

Reviews of Adult Ministry Study/Growth Resources

RESOURCE TITLE	USING GROUP GROUP DESCRIPTION	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	RECOMMEND Rate 1-5 (5 is high)	THIS RESOURCE BEST	SUPPORTS: CONNECT GROW SERVE
A Disciple's Path	Empty Nester's LifeGroup Mostly retired couples with grandchildren that are either members or active with KUMC	James A. Harnish/Justin Larosa	based on the five UM vows (prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness) of membership; elaborates on a disciple/discipleship path and the practices to which we are called by God to take the steps toward discipleship; offers teaching text, relevant scripture, daily written answers to questions, and ideas for group discussion; the Empty Nesters found this challenging but necessary for each of us to be on our personal discipleship path	1		CONNECT GROW SERVE
Building Your Marriage to Last	Young Adult Married	Homebuilders Series- Dennis/Barbara Rainey	lots of good opportunity for discussion; good topics that were relatable	4		GROW

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Chasing Moments: Will I Live Life...or Simply Exist?	Disciples Together	Ed Malone	did a 6-week study, using 2 chapters weekly; renewing for a personal relationship with God; 12 chapters are easy to read; examples taken from the author's life as a pastor and a farmer; references scripture to support thoughts	Y	
Christmas Is Not Your Birthday	Seekers	Mike Slaughter	thought-provoking /humorous	Y	
Embracing an Adult Faith	Legos LifeGroup 11 couples baby boomers	Marcus Borg	so-so; a fairly tough and philosophical study; stretched all of us, offered new thinking about worship, prayer, and following the Path of Jesus in our lives	3	GROW made us think about the normal everyday practices of our life and what we may want to change

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Feeding the Hungry	Legos LifeGroup 11 couples baby boomers		so-so; the resources were not very helpful, which left it on the group to improvise; probably could have done a better job of it	2	SERVE the title and what we anticipated seemed to hit the mark about what our group wants to be- but it came up short
Final Words	Joy Class	Adam Hamilton	a “thinker”	5	GROW
Invitation to Romans	Monday Night Bible Study LifeGroup	6-week Disciple Bible Study	verse by verse study of Romans; weekly video and study	Y	
Just Walk Across the Room	Legos LifeGroup 11 couples baby boomers	Bill Hybel	we learned about evangelism- that it’s everyone’s responsibility- step outside your comfort zone by reaching out to others, sharing our faith story and learning about others’ stories	5	CONNECT SERVE Life is all about relationships- we have to develop them and cultivate them.

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Love to Stay	Faith Journey	Adam Hamilton	This is the first time in 20 years we have done a study on marriage; easy to lead and lots of good discussion questions; split each chapter into 2 weeks because it has so many good discussion questions	Y	
Marriage Rebranded	Young Adult Married	Tyler Ward	interesting perspective from the author who has been married for a short time; good discussions	3.5	GROW Gives examples of ways we can grow in our relationships
Rumors of Another World: What on Earth Are We Missing?	Disciples Together	Phillip Yancey	about how Christians must live in both the physical and spiritual world; describes how many do not accept the spiritual world and how this is counter to the teachings of Jesus and New Testament authors; challenges us to accept the existence of a spiritual world; generates good discussion; did two chapters per Sunday to make a 6-week study; no video or leader's guide	Y	

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Strong Was Her Faith: Women of the New Testament	Seekers	J. Ellsworth Kalas	able to relate New Testament experience to current world	Y		
The Gospel of Luke	Advent Adult LifeGroup with a wide diversity of viewpoints; all ages and stages of faith development are welcomed. We are all in it together; we have tended to study a book of the Bible followed by a study such as The Call, by Adam Hamilton	William Barclay	We continue to find relevance in Barclay's Bible study series; this study has engendered a great deal of class discussion. The intro explains "William Barclay was never only a historian or literary critic. His constant concern was to explore how these ancient books, and the faith of which they spoke, could continue to be relevant to people of his own time. He could see little purpose in a belief system that was so wrapped up in arcane and complicated terminology that it was accessible only to experts." Barclay clearly had a soft spot for Luke's letter. Barclay said, "...the outstanding characteristic of Luke is that it is the universal gospel. All the barriers are down; Jesus Christ is for all people without distinction."	5		

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The Great Courses, The History of the Bible	Joy Class	Bart D. Ehrman	Our class liked this study for the historical background; sometimes found material challenging; provided for some lively discussion. We share openly in the class; don't always agree but disagree respectfully	4	CONNECT GROW
The Hole in our Holiness	Disciples Together	Devin Deyoung	writing somewhat wordy, but a good message describing the difficulty of being holy in our modern world; fundamental message of God wants us to be holy and shows us the path to holiness	Y	

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The Imitation of Christ	Disciples Together	Thomas Kempis	Kempis was a 15th century monk who lived in the same monastery from age 19 to 91; this book may be a compilation of several monks from that monastery; it is structured as 4 books with a total of 114 chapters; offers insights into living a life with a goal of imitating Jesus' life as much as we can			
The Journey	Monday Night Bible Study LifeGroup	Adam Hamilton	study of the faith of Mary and Joseph, and of our faith in the context of our culture; more relaxed study~not verse by verse	Y		

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The Old Testament	Joy Class	Amy Jill Levine	most of us weren't as familiar with the OT; gave a better sense of the Bible's history; lectures were presented in our terms, using everyday examples, humor, and giving the feeling we could be living in that time; discussions after lectures helped us discover how this related to our lives today	5		CONNECT to the Word of God GROW with a better understanding of the Word of God SERVE by using this understanding to share with our community and other LifeGroups
The Power of a Focused Heart	Seekers	Mary Lou Redding	in-depth study of the Beatitudes leading us to take a look at our hearts; needs a strong group leader	Y		

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The Prodigal God	Disciples Together	Timothy Keller	uses the story of the prodigal son to show that we have a prodigal God; new look on this story, looking at the oldest son, too, as sinning against their father. Study could be done in less than 6 weeks; first DVD session was 38 minutes and made all Keller's points; the rest were only 1.5-2 min. each. Recommend each participant buy a book as study guide refers to chapters; good discussion, sometimes questioning interpretation	Y		

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The Reason for God	Disciples Together	Timothy Keller	<p>video-based study discussing questions non-Christians raise about Christianity; each session involves the author and six participants.</p> <p>1. Isn't the Bible a Myth? Hasn't Science Disproved Christianity?</p> <p>2. How Can You Say There is Only One Way to God? What About Other Religions?</p> <p>3. What Gives You the Right to Tell Me How to Live My Life? Why are There So Many Rules?</p> <p>4. Why Does God Allow Suffering? Why Is There So Much Evil in the World?</p> <p>5. Why Is the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice? Why Are Christians Such Hypocrites?</p> <p>6. How Can God Be Full of Love and Wrath at the Same Time? How Can God Send Good People to Hell?</p> <p>Thought provoking and generated good discussions; most class members felt it would help them answer questions if posed to them</p>	Y		
The War of Words	Disciples Together	Paul Tripp	writing somewhat wordy, but a good study of using words selectively in sharing the Good News with others	Y		

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Visions, Trips, and Crowded Rooms: Who and What You See Before You Die	Disciples Together	David Kessler	good study generating a lot of discussion; developed primarily through vignettes of people who have been with others as they approached death; some of our group were initially unsure of the book, but everyone appreciated it by the end; book is somewhat redundant, but each week brought out discussion that evolved in different ways than the prior weeks	Y good for groups of every age	
What's So Amazing About Grace?	Legos LifeGroup 11 couples baby boomers	Phillip Yancey	all the chapters provided insights to some challenging concepts; the DVD was a good resource; small breakout groups allowed us to discuss most of the questions suggested in the participant's guide	4	GROW We learned more about grace than any of us knew previously- Key Take Away: We are dispensers of grace, not just receivers

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When Christians Get It Wrong	Advent	Adam Hamilton	easy read and generates great discussion; one chapter addresses tension between Bible's literal interpretation and Hamilton's term "progressive revelation; Hamilton uses simple and clear points to affirm why he is Christian.	Y (You are welcome to borrow copies from our class members.)	
When the Game Is Over It All Goes Back in the Box	Legos LifeGroup 11 couples baby boomers	John Ortberg	puts life in perspective, what's important, what's temporary, and what's everlasting	5	GROW learning that God is in control, that He's the Master of our lives- we are not
Building Your Marriage To Last	YAMS	Homebuilders Series— Dennis & Barbara Rainey	Lots of good opportunity for discussion. Good topics that were relatable.	4	GROW Opportunity to grow in relationship with spouse