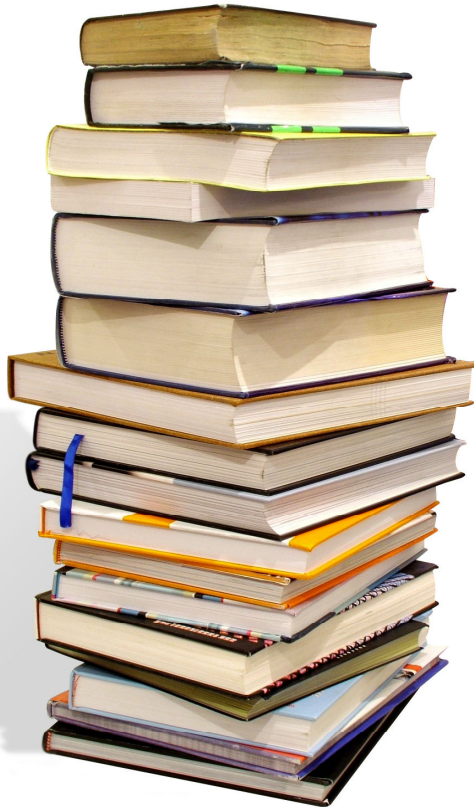




# Life groups

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## RESOURCE GUIDE



## About This Guide...

The purpose of this guide is to provide Life Group leaders and the individuals in their groups with some guidance for study selection. While you are not limited to this list of resources, and it is far from exhaustive, it does contain materials that come highly recommended by our own groups and other small group leaders from across the country.

We have copies of most of these resources for you to peruse and borrow through Calvary's library, located in the Fellowship Hall at 1250 University Drive. More detailed information about each of these resources can be easily accessed through online booksellers ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.cbd.com](http://www.cbd.com)) or the publishers' websites ([www.navpress.com](http://www.navpress.com), [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com), etc.).

If you have questions about any of these particular resources, would like help figuring out what might be right for your group, or want suggestions for a particular topic that your group would like to study (including studies for men's or women's groups), please contact the Life Groups Ministry Team at [lifegroups@calvarysc.org](mailto:lifegroups@calvarysc.org). An electronic version of this document is also available at:

[www.calvarysc.org/lifegroups-resources](http://www.calvarysc.org/lifegroups-resources)



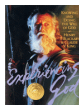
Calvary Baptist Church | State College, PA  
814.238.0822 | [www.calvarysc.org/LifeGroups](http://www.calvarysc.org/LifeGroups)

## CALVARY DNA:

### EXPERIENCING GOD

[Workbook or book by Henry Blackaby and Claude King]

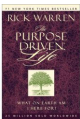
Learn to hear when God is speaking to you. *Experiencing God* leads you in an exploration of the seven vital aspects of your relationship with God: knowing, loving, hearing, joining, believing, obeying and experiencing.



### THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

[Book or DVD/participant's guide by Rick Warren]

Life's most basic questions are, "Why am I Here?" and "What is my purpose?" This book will help you understand God's incredible plan for your life and discover real meaning and significance by fulfilling God's purposes for putting you on earth.



### EPHESIANS & JAMES

[Book of the Bible studies with optional study guides]

When asked which books have most shaped the DNA of Calvary, Dan Nold immediately responded with the New Testament books of Ephesians and James. For groups interested in studying either of those formative books of the Bible, there are countless ways to do so. We happily recommend a number of study guides, including the LifeChange series by NavPress, LifeGuides by Intervarsity, and the New Community Series by the Willow Creek Association. Resources are also available for inductive studies of the Scriptures. No matter the method, Life Groups are encouraged to dig into the Scriptures, as that experience typically bears much fruit.



## GROWING IN GRACE:

### THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

[Study guide by World Harvest Mission]

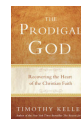
*The Gospel-Centered Life* is a nine lesson small group study intended to help participants understand how the gospel shapes every aspect of life. Each lesson is self-contained, featuring clear teaching from scripture and requires no extra work outside of the group setting. It is designed for Christians who want to be more deeply formed around the Gospel and small group leaders who are looking for content that "works" with diverse groups of people.



### THE PRODIGAL GOD

[Book with optional participant's guide and DVD by Tim Keller]

Taking his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity, Tim Keller uncovers the essential message of Jesus, locked inside his most familiar parable. Within that parable Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way.



### SACRED PATHWAYS

[Book with optional accompanying assessment by Gary Thomas]

One reason many Christians become discouraged with their devotional lives is because they've adopted a narrow, cut-and-dried approach — one they're not wired for as individuals. *Sacred Pathways* explores nine time-tested ways to commune with God that honor the unique design he has given each of us. The naturalist, the ascetic, the traditionalist, the activist, the enthusiast, the intellectual...this engaging, insightful, and well-written book will lead the reader to a deeper understanding of his or her spiritual temperament, and new vistas of relationship with God.



### THE LIFE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED

[Book or DVD/participant's guide by John Ortberg]

Offering modern perspectives on the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines, *The Life You've Always Wanted* guides us on a journey beyond performance and externalism to a life marked by joy, peace, kindness, and all the signs of a faith that is vital and growing.

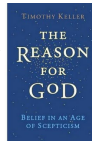


## REACHING OUT:

### THE REASON FOR GOD

[Book with optional participant's guide and DVD by Tim Keller]

Keller addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics and non-believers bring to religion. Using literature, philosophy, anthropology, pop culture, and intellectual reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is a sound and rational one. To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand against the backlash toward religion spawned by the Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.



### HOLY DISCONTENT

[Book with optional study guide by Bill Hybels]



Hybels invites you to consider the dramatic impact your life will have when you allow your holy discontent to fuel instead of frustrate you. Using examples from the Bible, his own life, and the experiences of others, Hybels shows how you can find and feed your personal area of holy discontent, fight for it when things get risky, and follow it when it takes a mid-course turn. As you live from the energy of your holy discontent, you'll fulfill your role in setting what is wrong in this world right!

### JUST WALK ACROSS THE ROOM

[Book or DVD/participant's guide by Bill Hybels]

Believers universally affirm that evangelism is a vital part of what God calls them to do, but very few make a practice of doing it. Drawing on fresh perspectives from the author's own experiences, as well as time-tested and practical illustrations, *Just Walk Across the Room* encourages and equips readers to routinely initiate spiritual conversations with those who don't know Christ.



### CRAZY LOVE

[Book with optional DVD by Francis Chan]



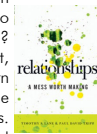
God is love. Crazy, relentless, all-powerful love. Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts—it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, you will never be the same. Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything.

## RELATIONSHIPS:

### RELATIONSHIPS: A MESS WORTH MAKING

[Book by Tim Lane and Paul Tripp]

Recognize that God has the last word on messy, conflict-ridden relationships. He can use them to make you into someone who can give and receive love with God and others. Impossible? Idealistic? Not really. Lane and Tripp show you how God does it, and how it can happen for you. They help you tackle the stubborn problems that plague many close relationships. They show you the deeper issues that drive our reactions, choices, and behaviors. And they show you how God steps in to help you build relationships that are all he intended them to be.



### LOVE & RESPECT

[Book or DVD/study guide by Emerson Eggerichs]



Discover the secret that cracks the communication code between husbands and wives, and reap the benefits of marriage as God intended. Citing extensive biblical and psychological research, Eggerichs shows that harmony and happiness in relationships are not achieved by love alone, but by building on both parts of the Ephesians 5:33 equation: love and respect.

### HOW TO REALLY LOVE YOUR CHILD

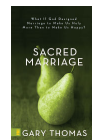
[Book by Ross Campbell]

Many parents would be dismayed to discover that their child feels unloved. Why is it then that most children doubt that they are genuinely and unconditionally loved? Campbell reveals the emotional needs of a child and provides parents with the skill and techniques that can begin to help make your child feel truly loved and accepted. You'll learn to really love your child through every situation of child rearing from physical touch to discipline and from affirmation to spiritual nurture.



### SACRED MARRIAGE

[Book or DVD/participant's guide by Gary Thomas]



Your marriage is more than a sacred covenant with another person. It is a spiritual discipline designed to help you know God better, trust him more fully, and love him more deeply. What if God's primary intent for your marriage isn't to make you happy... but holy? This book may very well alter profoundly the contours of your marriage. It will most certainly change you. Because whether it is delightful or difficult, your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God, and to a spiritual integrity that, like salt, seasons the world around you with the savor of Christ.

## MODERN CLASSICS:

### BLUE LIKE JAZZ

[Book by Donald Miller]

Can you love a God who doesn't make sense? Miller's memoir-like collection of essays wrestles with the paradoxes of the Christian faith, describing his journey back to a culturally relevant, infinitely gracious Savior. A mind-changing perspective for those who are disappointed with modern-day expressions of Christianity and the church.



### NOOMA

[DVDs with study guides by Rob Bell]



Nooma is a new format for delivering Christian perspectives, short films with communicators that really speak to us. Concise and to the point, 10- to 14-minute DVDs tackle topics like forgiveness, discipleship, and unconditional love, making biblical truths vivid and relevant for today's generation. A great way to spark meaningful discussion in your small group!

### THE CASE FOR CHRIST

[Book with optional DVD by Lee Strobel]

*The Case for Christ* records Lee Strobel's attempt to "determine if there's credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God." The book consists primarily of interviews between Strobel and biblical scholars. Each interview is based on a simple question, concerning historical evidence, scientific evidence, and "psychiatric evidence." Together, these interviews compose a case brief defending Jesus' divinity, and urging readers to reach a verdict of their own.



### WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE?

[Book or DVD/participant's guide by Philip Yancey]



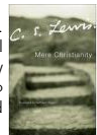
Philip Yancey explores grace at street level by offering compelling, true portraits of grace's life-changing power. Join him in his search for the presence of grace in his own life and in the church.

## "CLASSIC" CLASSICS:

### MERE CHRISTIANITY

[Book by C.S. Lewis]

Arguably the 20th century's most influential Christian writer, C.S. Lewis sought to explain and defend the beliefs that nearly all Christians at all times hold in common. His simple yet deeply profound classic, originally delivered as a series of radio broadcasts, is a book to be thoroughly digested by believers and generously shared with skeptics.



### LIFE TOGETHER

[Book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer]

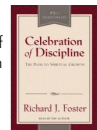


After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer continued his witness in the hearts of Christians around the world. In *Life Together*, we have Pastor Bonhoeffer's experience of Christian community. This story of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years reads like one of Paul's letters. It gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words. *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship.

### CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE

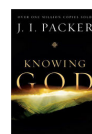
[Book by Richard Foster]

In this classic, discover how to incorporate the practices of meditation, prayer, worship, simplicity, and other Christian disciplines into your daily routine—and experience a richer life in Christ!



### KNOWING GOD

[Book with optional study guide by J.I. Packer]



For more than 30 years, J. I. Packer's classic book *Knowing God* has revealed to well over a million readers the wonder, glory and the joy of knowing God. A lifelong pursuit of knowing God should embody the Christian's existence. However, Christians have become enchanted by modern skepticism and have joined the "gigantic conspiracy of misdirection" by failing to put first things first. The lazy and faint-hearted should be warned about this timeless work—God is magnified, the sinner is humbled, and the saint encouraged.