shares the story of his relentless pursuit of ways to bless the lost, poor, and hurting people of his community in Jesus' name. You'll be amazed and inspired by the incredible ways God has used Healing Place Church to meet the needs of thousands of people. Each chapter includes practical suggestions and resources for use in any church. Be encouraged by the testimony of how God's Spirit can use a simple passion to serve to revolutionize your approach to ministry. Wherever you are and whatever your gifts, you can play a vital role in this revolution through serving.	2009	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Silent Compassion - Finding God in Contemplation	Rohr, Richard	In Silent Compassion: Finding God in Contemplation, Rohr focuses on finding God in the depths of silence, and shares that the divine silence is more than the absence of noise. That silence has a life of its own, in which we are invited into its living presence, wholeness of being, and peace it brings. This silence can absorb paradoxes, contradictions, and the challenges of life, he says, connecting us with the great chain of being. Rohr adds that while different faiths use different languages and different words, all major religions have come at the mystery of God as a dynamic flow---God as communion, God as relationships. Silence then becomes that common place for all. This book will inspire you and show that the peace of contemplation is not something just for monks, mystics, and those divorced from the worries of the world, but rather for all people who can quiet their own mind to listen in the silence.		N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Introduction to the Devout Life	Ryan, John K.	Francis de Sales's Introduction to the Devout Life has remained a uniquely accessible and relevant treasure of devotion for nearly four hundred years. As Bishop of Geneva in the first quarter of the seventeenth century, Francis de Sales saw to the spiritual needs of everyone from the poorest peasants to court ladies. The desire to be closer to God that he found in people from all levels of society led him to compile these instructions on how to live in Christ. Francis's compassionate Introduction leads the reader through practical ways of attaining a devout life without renouncing the world and offers prayers and meditations to strengthen devotion in the face of temptation and hardship.	1971	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

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A Complete Handbook of Literary Forms in the Bible	Ryken , Leland	To truly understand God's Word, we must know both what it says (content) and how it says it (form). This accessible guide features over 250 alphabetically arranged entries explaining common literary forms found in the Bible. Each entry contains a succinct definition, helpful illustrations, and a representative list of passages where that particular literary form is present. More than merely a dictionary, this indispensable resource will help Bible readers better understand the underlying structure of Scripture—giving a clearer shape and deeper meaning to each and every page of God's Word.	2014	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Dictionary of Biblical Imagery	Ryken, Leland	A Christianity Today 1999 Book of the Year! Every reader of the Bible has encountered the powerful, comforting and sometimes puzzling imagery of Scripture. These concrete pictures with their hidden force have struck sharp and lasting impressions on our minds. Their imprint has etched itself on the language and grammar of Christian faith and Western culture. Why then do traditional Bible dictionaries and reference works offer so little help to explorers of the Bible's galaxy of verbal pictures? They excel in describing the climate, borders and location of Galilee or Sinai. But they are often blind to the artistic expressions and deaf to the musical meanings that echo from within the world of the biblical text. The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery is the first contemporary reference work dedicated to exploring the images, symbols, motifs, metaphors and literary patterns found in the Bible. More than that, it examines the Bible's universal archetypes or master images—including the plot motifs and character types that recur throughout life, literature and the Bible. This unique dictionary explores the dazzling variety in which the Word of God comes dressed in clothes of everyday life. It traces the trail of images from Eden to the New Jerusalem. It captures the plotted patterns of biblical narrative. It surveys the imaged texture of each book of the Bible. In short, The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery is an inviting, enlightening and indispensable companion to the reading, study, contemplation and enjoyment of the Bible.	1998	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Literary Introductions to the Books of the Bible	Ryken, Leland	In this comprehensive and systematic volume, renowned literary expert Leland Ryken introduces readers to the specific themes, patterns, and techniques used by the biblical authors. A companion to Ryken's A Complete Handbook of Literary Forms in the Bible, this practical guidebook will equip you to interpret each book of the Bible through the lens of its literary forms and features—helping you faithfully read, understand, and teach the Bible with greater insight.	2015	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Teach Me to Pray	Sangster , W. E	Published for over 40 years, this modern-day spiritual classic offers all the essentials needed to build a strong and intimate relationship with God through prayer. Now with a new cover and updated language, Sangster's little book helps Christians develop a practice of prayer, form a prayer group, and learn how to live in Christ.	1959	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Forty Days of Fruitful Living Practicing a Life of Grace	Schnase, Robert	These devotions, taken from Five Practices of Fruitful Living, will open your heart to the joys of a life rich with meaning, relationship, and contribution. With each reading, become immersed in the practices of discipleship - receiving god's love, loving God in return, growing in Christ, serving others, and giving back - and settle completely in God's transforming grace.	Devotions	Devotions	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
God's World and Our Place in It	Sheen, Fulton J.	Bishop Fulton Sheen explains it all: Bishop Sheen shows that Christianity makes good sense even to nonbelievers. Indeed, Christianity alone can explain goodness and evil in the world; it alone makes sense of our impulses to love and sacrifice, and our failures to do so.	2003	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Guide to Contentment	Sheen, Fulton J.	Love, anxiety, beauty, honesty, freedom, compulsion, self-pity, success, failure, health, joy, marriage, sex, faith, adventure -- these are just a few of the aspects of the human condition the author treats as he examines the way we move toward or away from contentment.	1996	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Life of Christ A Guide to Spiritual Peace	Sheen, Fulton J.	Widely proclaimed a classic work of Christian faith, Life of Christ has been hailed as the most eloquent of Fulton J. Sheen's many books. The fruit of many years of reflection, prayer, and research, it is a dramatic and moving recounting of the birth, life, Crucifixion, and Resurrection of Christ, and a passionate portrait of the God-Man, the teacher, the healer, and most of all the Savior, whose promise has sustained humanity for two millennia. With his customary insight and reverence, Sheen interprets the scripture and describes Christ, not only in historical perspective, but also in exciting and contemporary terms, seeing in Christ's life both modern parallels and timeless lessons. His thoughtful, probing analysis provides new insight into well-known Gospel events. An appealing blend of philosophy, history, and Biblical exegesis, from the best-known and most-loved American Catholic leader of the twentieth century, Life of Christ has long been a source of inspiration and guidance. For those seeking to better understand the message of Jesus Christ, this vivid retelling of the greatest story ever lived is a must read.	2008	N/A	in Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Lift Up Your Heart	Sheen, Fulton J.	Discusses and analyzes the inner life of modern man. Rips aside all false pretense and meticulously diagnoses the ills in man that have prevented him from achieving his destiny -- a destiny that "is beyond the merely human; it is supernatural." Here is an inexhaustible mine of suggestions on how one may better one's own life and thoughts and loves, and achieve the highest degree of purpose and felicity.	1997	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

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The Divine Romance	Sheen, Fulton J.	In The Divine Romance, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen delves into love and life with all its pain, sorrow, loneliness and human failures from the perspective of our human quest for God, the inner life of the Trinity, the outpouring of the Spirit and most of all the Lord of Calvary and Easter. The Divine Romance touches on perennial themes and is a classic that has a power to heal, help and inspire the reader. In his crisp pastoral style, Sheen describes the believer's spiritual journey back to the Father with all of its ecclesial dimensions. Christ guides our mystical journey and forms us into his very Body on Earth.	1982	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Seven Last Words	Sheen, Fulton J.	A penetrating resume of Jesus' last words.	1996	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Hijacked Responding to the Partisan Church Divide	Slaughter, Michael	Rescue your church from the infiltration of partisan politics. The last thirty years have seen the political discourse within our country grow more rancorous and increasingly uncivil. During the same period, there has been a growing tendency to conflate one's theological commitments with one's political ideology. As a consequence, partisan politics has infiltrated our churches and political commitments are creating unnecessary divisions. Perhaps of most concern, these trends generally tend to obscure the properly holistic nature of the Gospel of Christ and turn people off to Christianity altogether. Too often, it often seems politics trumps theology. Sadly, this leads to division, where decisions on church direction, and even the content of teaching, gets determined more based on partisan politics than on sound biblical and theological factors. Hijacked explores this phenomenon, offers analysis, and proposes a way forward.	2012	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The World's Religions	Smart, Ninian	This book is a revised and updated edition of a popular work, which looks at the world's religions in terms of world history, and as constantly developing systems of belief. Part I traces the development of religions, as they evolved from the traditions of the ancient world. Part II examines the changes to faiths and cultures following the Renaissance and the voyages of conquest and discovery, and asks how, why, and with what effect religions have been refashioned over the ages up to today. In this richly illustrated new edition, religions are described through their symbols, rituals, followers, architecture and art. References, statistics, maps and pictures have been updated and added, illuminating the true nature of each religion. The text has been thoroughly revised to highlight recent developments, such as the spread of Islam, African-American and Hispanic-American religious experience, and women priests.	1998	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Worldviews Crosscultural Explorations of Human Beliefs	Smart, Ninian	This book offers a balanced, wide-ranging, and realistic approach to the full range of worldviews, showing how, whether religious or secular, they define the human values that drive the engines of both continuity and change worldwide. It shows readers the dynamics of each tradition, and emphasizes that although the various traditions may all share similar aspects, they each assign varying levels of importance to specific areas. Explores the major religious traditions and secular ideologies (Marxism, nationalisms, scientific humanism) from six dimensions: experiential/emotional; narrative/mythic; doctrinal/philosophical; ethical/legal; ritual/practical; and social/organizational. For anyone interested in comparative worldviews, religious and secular.	2000	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Hole in Our Gospel What does God expect of Us? The Answer that Changed my Life and Might Just Change the World	Stearns, Richard	WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF US? Is our faith just about going to church, studying the Bible and avoiding the most serious sins or does God expect more? Have we embraced the whole gospel or a gospel with a hole in it? Ten years ago, Rich Stearns came face-to-face with that question as he sat in a mud hut in Rakai, Uganda, listening to the heartbreaking story of an orphaned child. Stearns' journey there took much more than a long flight to Africa. It took answering God's call on his life, a call that tore him out of his corner office at one of America's most prestigious corporations to walk with the poorest of the poor in our world. The Hole in Our Gospel is the compelling true story of a corporate CEO who set-aside worldly success for something far more significant, and discovered the full power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to change his own life. He uses his journey to demonstrate how the gospel - the whole gospel - was always meant to be a world changing social revolution, a revolution that begins with us.	2009	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Our Riches in Christ Discovering the Believer's Inheritance in Ephesians	Stedman, Ray C.	Stedman draws from the entire book of Ephesians the encouragement that comes from reviewing the resources and riches of a life with Christ, and the facts that undergird the Christian faith. 'Our Riches in Christ' helps Christians understand the liberating, transforming truths that produce lasting joy, unbounded peace, and radiant faith. Throughout his thoroughgoing, verse-by-verse analysis of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, master teacher Ray Stedman stops often to show what the Scriptures mean for today's believer. Practical issues of husband and wife relationships and church order find their way alongside such vital theological issues as faith, prayer, and spiritual warfare.	1998	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite

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This Day - A Wesleyan Way of Prayer	Stookey, Laurence	Dr. Laurence Stookey of Wesley Seminary has created this resource to serve as a daily prayer book for the home and personal use. The book is also designed for use by individuals participating in a Wesleyan class meeting in conjunction with the Sunday morning experience or a week-day meeting. The unique aspect of this program lies in its incorporation of the practice of daily prayer and accountability within the Sunday morning adult education program. In addition to activities conducted on Sunday, class members will participate in ordered daily prayer within the Wesleyan spirit. This Day contains thirty-one forms of prayer, one for each day of the month drawn from: John Wesley's 1738 Forms of Prayer for Every Day of the Week, The 1784 Order for Morning Prayer, The United Methodist Book of Worship, The Book of Common Prayer, The IONA and Taizé Communities, the Benedictine tradition, the Eastern Orthodox tradition, and contemporary sources. This resource is not UM specific and is based on the revised common lectionary and the daily lectionary of the Book of Common Prayer	Reference Materials	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Basic Christianity	Stott, John	Who is Jesus Christ? If he is not who he said he was, and if he did not do what he said he had come to do, the whole superstructure of Christianity crumbles in ruins to the ground. Is it plausible that Jesus was truly divine? And what might this mean for us? John Stott presents his clear, classic statement of the gospel.	2006	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Cross of Christ	Stott, John	The work of a lifetime, from one of the world's most influential thinkers, about the heart of the Christian faith. "I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. . . . In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?" With compelling honesty John Stott confronts this generation with the centrality of the cross in God's redemption of the world -- a world now haunted by the memories of Auschwitz, the pain of oppression and the specter of nuclear war. Can we see triumph in tragedy, victory in shame? Why should an object of Roman distaste and Jewish disgust be the emblem of our worship and the axiom of our faith? And what does it mean for us today? Now from one of the foremost preachers and Christian leaders of our day comes theology at its readable best, a contemporary restatement of the meaning of the cross. At the cross Stott finds the majesty and love of God disclosed, the sin and bondage of the world exposed. More than a study of the atonement, this book brings Scripture into living dialogue with Christian theology and the twentieth century. What emerges is a pattern for Christian life and worship, hope and mission. Destined to be a classic study of the center of our faith, Stott's work is the product of a uniquely gifted pastor, scholar and Christian statesman. His penetrating insight, charitable scholarship and pastoral warmth are guaranteed to feed both heart and mind.	2006	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Case for a Creator A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence that Points Toward God	Strobel, Lee	"My road to atheism was paved by science. . . . But, ironically, so was my later journey to God." ---Lee Strobel During his academic years, Lee Strobel became convinced that God was outmoded, a belief that colored his ensuing career as an award-winning journalist at the Chicago Tribune. Science had made the idea of a Creator irrelevant---or so Strobel thought. But today science is pointing in a different direction. In recent years, a diverse and impressive body of research has increasingly supported the conclusion that the universe was intelligently designed. At the same time, Darwinism has faltered in the face of concrete facts and hard reason. Has science discovered God? At the very least, it's giving faith an immense boost as new findings emerge about the incredible complexity of our universe. Join Strobel as he reexamines the theories that once led him away from God. Through his compelling and highly readable account, you'll encounter the mind-stretching discoveries from cosmology, cellular biology, DNA research, astronomy, physics, and human consciousness that present astonishing evidence in The Case for a Creator. Also available in mass market and audio CD editions.	2004	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Case for Christ A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus	Strobel, Lee	A Seasoned Journalist Chases Down the Biggest Story in History Is there credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God? Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates from schools like Cambridge, Princeton, and Brandeis who are recognized authorities in their own fields. Strobel challenges them with questions like How reliable is the New Testament? Does evidence for Jesus exist outside the Bible? Is there any reason to believe the resurrection was an actual event? Strobel's tough, point-blank questions make this Gold Medallion-winning book read like a captivating, fast-paced novel. But it's not fiction. It's a riveting quest for the truth about history's most compelling figure. What will your verdict be in The Case for Christ? 'Lee Strobel probes with bulldog-like tenacity the evidence for the truth of biblical Christianity.' Bruce M. Metzger, Ph.D., Professor of New Testament, Emeritus, Princeton Theological Seminary 'Lee Strobel asks the questions a tough-minded skeptic would ask. His book is so good I read it out loud to my wife evenings after dinner. Every inquirer should have it.' Phillip E. Johnson, Law Professor, University of California at Berkeley	1998	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

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The Case for Christmas A Journalist Investigates the Identity of the Child in the Manger	Strobel, Lee	Who was in the manger that first Christmas morning? Some say he would become a great moral leader. Others, a social critic. Still others view Jesus as a profound philosopher, a rabbi, a feminist, a prophet, and more. Many are convinced he was the divine Son of God. Who was he really? And how can you know for sure? Consulting experts on the Bible, archaeology, and messianic prophecy, Lee Strobel searches out the true identity of the child in the manger. Join him as he asks the tough, pointed questions you'd expect from an award-winning legal journalist. If Jesus really was God in the flesh, then there ought to be credible evidence, including Eyewitness Evidence. Can the biographies of Jesus be trusted? Scientific Evidence. What does archaeology reveal? Profile Evidence. Did Jesus fulfill the attributes of God? Fingerprint Evidence. Did Jesus uniquely match the identity of the Messiah? The Case for Christmas invites you to consider why Christmas matters in the first place. Somewhere beyond the traditions of the holiday lies the truth. It may be more compelling than you've realized. Weigh the facts . . . and decide for yourself.	2009	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Case for Faith A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity	Strobel, Lee	Was God telling the truth when he said, You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart? In his #1 bestseller The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel examined the claims of Christ, reaching the hard-won verdict that Jesus is God's unique son. In The Case for Faith, Strobel turns his skills to the most persistent emotional objections to belief - the eight heart barriers to faith. This Gold Medallion-winning book is for those who may be feeling attracted to Jesus but who are faced with difficult questions standing squarely in their path. For Christians, it will deepen their convictions and give them fresh confidence in discussing Christianity with even their most skeptical friends. Everyone - seekers, doubters, fervent believers - benefits when Lee Strobel hits the road in search of answers, as he does again in The Case for Faith. In the course of his probing interviews, some of the toughest intellectual obstacles to faith fall away. Luis Palau Lee Strobel has given believers and skeptics alike a gift in this book. He does not avoid seeking the most difficult questions imaginable, and refuses to provide simplistic answers that do more harm than good. Jerry Sittser, professor of religion, Whitworth College, and author of A Grace Disguised and The Will of God as a Way of Life.	2000	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Best of A. W. Tozer Book One	Tozer, A. W.	In The Best of A.W. Tozer, Book One Warren Wiersbe compiles a fantastic amount of writings to show us once again that Tozer had a gift from God. This collection of 52 favorite chapters represent the major themes from the works of A.W. Tozer. Each chapter offers what Tozer has come to be known for: incredible insight, deep conviction, and high praise of God. From Let My People Go to The Pursuit of God, Tozer's books were always written after long hours of meditation and prayer. Perhaps this explains their wide circulation and lasting influence. A.W. Tozer once said, "I guess my philosophy is this: Everything is wrong until God sets it right." Enjoy this collection of writings from a man who scarcely, if ever, stated a truth he didn't glean from God.	2007	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Best of A. W. Tozer Book Two	Tozer, A. W.	A.W. Tozer wrote with the passion of a man thirsty for God. He was not afraid to expose man's frailties, nor was he hesitant to reveal what God can do for those who seek Him. This collection of 44 chapters covers major themes of A. W. Tozer's writings, capturing the message he so passionately taught and lived: Surrender to Christ, get to know God personally, and grow to become like Him. Perhaps this explains their wide circulation and lasting influence. Excerpts from this volume come from classics like: The Knowledge of the Holy The Pursuit of God God's Pursuit of Man How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit Talk Back to the Devil Who Put Jesus on the Cross? Plus many more! Also available is The Best of A.W. Tozer Book One, which includes 52 more chapters.	2007	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Tozer Mystery of the Holy Spirit	Tozer, A. W.	The 27th book in the best-selling Pure Gold Classics. Editor James Snyder has compiled some of Tozer's greatest works on the Holy Spirit.	2006	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Take the Next Step	Weems, Lovett H.	Learn how to work for genuine and effective change in your church without trying to throw out everything that has gone before. Pastors and other congregational leaders are eager to institute meaningful and effective change in their congregations. They know that old attitudes and perspectives prevent the church from fulfilling its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Yet too often church advocates insist that if genuine change is to occur in the church, then everything must change. The board must be wiped clean, and new technologies, new worship styles, and even new theologies must replace what has come before. The problem with such calls for radical change, says Lovett Weems, Jr., is that they are not true to the way that genuine and lasting change takes place. Like every other organization, churches rest on a cultural foundation of shared assumptions, values, and practices. The paradox of successful change is that this foundation is at the same time the source of resistance to change and what makes change possible. Lasting, transformational change grows out of the congregation's current sense of its story and its mission. Transformational leaders know how to build on the church's identity, making new ministries and emphases the natural extension of what has gone before. In other words they know how to make the story of change the next chapter in the book of the congregation's life, rather than throwing the book away and trying to start over.		N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

Study/Resource Name	Author	Description	Misc.	Leader Resources	Experience Required	Target Audience	Homework	Reviews	Location*
The Essential Works of John Wesley	Wesley, John	Want to know how to live the Christian life? Learn from one of the foremost authorities, John Wesley, in this single-volume library of journal selections, sermons, and other addresses, essays, and letters. Two and a half centuries ago, the great Methodist distinguished himself as one of the world's greatest authorities on the committed Christian life. Now, his most powerful writings have been compiled under one cover, perfect for personal study, pastoral research, or Christian school use. Including sermons on conversion, growth in grace, and practical holiness; essays on theological questions; personal letters; even hymns written and translated by Wesley, this all-in-one resource has been lightly updated for ease of reading, featuring scripture from the New King James Version.	Reference Materials	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Glen Mar
The Holy Spirit and Power	Wesley, John	The Holy Spirit and Power contains ten Spirit-empowered, original sermons of John Wesley from John Wesley's "Standard Sermons," parts of John Wesley's testimony, material from The Journal of the Rev. John Wesley, portions from Wesley's letter to Dr. Conyers Middleton, Holy Spirit power points at the end of each message, a subject index, and a full index of complete Holy Spirit passages from The King James Version of the Bible.	2003	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Secrets of the Vine Breaking Through to Abundance	Wilkinson, Bruce	Dr. Bruce Wilkinson explores John 15 to show you how to make maximum impact for God. Wilkinson demonstrates how Jesus is the Vine of life, discusses four levels of "fruit bearing" (doing the good work of God), and reveals three life-changing truths that will lead you to new joy and effectiveness in His kingdom. "Secrets of the Vine" will open your eyes to the Lord's hand in your life and will uncover surprising insights that will point you toward a new path of consequence for God's glory. Are You Ready to Break Through to the Abundant Life? Is it time to trade in mediocrity for a life of consequence? Do you want to experience the joy of making maximum impact for God? Join Bruce Wilkinson for a journey through John 15. Find out why Jesus is the Vine of life, and explore the four levels of "fruit bearing." You'll learn three surprising secrets that will open your eyes to your unrealized potential in Him... "starting today!"	2005	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Prayer of Jabez Breaking Through to the Blessed Life	Wilkinson, Bruce	Simple Prayer, Dramatic Life-Change. It's a timeless prayer that produces timely results! Bruce Wilkinson takes readers to 1 Chronicles 4:10 to discover how they can release God's miraculous power and experience the blessings God longs to give each of us. The life of Jabez, one of the Bible's most overlooked heroes of the faith, bursts from unbroken pages of genealogies in an audacious, four-part prayer that brings him an extraordinary measure of divine favor, anointing, and protection. Readers who commit to offering the same prayer on a regular basis will find themselves extravagantly blessed by God, and agents of His miraculous power, in everyday life. Do you want to be extravagantly blessed by God? Are you ready to reach for the extraordinary? To ask God for the abundant blessings He longs to give you? Join Bruce Wilkinson to discover how the remarkable prayer of a little-known Bible hero can release God's favor, power, and protection. You'll see how one daily prayer can help you leave the past behind and break through to the life you were meant to live.	2010	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
You Were Born for This 7 Keys to a Life of Predictable Miracles	Wilkinson, Bruce	What if you missed a miracle yesterday? Do you believe that if God still works miracles, He only works them through a select group of people-not you? Then it's time to discover the truth. You were created to help others experience personal miracles on a regular basis. You were born to accomplish God's work by His power. In You Were Born for This, Bruce Wilkinson explores life-changing questions such as: Why do so few people experience miracles? What does it mean to be sent on a miracle mission? And, how can anyone partner with God to deliver miracles to others? You will learn how to make a lifestyle of predictable miracles your new normal. Because when people ask God to accomplish the miraculous through them, things change. Relationships. Finances. Families. Spiritual lives. Soon the extraordinary becomes the everyday, and God showing up in supernatural ways is no longer something to wish for-it is the life God intended you to live. Discover why you were born for this!	2010	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Knowing Christ Today Why We Can Trust Spiritual Knowledge	Willard, Dallas	At a time when popular atheism books are talking about the irrationality of believing in God, Willard makes a rigorous intellectual case for why it makes sense to believe in God and in Jesus, the Son.	2009	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Revolution of Character Discovering Christ's Pattern for Spiritual Transformation	Willard, Dallas	The author of "The Divine Conspiracy" reveals that the main reason people fail in their spiritual lives is that they don't carefully examine the roles played by all five elements of their person: heart, mind, body, social life, and soul.	2004	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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The Great Omission Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship	Willard, Dallas	The last command Jesus gave the church before he ascended to heaven was the Great Commission, the call for Christians to "make disciples of all the nations." But Christians have responded by making "Christians," not "disciples." This, according to brilliant scholar and renowned Christian thinker Dallas Willard, has been the church's Great Omission. "The word disciple occurs 269 times in the New Testament," writes Willard. "Christian is found three times and was first introduced to refer precisely to disciples of Jesus. . . . The New Testament is a book about disciples, by disciples, and for disciples of Jesus Christ. But the point is not merely verbal. What is more important is that the kind of life we see in the earliest church is that of a special type of person. All of the assurances and benefits offered to humankind in the gospel evidently presuppose such a life and do not make realistic sense apart from it. The disciple of Jesus is not the deluxe or heavy-duty model of the Christian -- especially padded, textured, streamlined, and empowered for the fast lane on the straight and narrow way. He or she stands on the pages of the New Testament as the first level of basic transportation in the Kingdom of God. "Willard boldly challenges the thought that we can be Christians without being disciples, or call ourselves Christians without applying this understanding of life in the Kingdom of God to every aspect of life on earth. He calls on believers to restore what should be the heart of Christianity -- being active disciples of Jesus Christ. Willard shows us that in the school of life, we are apprentices of the Teacher whose brilliance encourages us to rise above traditional church understanding and embrace the true meaning of discipleship -- an active, concrete, 24/7 life with Jesus.	2009	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Spirit of the Disciplines - Reissue Understanding How God Changes Lives	Willard, Dallas	How to Live as Jesus Lived Dallas Willard, one of today's most brilliant Christian thinkers and author of The Divine Conspiracy (Christianity Today's 1999 Book of the Year), presents a way of living that enables ordinary men and women to enjoy the fruit of the Christian life. He reveals how the key to self-transformation resides in the practice of the spiritual disciplines, and how their practice affirms human life to the fullest. The Spirit of the Disciplines is for everyone who strives to be a disciple of Jesus in thought and action as well as intention.	1990	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The Westminster Concise Handbook for the Bible	Wilson, C. Vincent	Handbook for the Bible	1979	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Evil and the Justice of God	Wright, N. T.	Merit Award, 2007 Christianity Today Theology/Ethics Book With every earthquake and war, understanding the nature of evil and our response to it becomes more urgent. Evil is no longer the concern just of ministers and theologians but also of politicians and the media. We hear of child abuse, ethnic cleansing, AIDS, torture and terrorism, and rightfully we are shocked. But, N. T. Wright says, we should not be surprised. For too long we have naively believed in the modern idea of human progress. In contrast, postmodern thinkers have rightly argued that evil is real, powerful and important, but they give no real clue as to what we should do about it. In fact, evil is more serious than either our culture or our theology has supposed. How then might Jesus' death be the culmination of the Old Testament solution to evil but on a wider and deeper scale than most imagine? Can we possibly envision a world in which we are delivered from evil? How might we work toward such a future through prayer and justice in the present? These are the powerful and pressing themes that N. T. Wright addresses in this book that is at once timely and timeless.	2011	N/A	in Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Following Jesus Biblical Reflections on Discipleship	Wright, N. T.	The twelve exhilarating meditations in this volume explore what it truly means to follow Jesus today. Part One outlines the essential messages of six major New Testament books--Hebrews, Colossians, Matthew, John, Mark, and Revelation. Part Two examines six key New Testament themes--resurrection, rebirth, temptation, hell, heaven, and new life--and considers their significance for the lives of present-day disciples.	1995	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
For All the Saints? Remembering the Christian Departed	Wright, N. T.	We have been drifting into a muddle and a mess, putting together bits and pieces of traditions, ideas and practices in the hope that they will make sense. They don't. There may be times when a typical Anglican fudge is a pleasant, chewy sort of thing, but this isn't one of them. It's time to think and speak clearly and act decisively. With these robust words Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham, throws down a challenge to current liturgy and practice surrounding All Saints' and All Souls' Days, and sets out to clarify our thinking about what happens to people after they die. Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory, what it means to pray for the dead, what (and who) are the saints, are all addressed in this invigorating and rigorously argued book. In challenging the existence of an eternal soul and questioning the traditional view of Heaven, Dr. Wright is taking a more biblical approach than most of his more liberal contemporaries. More often it has been the liberalism of Bishops of Durham that shocked the establishment.	2004	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Jesus and the Victory of God	Wright, N. T.	A major scholarly contribution to the current "quest" for the historical Jesus.	1996	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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Small Group Reference Material in Author Order

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Justification God's Plan & Paul's Vision	Wright, N. T.	Few issues are more central to the Christian faith than the nature, scope and means of salvation. Many have thought it to be largely a transaction that gets one to heaven. In this riveting book, N. T. Wright explains that God's salvation is radically more than this. At the heart of much vigorous debate on this topic is the term the apostle Paul uses in several of his letters to describe what happens to those in Christ—justification. Paul uses this dramatic image from the law court to declare that Christians are acquitted of the cosmic accusations against them. But justification goes beyond this in Paul's writings to offer a vision of God's future for the whole world as well as for his people. Here in one place Wright now offers a comprehensive account and defense of his perspective on this crucial doctrine. He provides a sweeping overview of the central points in the debate before launching into a thorough explanation of the key texts in Paul's writings. While fully cognizant of tradition and controversy, the final authority for his conclusions is the letters of Paul themselves. Along the way Wright responds to critics, such as John Piper, who have challenged what has come to be called the New Perspective. For Wright, what Paul means by justification is nothing less than God's unswerving commitment to the covenant promise he made to bless the whole world through Abraham and his family. This irenic response is an important contribution for those on both sides of the debate—and those still in between—to consider. Whether you're a fan of Wright's work or have read his critics and would like to know the other side of the story, here is a chance to interact with Wright's views on the issues at stake and form your own conclusions.	2009	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians	Wright, N. T.	Making use of his true scholar's understanding, yet writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Wright shows us the liveliness of cosmopolitan Corinth, and reveals the wisdom and challenge of Paul's writing, bringing out the pastoral sensitivity and deep insight that make this letter one of Paul's crowning achievements.	2003	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Paul In Fresh Perspective	Wright, N. T.	The letters of the Apostle Paul changed the world like no others before or since, and they continue to strike us afresh with their panoramic vision of human history and destiny. Preeminent New Testament scholar and churchman N. T. Wright here offers a fresh perspective on the Apostle Paul's content and convictions. Wright ranks Paul as "one of the most powerful and seminal minds of the first or any century," endlessly engaging and perennially elusive. Yet, with recent research, Wright argues, we can now sketch with confidence a new and more nuanced picture of the Apostle and the radical way in which his encounter with Jesus redefined his life, his whole thought-world, his mission, and his expectations for a world made new in Christ. The result: a masterful, engaging, and enlightening portrait that situates Paul in his time and for our own.	2005	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Simply Christian	Wright, N. T.	Why do we expect justice? Why do we crave spirituality? Why are we attracted to beauty? Why are relationships often so painful? And how will the world be made right? These are not simply perennial questions all generations must struggle with, but, according to N. T. Wright, are the very echoes of a voice we dimly perceive but deeply long to hear. In fact, these questions take us to the heart of who God is and what He wants from us. For two thousand years, Christianity has claimed to solve these mysteries, and this renowned biblical scholar and Anglican bishop shows that it still can today. Not since C. S. Lewis's classic summary of the faith, Mere Christianity, has such a wise and thorough scholar taken the time to explain to anyone who wants to know what Christianity really is and how it is practiced. Wright makes the case for Christian faith from the ground up, assuming that the reader has no knowledge of (and perhaps even some aversion to) religion in general and Christianity in particular. Simply Christian walks the reader through the Christian faith step by step and question by question. With simple yet exciting and accessible prose, Wright challenges skeptics by offering explanations for even the toughest doubt-filled dilemmas, leaving believers with a reason for renewed faith. For anyone who wants to travel beyond the controversies that can obscure what the Christian faith really stands for, this simple book is the perfect vehicle for that journey.	2006	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Last Word Beyond the Bible Wars to a New Understanding of the Authority of Scripture	Wright, N. T.	In Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today, Widely respected Bible and Jesus scholar, N. T. Wright gives new life to the old, tattered doctrine of the authority of scripture, delivering a fresh, helpful, and concise statement on the current battles for the Bible and restoring scripture as the primary place to find God's voice. In this revised and expanded version of The Last Word, leading biblical scholar N. T. Wright shows how both evangelicals and liberals are guilty of misreading Scripture and reveals a new model for understanding God's authority and the Bible.	2005	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
The Lord and His Prayer	Wright, N. T.	By reflecting on the Lord's Prayer in its original setting, N.T. Wright offers a fresh understanding of Christian spirituality and the life of prayer. Taking the Lord's Prayer clause by clause, Wright locates this prayer within the historical life and work of Jesus and allows the prayer's devotional application to grow out of its historical context. The Lord and His Prayer will stimulate and refresh the heart and mind of any reader.	1997	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
The New Testament and the People of God	Wright, N. T.	Provides a historical, theological and literary study of first-century Judaism and Christianity, offering a preliminary discussion of the meaning of the word god within those cultures and explores the ways in which developing an understanding of those first-century cultures are of relevance for the modern world.	1991	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite

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The Resurrection of the Son of God	Wright, N. T.	Why did Christianity begin, and why did it take the shape it did? To answer this question -- which any historian must face -- renowned New Testament scholar N. T. Wright focuses on the key points: what precisely happened at Easter? What did the early Christians mean when they said that Jesus of Nazareth had been raised from the dead? What can be said today about this belief? This book, third in Wright's series Christian Origins and the Question of God, sketches a map of ancient beliefs about life after death, in both the Greco-Roman and Jewish worlds. It then highlights the fact that the early Christians' belief about the afterlife belonged firmly on the Jewish spectrum, while introducing several new mutations and sharper definitions. This, together with other features of early Christianity, forces the historian to read the Easter narratives in the gospels, not simply as late rationalizations of early Christian spirituality, but as accounts of two actual events: the empty tomb of Jesus and his "appearances." How do we explain these phenomena? The early Christians' answer was that Jesus had indeed been bodily raised from the dead; that was why they hailed him as the messianic "son of God." No modern historian has come up with a more convincing explanation. Facing this question, we are confronted to this day with the most central issues of the Christian worldview and theology.	2003	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
What Saint Paul Really Said Was Paul of Tarsus the Real Founder of Christianity?	Wright, N. T.	"Recently, A. N. Wilson has claimed to show that it was Paul, not Jesus, who founded Christianity. But how does this thesis, which in various forms has been debated for over a century, stand up? In What Saint Paul Really Said, N. T. Wright - a world authority on the life and letters of Paul - leads readers through the current scholarly discussion of Paul and gives a devastating critique of views like Wilson's, showing that they fail to take account of all the evidence. Paul was not the "founder of Christianity" but, rather, the faithful witness and herald of Jesus Christ."	1997	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite
Messy Spirituality God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People	Yaconelli, Michael	I Guess I'm Not a Very Good Christian . . . 'Do you feel like: I don't pray enough I don't read my Bible enough I don't share my faith enough I don't love God enough I'm not committed enough I'm not spiritual enough, then this book is for you. Messy Spirituality was written for the silent majority of us who have been convinced that we just don't do Christianity right. We spend most of our lives worried about what we don't do instead of what we have done, focused on our imperfections instead of God's fondness for the imperfect. Why? Because we've been bombarded with books, tapes, talks, seminars, and movies convincing us that real Christianity is all about perfection. Michael Yaconelli dares to suggest that imperfection, unfinishedness, and messiness are, in fact, the earmarks of true Christianity; that real Christianity is messy, erratic, lopsided . . . and gloriously liberating. What if genuine faith begins with admitting we will never have our act completely together? Maybe messy disciples are exactly the kind of imperfect people Jesus came to earth for and whose company he actually enjoyed--and still enjoys. If you want to find Jesus today, look for him in the midst of burned-out believers, moral misfits, religious incompetents . . . men and women whose lives are, well, messy. Messy Spirituality is a strong antidote for the spiritual perfectionism in us all. Here are truths that can cut you loose from the tyranny of ought-to's and open your eyes to the deep spirituality of being loved, shortcomings and all, by the God who meets you and transforms you in the midst of a messy and unpredictable life.		N/A	None	All	N/A		Glen Mar
Prayer	Yancey, Philip	In his most powerful message since What's So Amazing About Grace? and The Jesus I Never Knew, Philip Yancey explores the intimate place where God and humans meet in this Prayer EBook. Polls reveal that 90 percent of people pray. Yet prayer, which should be the most nourishing and uplifting time of the believer's day, can also be frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery. Yancey probes such questions as: Is God listening? Why should God care about me? If God knows everything, what's the point of prayer? Why do answers to prayer seem so inconsistent? Why does God sometimes seem close and sometimes seem far away? How can I make prayer more satisfying? Yancey tackles the tough questions and in the process comes up with a fresh new approach to this timeless topic. have learned to pray as a privilege, not a duty he says, and he invites you to join him on this all-important journey.	2008	N/A	None	All	N/A		Offsite
Reaching for the Invisible God What Can We Expect to Find?	Yancey, Philip	Reaching for the Invisible God develops what we can expect from God by taking readers to six foundational areas: the thirst or hunger for God, God himself, the Spirit, faith, growth, and personal transformation in the spiritual life. Reaching for the Invisible God also explores the personality of God, the choice God made in limiting himself, and the great condescension he made as the Holy Spirit, choosing to live in human beings. Finally, Reaching for the Invisible God comes to an appropriate finish as Yancey writes about growth, about childlike living under God apart from unrealistic expectations, legalisms, and unhealthy dependence. The goal is mature childlikeness, with no preconceptions, an ability to accept gifts from God, and trust, which lead to the responses of love, sacrifice, the denial of self, and servant leadership. In Reaching for the Invisible God Philip Yancey writes with honesty about the Christian life, about how to get along with God, how to believe again, and about the Reaching for the Invisible God of faith, or the things people never told you about the Christian life. It's the real scoop and straight talk about the truth--like an operating manual for faith. It is for the reader seeking to be honest with God. And it will help anyone wanting to explain to friends what life as a Christian is all about.	2009	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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The Bible Jesus Read	Yancey, Philip	Philip Yancey has a way of confronting our most cherished but misguided notions about faith. In <i>The Bible Jesus Read</i> , he challenges the perception that the New Testament is all that matters and the Old Testament isn't worth taking the time to read and understand. Yancey admits that, like many Christians, he usually avoided the Old Testament. After all, why bother with writings that can be so baffling, boring, even offensive to the modern mind? But a surprising discovery awaited Yancey when he began to explore how the Old Testament related to his life today. Those seemingly irrelevant Hebrew Scriptures took on a startling immediacy, portraying a passionate relationship between God and people against the broad backdrop of human experience. Like nothing else, the Old Testament depicts the cries, the complaints, the deep, insistent questionings of the heart, the stuff of life we all must contend with. With his candid, signature style, Yancey interacts with the Old Testament from the perspective of his own deeply personal journey. From Moses, the amazing prince of Egypt, to the psalmists' turbulent emotions and the prophets' oddball rantings, Yancey paints a picture of Israel's God--and ours--that fills in the blanks of a solely New Testament vision of the Almighty. Probing some carefully selected Old Testament books--Job, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and the Prophets--Yancey reveals how the Old Testament deals in astonishing depth and detail with the issues that trouble us most. The Old Testament in fact tackles what the New Testament often only skirts. But that shouldn't surprise us. It is, after all, the Bible Jesus read. <i>The Bible Jesus Read</i> will give you abundant new insights into the heart of God the Father. And as you read with a fresh eye the prayers, poems, songs, and bedtime stories that Jesus so revered, you will gain a profound new understanding of Christ. "The more we comprehend the Old Testament," Yancey writes, "the more we comprehend Jesus."	2001	N/A	In-Depth	All	N/A		Offsite

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