

3 Benefits of Small Group Bible Study

by Ryan Higginbottom

† **Small group Bible studies help you study the Bible.** We all need as much time with the Bible as possible, and a small group gives you extra exposure. Within your group you can (hopefully) find good examples of Bible study; this will accelerate your development. A good leader will ask questions that lead your group through the observation–interpretation–application process and help you to advance in each area.

† **Small group Bible studies remind you that you need other people.** God has made us as relational, social beings who thrive in community. Because of our sin, relationships can be difficult, but without other people we shrivel up and dry out. We need contact with others working throughout the church. I love listening to older saints recount God’s consistent companionship, encouragement, and correction over the years.

† **Small group Bible studies remind you that you need other people to study the Bible.** I’ve written before that we need community to apply the Bible. But this isn’t just true for application. Fellow Christians also help us observe the important aspects of a Bible passage and interpret correctly. We need others to help us see what is true in the Bible—to sharpen, clarify, and correct what we think.

† **In the same way that you need others, others also need you.** Armed with solid Bible study principles, you can serve as an example or mentor for others in your small group.

† Finally, **Bible study within a small group has a dynamic you cannot reproduce on your own.** As you participate in discussion and share ideas, you take advantage of interaction, one of the distinctives of the setting.

<http://www.knowableword.com/2015/05/18/3-benefits-of-small-group-bible-study/>

Please contact the facilitators to let them know you will be attending their class.

Contact information is listed for each facilitator. Most small groups begin September 12; be sure to check the date your group starts. We pray that you find a group that speaks to you this Fall.

Description booklets are available at the church, if you need a copy.

Small Group Offerings—

Tuesday Evening:

A Woman Who Doesn't Quit by Nicki Koziarz

Every woman will eventually face it: the temptation to give in and give up. But something transformative happens when a woman decides to persevere in the face of difficulty and pain. A woman who refuses to quit influences her world in ways she could never have imagined. Nicki Koziarz walks women through the Book of Ruth, focusing on the Moabite woman's 5 practical habits that kept her eyes on God: Ruth accepted the assignment of refinement, followed through on her commitments despite her feelings, remained open to the movement of God, gave others what she needed, and moved forward in faith.

Begins: September 18, 6 weeks

When: Tuesdays, 6:30 pm

Where: Asbury Hall

Cost: \$13.50 for book

Facilitators: Cindy Graham, cindygjune@gmail.com

Robin Andrews, robinandrews1956@aol.com

Wednesday Morning:

Hard Sayings of Jesus

Like his original hearers many people today find Jesus' sayings hard. Some sayings are hard because they are difficult to understand, others because the demands they make on us are only too clear. This group is going to examine examines seventy of the hard sayings of Jesus to clear away the cultural and historical difficulties which keep us from grappling with the real challenge of Jesus' message. Evident in each chapter is Bruce's keen evangelical scholarship and pastoral insight.

Begins: September 12, ongoing

When: Wednesday, 9:30—10:30 am

Where: MC106

Facilitator: Rev. Ken Timmerman, ktimmerman@lexumcsc.com

Cost: No cost, just need Bible

She's Still There by Chrystal Evans Hurst

With refreshing authenticity and encouragement, this women's study will help you:

- Recognize hard seasons as refining moments, not defining moments
- Discover practical ways to connect with your God given next steps
- Enhance your identity as both a masterpiece and a work in progress

Begins: September 12—November 7

When: Wednesdays, 10:30 am—12:00 pm

Where: Parlor

Facilitator: Jaimee O'Neal : 803 413-1428

Cost: Books are \$14 and available on Amazon, Lifeway online, or at Lifeway stores

New Home Small Group Opportunity

Friday Night Home Group-- Who's invited? Adults, couples and singles, of all ages who love Christian fellowship and study.

The first study will be:

The Truth Project, a DVD based small group curriculum produced by Focus on the Family. Through 13 one-hour lessons, taught by Dr. Del Tackett, this home study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. The lessons are great for a Bible study as they discuss, in great detail, the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

Begins: September 21

When: 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, 7—9 pm

Where: Hosted by Chuck & Candy Brennan's home
620 Robinhaven Ct
Lexington SC 29073

Please contact Chuck or Candy to let them know you will be attending:

Candybrennan@msn.com, 803-687-3884

Charles423brennan@gmail.com, 803-687-3748

Cost: no cost for this study

About Chuck and Candy:

We came to Lexington from Bel Air, Maryland, where we were members of the Bel Air UMC. For several years we participated in a home group. A favorite study of the group was *The Truth Project*. After completing the study, we attended a training program for *The Truth Project* in Raleigh NC and purchased the DVD's.

We look forward to welcoming you to our home and sharing this inspiring program with you!

At the end of this program, the group will choose subsequent studies.

Wednesday Evening:

Bible Art Journaling

Bible art journaling is a way to connect with God as you study and meditate on God's Word. Use art media such as colored pencils or pastel chalks to illustrate or emphasize what you have read. Can't draw? If you can trace and color, you can do this! Ask Patty to show you her journaling Bible.

Begins: September 26 through November 14 (or longer, if class is interested)

When: Wednesdays, 6:15—7:15 pm **Where:** MC 106

Cost: no cost to take the class but participants may want to buy a journaling Bible and art supplies.

Sign up: e-mail Patty so she will have enough supplies to get you started.

ppmayfield@outlook.com

The Total Money Makeover by Dave Ramsey

This study will empower all ages to live like no one, so later you can live and give like no one. Come hear real testimony from church members who have succeeded through the journey with Dave Ramsey. This study is not just for men, it is open to all who are interested.

Begins: September 12, 12 weeks

When: Wednesdays, 6:15—7:15 pm **Where:** MC003

Facilitator: Russ Cammann, rwcammann@yahoo.com

Cost: Book, available at Amazon for \$10.75, or cheaper for used

Seamless—Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story by Angie Smith

Seamless is a women's study covering the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Participants in this study will gain an overarching understanding of the fundamental layout and meaning of the Bible.

Begins: September 12, 8 weeks

When: Wednesday, 6:15—7:15 pm **Where:** MC005

Facilitator: Shannon Osborne, saophotos@gmail.com

Cost: 13.00 for book

40 Days of Prayer by Rick Warren

We often hear there are two requirements for growing in our faith: Spending Time in God's Word (Reading/Studying/Applying) and Prayer. Using the "40 Days of Prayer" series you will learn about the Purpose of Prayer, Prioritizing Prayer in our Lives, How to Pray with Confidence, a Pattern for Prayer and Praying in Specific Circumstances. Class size will be limited to 20.

Begins: September 12, 8 weeks (1st meeting will be meet & greet and hand out workbooks)

When: Wednesdays, 6:15—7:15 pm **Where:** MC 009

Facilitator: Terrie Morrison tmmorrison@windstream.net or 957-2089

Cost: \$16.00 for workbook

Please contact Terrie Morrison if interested so workbook can be ordered for you.

Why I am a United Methodist?

Using Will Willimon's book "Why I am a United Methodist" to guide our thinking about what it means to be a Methodist Christian, to love the church, to appreciate our Connectional values, and to remember John Wesley's ideas about the faith in which we continue to live as we study the Bible and attend Church.

Begins: September 12, 7 weeks

When: Wednesdays, 6:15—7:15 **Where:** MC007

Facilitators: Pastor Ken Timmerman, ktimmerman@lexumcsc.com

Pastor Weston Pendergrass, Weston@lexumcsc.com

Rev. Elizabeth Murray, Elizabeth@lexumcsc.com

Cost: This book is available at Cokesbury \$8.00, if you want to purchase so you can read it