

# Suggested Curriculum for Life Groups<sup>1</sup>

by John Watson, Pastor of LifeGroups and Care Ministries (Kearney Evangelical Free Church, Kearney, NE)

“The goal of Life Group curriculum is designed to take deep biblical truth and drive it to application, leading to a Christ-filled change in our lives (James 1:22). This is different from a book club or a classroom experience. A key part of Christian living is giving other people permission to speak into our life, and share with them how God is working in and through us. There are many curriculum materials that can be used to aid us in this process. The goal of this recommended list is to pick the best from the best.

Curriculum often balances these tensions differently. As you decide what curriculum is best to use with your group, here are some curriculum tensions to consider:

- Single Bible Text vs Topical Ideas
- Personal Discovery vs Author Guided
- Deep Study vs Practical How To
- Task Application vs Heart Change
- Created for Individuals vs Designed for Groups”

## Weekly Sermon Messages

Find LifeGroup discussion questions by 1) clicking [here](#), then go to “Sermon Notes” and scroll to the bottom or) 2) picking up a copy of insert in Sunday morning worship services’ handout.

## Curriculum Samples and Group Materials:

Items on the recommended list and marked with an \* are available for check-out through the LifeGroup Ministry Assistant by contacting the church office. These items are available on a first come, first serve basis. Items marked \*\* are available for check-out through the church library. Each Life Group is responsible for ordering their own curriculum. This list is my no means exhaustive and additional resources not listed here are also available through the LifeGroup Ministry Assistant.

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<sup>1</sup> The introduction, format, and many of the recommendations were borrowed with permission from an article entitled “Suggested Curriculum for Community Life Groups” by Keith Steiner, Community Life Groups Pastor (Elmbrook Church, Brookfield, WI). [blogs.elmbrook.org/leadership/resources-for-leaders/community-life/suggested-curriculum-for-community-life-groups/](https://blogs.elmbrook.org/leadership/resources-for-leaders/community-life/suggested-curriculum-for-community-life-groups/). Other suggestions came from members of the pastoral staff of Kearney Evangelical Free Church.

## **DVD Curriculum**

A Savior is Born: Experience the Wonder of the First Christmas (Pete Briscoe)

Basic, Vol 1: Fear God (Francis Chan)

Chase: Chasing After the Heart of God (Jennie Allen)

Christian: Its Not What You Think (Andy Stanley)

Crazy Love (Francis Chan)

Follow: No Experience Necessary (Andy Stanley)

Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit (Francis Chan)

God is Closer than You Think (John Ortberg)

Good to Great (Chip Ingram)

Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything (Timothy Keller)

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

Intimate Marriage Kit (Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III)\*

Just Walk Across the Room: Four Sessions on Simple Steps Pointing People to Jesus  
(Bill Hybels)

Live: Your Life With Christ (Rebecca Pippert)

Marriage: Built to Last (Chip Ingram)\*

Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus (Kyle Idleman)

Overcoming Emotions that Destroy (Chip Ingram)

Radical: Small Group Study (David Platt)

Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival (Nancy Leigh DeMoss)

Stuck: The Places we Get Stuck and the God Who Sets Us Free (Jennie Allen)

Take it To The Limit: How to Get the Most Out of Life (Andy Stanley)

The Art of Marriage (Family Life Today)

The Life You've Always Wanted: Six Sessions on Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People(John Ortberg)

The Jesus I Never Knew: Six Sessions on the Life of Christ (Philip Yancey)

The Reason for God: Conversations of Faith and Life (Timothy Keller)

The Story (31 weeks) (Randy Frazee and Max Lucado)

When God's People Pray: Six Sessions on the Transforming Power of Prayer (Jim Cymbala)

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### **Book or Workbook Curriculum**

50-Day Spiritual Adventure (David and Karen Mains)

40 Days Living the Jesus Creed, also see The Jesus Creed (Scot McKnight)

Balancing The Christian Life (Charles C. Ryrie)

Celebration of Discipline (Richard Foster)

Counter Culture (David Platt)

Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem and free Study Guide(Kevin DeYoung)

Crazy Love (Francis Chan)

Experiencing God (Henry Blackaby)

Enemies of the Heart: Breaking Free from the Four Emotions that Control You (Andy Stanley)

Every Man's Battle (Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker)

Every Woman's Battle (Shannon Etheridge)

Experiencing God (Henry Blackaby and Claude King)

God As He Longs For You To See Him (Chip Ingram)

Hearing God (Dallas Willard)

His Needs, Her Needs (Willard Harley)

How to Read the Bible for All its Worth (Gordon Fee)

I'm Glad You Asked (Ken Boa and Larry Moody)

I Really Want to Change ... So, Help Me God (James MacDonald)

I Wish Jesus Hadn't Said That: Finding Joy in the Inconvenience of Discipleship (Steve Timmis)

Just Walk Across the Room (Bill Hybels)

King Solomon: The Temptations of Money, Sex, and Power (Phil Ryken)

Knowledge of the Holy (A.W. Tozer)

Life On Mission: Joining the Everyday Mission of God (Dustin Willis, Aaron Coe)

Life Together (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Living In Christ's Presence, Dallas Willard

Loving the Way Jesus Loves (Phil Ryken)

Mere Christianity, CS Lewis\*\*

Onward (Russell Moore)

Rediscovering Holiness: Know the Fullness of Life with God (J. I. Packer)

Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate or Group Curriculum (Jerry Bridges)

Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation (Jason Mandryk)

Saturate (Jeff Vanderstelt)

Soul Keeping (John Ortberg)

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life and Study Guide (Donald Whitney)

Spirituality for the Rest of Us: A Down to Earth Guide to Knowing God (Larry Osborne)

Sticky Faith (Kara O'Powell and Chap Clark)

Surfing for God (Michael Cusick)

Ten Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe (Larry Osborne)

Ten Lies about God and How You Might Already be Deceived (Erwin Lutzer)

The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door (Jay Pathak, Dave Runyon, Randy Frazee)

The Case for Faith (Lee Strobel)\*\*

The Cure (John Lynch, Bruce McNicol and Bill Thrall)

The Discipline of Grace: God's Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness and Study Guide(Jerry Bridges)

The Good and Beautiful Community (James Bryan Smith)

The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows (James Bryan Smith)

The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ (James Bryan Smith)

The Home Builders Series from Family Life (Family Life Today)

- Building Teamwork in Your Marriage (Dennis and Barbara Rainey)

- Building Up Your Spouse (Dennis and Barbara Rainey)

- Improving Communication in Your Marriage (Gary and Barbara Rosberg)

- Resolving Conflict in Your Marriage (Dennis and Barbara Rainey)

- Establishing Effective Discipline for Your Children (Dennis and Barbara Rainey)
- Guiding Your Teenagers (Dennis and Barbara Rainey)

The Jesus I Never Knew (Philip Yancey)\*\*

The Meaning of Marriage (Timothy and Kathy Keller)

The Prodigal God (Tim Keller)

The Purpose Driven Life (Rick Warren)\*\*

The Pursuit of God (A.W. Tozer)

The Pursuit of Holiness and Study Guide (Jerry Bridges)

The Reason for God (Tim Keller)

The Sacred Romance (Brent Curtis and John Eldredge)

The Spirit of the Disciplines (Dallas Willard)

Too Busy Not to Pray: Slowing Down to be with God and Study Guide (Bill Hybels)

What's So Amazing About Grace (Philip Yancey)\*\*

Where is God When It Hurts (Philip Yancey)\*\*

Wild at Heart (John Eldredge)

**Bible Studies (various samples available in the Library):**

Beth Moore

IVP Deeper Look

Navigators Life Change Series

New Community Study Guides

Serendipity Bible

The Good Book Company Study Guide and Leader Commentary