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## Cluster Principles

Below is a short definition of a cluster leader's role.

1. A cluster leader will not oversee more than 5 groups and will ideally oversee 3-4 groups.
2. A cluster leader will be actively involved with a Life Group in their cluster but will not lead a Life Group
3. A cluster leader will be actively involved with each group in their cluster by...
  - a. Visiting each group in their cluster a minimum of twice per year (more is better and encouraged)
  - b. Meet with each life group leader face to face every quarter in a group setting
  - c. speak with each leader via phone or email monthly
4. Attend a cluster leader meeting once in the fall each year

## Principles of a Life Group

1. Size is ideally 6-10 group members
  - a. More than 12 for one year should result in multiplication
2. Every group will have a co-leader established within 4 months of beginning (RECOMMENDED from day 1).
  - a. If a co-leader isn't identified within 4 months your cluster leader will help pull one over from another group
3. Leaders and co-leaders are required to be partners with the church and have completed the Life Group Leader Turbo Training
4. Groups will meet weekly September through May (with scheduled breaks) and 6 times in the summer.
5. Every group will have an agreed upon "covenant" within the first 4 meetings detailing goals and function of the group.
6. The elements of a meeting will be, all three will exist at every meeting but Study and Prayer will be emphasized a majority of the time
  - a. Fellowship
  - b. Study
  - c. Prayer
7. Open chair
8. Outreach/Service 4 times per year



<b>COMPASS Checkup</b>		
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>My Plan</b>
<p><b><u>Seek</u></b></p> <p>Passionately seek to know and experience God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Am I experience the presence of God in my life?</li> <li>• Am I faithfully attending worship services?</li> <li>• Am I growing in my prayer life?</li> <li>• Am I seeking to please God by surrendering to Him?</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Study</u></b></p> <p>Faithfully study and live out God's word.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Am I growing in my relationship with God through regular Bible Study and Prayer?</li> <li>• Am I attending the CORE?</li> <li>• Do I exhibit the characteristics of Jesus (love, joy, peace, patience)?</li> <li>• Am I growing in God's word with friends and family?</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Serve</u></b></p> <p>Humbly serve the ministry of my church.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Am I serving regularly at church and using my giftedness for ministry?</li> <li>• Have I committed to give financially to the church?</li> <li>• Have I regularly asked God for opportunities to serve Him and others?</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Share</u></b></p> <p>Lovingly share the incredible story of God's grace.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have I cultivated relationships with non-Christians?</li> <li>• Am I challenging my Life Group to be an impact on our community?</li> <li>• Have I been inviting non-Christians to church and Life Group?</li> </ul>	



## September

15<sup>th</sup>-FIRST MEETING!  
22<sup>nd</sup>- Yes  
29<sup>th</sup>- Yes

## October

6<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
13<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
20<sup>th</sup>- Yes (Keith's B-day!)  
27<sup>th</sup>- Yes (watch out for Halloween)

## November

3<sup>rd</sup>- Yes  
10<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
17<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
23<sup>rd</sup>- No -Turkey week

## December

1<sup>st</sup>- Yes  
8<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
15<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Party!  
22<sup>nd</sup>- No  
29<sup>th</sup>- No

## January

5<sup>th</sup>- No  
12<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
19<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
26<sup>th</sup>- Yes

## February

2<sup>nd</sup>- Yes  
9<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
16<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
23<sup>rd</sup>- Yes

## March

6<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
13<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
20<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
27<sup>th</sup>- Yes

## April

6<sup>th</sup>- No -Easter and Break  
13<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
20<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
27<sup>th</sup>- Yes

## May

4<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
9<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
16<sup>th</sup>- Yes  
23<sup>rd</sup>- Last Meeting!

## June, July, August

Meet 1-2 times each month

### Training Dates for 2008-2009

#### Opening Leader Meeting

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-5:30p.m. Student Center

#### CORE Leader Trainings (Sunday 10:00a.m. 218)

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

#### All Leader Meeting Pow-Wow

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:15-5:00p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> half of all Leader Mtg.)

#### Leader Appreciation Dinner

April 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30p.m. in Student Center

*\*SUMMER CORE TRAININGS TBA.*



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## Developing a Life Group Covenant

During formation of the Life Group, several important tasks will need to be completed over the course of the first two to four weeks. These tasks include:

1. Understanding / establishing group values (who are we?)
2. Creating group objectives (what do we want to do / be?)
3. Establishing meeting ground rules
4. Creating a group covenant

Each of these steps may require a separate Life Group meeting to complete. This would be normal for Life Groups with members that are not familiar with each other. Where individuals know each other better, these first four steps can be completed in a couple of weeks.

This training document references Bill Donahue's book Leading Life Changing Small Groups (ref. BD), which every Leader should have received during your training session.

### **Step 1 - Defining Key Life Group Values**

All groups operate according to certain values and expectations, many times unspoken or unwritten. Clarifying values will help your group foster open communication and identity. Values help you understand who you are, both individually and as a group. Donohue provides an example list on page 79 which includes the following values (see handout at end):

Affirmation  
Availability  
Prayer  
Honesty  
Safety  
Confidentiality  
Sensitivity  
Accountability  
Evangelism  
Multiplication

### **Discussion**

1. Have each member spend a few minutes considering the values that mean the most to them. Ask them to identify their top three or four values (while all these are important, some will have more significance based on personality, life experiences, etc.)



2. As a group, ask each member to share with the group their top values and why these are their most significant values.
3. Based on the discussion, identify common values among group members.
4. As a group, agree on your common values and document these values on your Life Group Covenant Template (attached at end)
5. Remember that Evangelism and Multiplication are a value that every group should uphold.

## ***Step 2 – Life Group Objectives***

Life Group objectives define what you want to do and become while doing life together on a regular basis. Many of your group's objectives will be simple; "let's read our bibles every day" or "let's do this activity as a service project". Other group objectives can be more challenging such as "let's grow to a point where we can multiply in a year".

### **Discussion**

Using the guide on pages 82 – 83 (BD), discuss as a group what you want to accomplish in the following areas:

Maturing Spiritually  
Growing Relationally  
Fostering Safety  
Generating Excitement  
Welcoming Outsiders  
Preparing to Multiply  
Other...  
Other...  
Other...  
Other...

Document your Group Objectives on the Life Group Covenant

## ***Step 3 – Meeting Ground Rules***

Meeting ground rules are especially important when a Life Group first forms. They are intended to establish boundaries which reflect the values developed in Step 1. Ground rules may need to be adjusted or changed over time to reflect changes in group membership. Examples of ground rules include:

- Maintain confidentiality between group members
- Do not allow one person to dominate



- Do not put people down for what they say
- Try to be as honest as possible with each other
- Do not gossip about one another
- Do not gossip about others outside
- Start and end on time

## **Discussion**

As a group, discuss important ground rules that you will abide by as you do life together. Document these on your Covenant Template.

## ***Step 4 – Finalizing your Group Covenant***

After you have completed the first three steps and documented your results on the Covenant Template, the Life Group Covenant is basically complete.

Distribute the completed template to your Life Group members. Spend time reviewing the Covenant and ensure all members are in agreement with the Covenant.

Spend time celebrating your Covenant!!

Give a copy of your Covenant to your Cluster Leader so they can support you and your Life Group.

Also review the Covenant with your Life Group every three months (or more often) to ensure you are on track with your objectives and are maintaining your ground rules.

As friends and neighbors fill the open chair, ensure they understand the Covenant, particularly if they want to join in on a regular basis.



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## *LCC Life Group Covenant*

Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Formed:

Our most important values include:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Our objectives – while we are together we want to accomplish the following:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Our Ground Meeting Rules:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



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## *Group Values Handout*

**Affirmation** – It is important to create an atmosphere where group members affirm and encourage one another, build each other up in Christ, and help each other grow.

**Availability** – Group members and their resources should be available to each other. People's time, attention, insight, as well as material resources, must be made available to each other in order to meet needs and serve one another.

**Prayer** – Prayer is valued in group life. The group comes together before God to praise, ask, confess, and thank Him for all He has done. Prayer encourages group members to be humble, knowing that all comes from God. In prayer, they also feel valued and come to understand their own worth. As you see God move to answer the prayer concerns of your members, the whole group will become very encouraged.

**Openness** – Openness in the relationships within the group promotes honesty and an ease of sharing feelings, struggles, joys and hurts. Reaching the goal of authentic relationships begins with being open with each other and by opening the group to new members

**Honesty** – The desire to be honest with each other is critical to authentic relationships. In order for trust to be built among the group members, they must speak the truth in love, so that "we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ" (Eph.4:15).

**Safety** – Honest, open relationships must be guarded with an agreement of safety-that what is said in the group will remain confidential, that opinions will be respected and differences will be allowed.

**Confidentiality** – As part of the concept of safety, confidentiality promotes openness by promising that whatever is shared within the confines of the group will not be repeated elsewhere.

**Sensitivity** – A commitment to sensitivity to the needs, feelings, backgrounds, and current situations of other group members will help build relationships in the group.

**Accountability** – In authentic relationships, accountability is voluntary submission to another group member(s) for support, encouragement, and help in a particular area of your life, giving them some responsibility for assisting you in that area.

**Evangelism** – As a group, evangelism is being committed to expanding the community of believers through such things as sharing your faith, using the "open chair" to invite people into the group, or other types of outreach.

**Multiplication** – Having your group grow and eventually birth a new group enables the group to carry out the vision of seeing more people connected in Christian community, growing in their relationship with Christ.

## Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

**These studies are ones we suggest as “good” studies. Some of them are available in our church library but most you will need to order by visiting Family Christian, Berean or logging onto Amazon, Christianbook.com or zondervan.com. Email the office with any questions.**

### DVD Studies

#### **Faith Lessons on the Life & Ministry of the Messiah**

DVD & User Guide

Filmed on location in Israel, this study provides a video tour of the buried, distant, or otherwise forgotten places where the stories of the Bible actually happened. Historian Ray Vander Laan helps us better understand the “world” or culture of the Bible. He provides insights into the New Testament and explores Jesus’ life embedded in the specific culture in which he lived. We explore truth from a Greek or western perspective describing events in words. Eastern culture, instead, uses metaphors and pictures. The presentation takes viewers to archaeological sites few people ever see, where the geographical and historical contexts of the Bible take on powerful relevance for present-day believers.

#### **Jesus, Fact or Fiction?**

DVD & Map

Experts address more than 50 questions about Jesus, God and the Bible. You can use this study in 2 ways. Go through the Journey section. All the questions are woven together and you choose the topic of greatest interest. In addition to answers to the questions, there are also personal stories relating to the questions. Many questions also have articles and book suggestions linked to them. The articles can be printed from the DVD in a PC. The second method of utilizing this study is through the question index. The questions are grouped into categories.

Also includes The Jesus Film. It can be 1) viewed like a regular movie; 2) activate the discovery glass so that the movie can be stopped to hear answers to typical questions; 3) turn on a full length audio commentary.

#### **The Creation Museum Collection**

5 DVDs

- **Dinosaurs & Dragon Legends - 2 programs totaling 14 min.** plus bonus items
  - Man really did walk with dinosaurs! Both were created on Day Six of Creation Week, both were destroyed in massive numbers during Noah’s Flood, and both had to survive in the new world that followed. Includes articles and web links.
- **Heaven & Earth – 8 programs totaling 18 min.** plus bonus items
  - Explore what science and the Bible show us about the marvelous work of the Creator. Includes articles and web links.
- **The Last Adam – 3 programs totaling 33 min.** plus bonus items
  - Sin changed everything. This is a concise history of mankind and of the One who became our Savior. Includes articles and web links.
- **Life – 9 programs totaling 25 min.** plus bonus items
  - The earth abounds with a fantastic variety of living things – birds, cattle, fish, people. Each has an amazing design. These programs explore design answers from science and the Bible. Includes articles and web links
- **Six Days – 8 programs totaling 27 min.** plus bonus items
  - The words of Genesis are set to a sweeping musical score. This unique collection of short films will inform, inspire, and remind you of God’s purpose for mankind. Includes articles and web links.

# Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

## **Choose the Life, Exploring a Faith That Embraces Discipleship**

DVD, book & study guide

*DVD includes ten 10-minute video insights*

This study challenges us to accept that Jesus is calling us to think as He thought, live as he lived, love as he loved, minister as he ministered, and lead as he led.

## **Just Walk Across the Room** (Bill Hybels)

DVD & Study Guide

4 sessions

This series brings personal evangelism into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a natural and empowering approach modeled after Jesus himself. This series will equip and inspire you to leave your “circle of comfort” and, in simple ways, extend hands of care, compassion, and inclusiveness to people who might need a touch of God’s love.

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

6 sessions

Walking on water means

- Facing your fears and choosing not to let fear have the last word
- Discovering and embracing the unique calling of God on your life
- Experiencing the power of God to accomplish what you would not be capable of doing on your own

This series helps you answer Christ’s call to greater faith, power-filled deeds, and a new way of knowing him. You will discover how to discern God’s call, transcend fear, risk faith, manage failure, and trust God. You are asked to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone.

## **Beginning Life Together**

DVD & Study Guide

This is a small group curriculum built on the Purpose Driven paradigm. Based on the five biblical purposes, this series will help your group discover what God created you for and how you can turn this dream into an everyday reality. It helps leaders lead and small groups form and develop the different elements of being a Terrific small group.

Each session includes:

Leader Lifter – pre-session leader training talk

Creative Element – a personal story, interview, drama, or music video

Dynamic Teaching – featuring well-known teachers

Worship Music – songs, lyrics, uplifting and video images

- **Beginning Life Together (God’s Purpose for Your Life)** 6 sessions
  - God never intended for you to do life alone, but to do life together in community. This introductory group study gives you an overview of the five biblical purposes that God intends for your life.
- **Connecting With God’s Family (Fellowship)** 6 sessions
- **Developing Your SHAPE to Serve Others (Ministry)** 6 sessions
- **Sharing Your Life Mission Every Day (Evangelism)** 6 session
- **Growing To Be Like Christ (Discipleship)** 6 sessions
  - Spiritual maturity doesn’t happen by accident. This series equips you for the basic habits of spiritual growth: relying on the Holy Spirit, cultivating time in the Bible and prayer, seeing life’s obstacles as opportunities for growth, and partnering with Christians who are committed to supporting your growth.
- **Surrendering Your Life for God’s Pleasure (Worship)**

# Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

## Nooma Studies

## DVD & Discussion Guide

Each study is self-contained, with a new format for getting Christian perspectives. These are short films with communicators that really speak to today's generation. Compact, portable and concise. Each DVD touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about, and it fits our world.

- **Rain** – Things don't always work out the way we want them to, or the way we think they will. It makes us wonder how God can let these things happen to us.. Maybe it's when we're in these situations that God gets an opportunity to remind us of how much he really loves us.
- **Flame** – I love those shoes. The same way I love my wife? What's up with the word "love"? It doesn't have much meaning when we use it so loosely. God created love and wants us to feel it all in the way it's meant to be felt.
- **Trees** – We want to know why we are here, if our lives really matter, how our religion is relevant to this life.
- **Sunday** – Why do we go to church or give money away? Because we're supposed to or because we think God needs it? God hates it when we call ourselves Christians but ignore all the things he really cares about. God doesn't want the meaningless rituals, God wants our hearts.
- **Noise** – Why is silence so hard to deal with? Why is it so much easier to live our lives with a lot of things going on all the time? Maybe there's a connection between the amount of noise in our lives and our inability to hear God.
- **Kickball** – We always think we know what's missing from our lives in order to really make us happy. If only I had that car, or that job. Do we trust that God is good and sees a bigger picture than we ever could?
- **Luggage** – Maybe a friend turned their back on you. Maybe someone you loved betrayed you. We all have wounds and we end up carrying around these things that people have done to us for weeks, months, and sometimes even years. Can we forgive or do we seek revenge? God didn't create you to carry these wounds around. God created you to be free.
- **Dust** – Believing in God is important, but what about God believing in us? Believing that we can actually be the kind of people we were meant to be. People of love, compassion, peace, forgiveness, and hope. Maybe if we had more insight into the culture that Jesus grew up in and some of the radical things he did, we'd understand the faith that God has in all of us.
- **Bullhorn** – Jesus said that the most important thing in life is to love God with everything we've got and love others the same way. But it's not always easy to love everyone around us. Maybe the best way for us to show our love for God is actually by loving other people no matter how hard it sometimes is.
- **Lump** – A lot of us have done things in our lives that we're ashamed of. But no matter how big our junk is, it hasn't changed how God feels about us.
- **Rhythm** – What does it mean to have a relationship with God? What does it look like? Maybe the way we live every day, every single choice we make, determines how in tune with God we are.
- **Matthew** – Suffering the loss of someone we love can be the most difficult thing in life to deal with. What might help us is to understand how Jesus dealt with this kind of loss.
- **Rich** – It's easy for us to fall into a mindset of viewing "our" world as "the" world, because it's all we generally see. But how does what we have compare to what most people in the world have? Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others.
- **Breathe** – With everything that we've got going on every day, how many of us ever think about our breathing and the meaning of breathing? Yet, for thousands of years, people have understood that our physical breath is a picture of a deeper spiritual reality. Maybe if we had more insight into the meaning of breathing, we would better understand how God created us as human beings.
- **You** – Some of the central claims of the Christian faith are the source of many discussions and heated debates. But are we always debating the right things? Maybe some of the claims of the Christian faith that we typically perceive to be unique aren't really that special at all. And at the

## Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

same time, maybe we don't always put enough emphasis on the things that truly should matter in our lives.

- **Store** – We all get angry about things from time to time – some of us more often than others. What is really at the root of our anger? Maybe if we had a better understanding of our anger and where it comes from, we could learn how to channel it towards something constructive – something that's bigger than ourselves.
- **Today** – How much time and energy do we spend wishing things were how they used to be? Some of us have even come to believe that our best days may actually be behind us. Maybe we need to learn to embrace our past for what it is, in order to live our lives to the fullest right here, right now.
- **Name** – We all compare ourselves to others. WE spend our lives wondering what others think and say about us. Some of us even wish we were someone else. Maybe if we really knew our true selves, we wouldn't give so much attention to other people's lives and live more in tune with the life God wants for us.
- **Open** – Many of us have experiences situations where we've prayed and it felt like God wasn't listening. Does God answer prayer? Maybe if we understood how Jesus prayed, our concepts and expectations of prayer would change.
- **Shells** – Do you frequently find yourself saying "I'm so busy". But what are we really doing with our time?

## Video Studies

**The Purpose Driven Life** (Small Group Series) 40 week video curriculum, Study Guides, Book

There is learning here, as well as built-in help with the small group process.

This series helps you build greater spiritual health and balance in your life. Each of the six volumes explores, in depth, one of the five Biblical purposes of the Church found in the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). 6 modules – about 7 sessions each

- What On Earth Am I Here For?
- You Were Planned for God's Pleasure – what it means to live a lifestyle of worship
- You Were Formed for God's Family – what it means to have true Christian fellowship
- You Were Created to Become Like Christ
- You Were Shaped for Serving God – how God uses your spiritual gifts, passions, personality, and experiences to prepare you for ministry
- You Were Made for a Mission – how God wants to use your life to reach the world for Jesus Christ

**Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?** (Philip Yancey)

Book & Video

Yancey explores the questions surrounding prayer that you may wonder about but not know how to express. Above all, Yancey shows you how to pray to a God who sees what lies ahead of you, knows what lies within you, and who invites you into an eternal partnership with Him---through prayer.

*Tim & Karen DeRosett's Life Group*

# Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

## Study Guides

### **Bill Hybel's InterActions Series**

**Authenticity: Being Honest with God and with Others** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

Maybe the greatest challenge facing the church is the disease that is eating away at its power and integrity – inauthentic Christianity. In the pulpits and in the pews, there are too many inconsistent Christians. There are six manifestations of inconsistent Christian living: 1) external methods of Christianity vs. internal change; 2) relationships marked by deception rather than honesty; 3) heartache and grief hidden behind smiling masks; 4) evangelizing out of guilt; 5) workers whose jobs are drudgery or obsessions; 6) out of control budgets. Discover what it means to live authentic lives as fully devoted followers of Christ.

**Character: Reclaiming Six Endangered Qualities** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

These six character traits are endangered. None comes easily. They must be developed over time. Search your heart and decide what your life would be like if you had courage, self-discipline, confidence, patience, contentment, and endurance.

**Freedom: Breaking the Chains that Bind You** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

Most adults are all about change – for the worst! Our bodies and our behavior patterns have a way of deteriorating over time – eating too much, the wrong things, giving into sexual temptations, worrying. We spend years of unsuccessful attempts at trying to change these patterns. God gives us the hope of freedom from these “chains that bind”.

**Getting a Grip: Finding Balance in Your Daily Life** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

Discover how you can regain control of your life. This study will focus on five primary areas; 1) the big picture, where our lives are out of control; 2) our schedules; 3) our bodies; 4) our finances; 5) our devotions; 6) our relationships

**Jesus: Seeing Him More Clearly** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

God not only provided us with a Savior, he provided a sympathetic Savior – One who has been here as a man, One who understands, One who you can identify with, feel close to, talk with learn to love. One who is going to make a difference in your life every day. These sessions help you see Jesus more clearly. When He walked on this earth, Jesus revealed Himself as a man, a great teacher, a physician, a servant, a good shepherd, and a king.

**Marriage: Building Real Intimacy** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series) Study Guide  
*6 sessions*

This series provides opportunities to honestly look at your marriage and identify areas of strength as well as areas that need growth. Whether in a stormy time or inexpressible bliss, this series will help you build real intimacy with your marriage partner.

## Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

### **Prayer: Opening Your Heart to God** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

Prayer is alien to our independent human tendencies. However, as we grow in prayer, we discover that God actually wants to be in relationship with us. This series will help you discover that true prayer has a way of releasing the life of God in your spirit, of activating and liberating the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life. A qualitative difference will be made in your relationship with God as you learn to talk with God through personal prayer.

### **Psalms: Deepening Your Relationship with God** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

Psalms: a collection of 150 songs that has given inspiration to the people of God for thousands of years. They express profound joy as well as deep sorrow. Reading them helps us deepen our relationship with God. They will capture your heart and fill you with expressions of gratitude, worship, and hope.

### **The Real You: Discovering Your Identity in Christ** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

When you become a Christ follower, your being does not immediately change. Over time you learn how to be like Christ and how God views you. As the months and years pass, you understand this new identity, and begin to think and feel and act as: 1) sons and daughters; 2) saints; 3) soldiers; 4) ambassadors; 5) friends; 6) managers.

### **Serving Lessons: Putting God and Others First** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

There is little diversity in our culture when it comes to one thing: self-interest. All of us struggle with self-centeredness and the “Me First” mind-set. However, followers of Christ are called to be servants. The pursuit of a life of service is not easy, but it is a journey like no other.

### **Transparency: Discovering the Rewards of Truth-Telling** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

Truth-telling has fallen on hard times. In the pressure of real-life relationships, truth does not always come out of our mouths. Too often our natural tendency is to “keep the peace”. However, we all have inner yearnings to be in a significant relationship with someone with whom we can be completely honest and vulnerable. This series will challenge you to levels of transparency that go beyond your relational comfort zone. You will discover that God’s true plan for human relationship is real community, real intimacy, and real transparency.

### **Transformation: Letting God Change You from the Inside Out** (Bill Hybels Small Group Series)

Study Guide

*6 sessions*

We spend billions on our outside appearance, millions on health foods, vitamins, diets and exercise. People hope that looking better will make them feel better about themselves. But God is concerned with the interior. He looks at the heart – the core of our being.

# Scintillating Studies for Life Groups

## Books

### **Facing Your Giants** (Max Lucado)

Book & Study Questions

*19 chapters can be done in 6 sessions*

Define your Goliath – bills you can't pay, people you can't please, habits you can't break, failures you can't forget, a future you can't face. Just like David, you can face your giant, even if you aren't the strongest, the smartest, the best equipped or the holiest. Read David's story in your own life's context and learn how to focus on God rather than your giants.

*Brent & Betsy Carter's Life Group*

### **Raising Great Kids** (Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend)

Book & age specific workbooks

This book helps you provide the care and acceptance that makes grace real to your child, and the firmness and discipline that give direction. Avoiding the twin extremes of permissiveness and over-control, the authors show how you can help your child cultivate six necessary character traits: attachment, responsibility, reality, competence, morality, and worship/spiritual life.

*Tim & Karen DeRosett's Life Group*

### **The ABCs of Financial Success**

Book & Workbook

There is a better way to live than most Americans do. Discover how to get rid of all your debt and receive God's blessings on our finances. This series is a hands-on approach to applying God's principles to our finances.

### **He Chose the Nails** (Max Lucado)

Book & Study Questions

Pre-Easter study

Unwrap the gifts of grace given by Jesus. Much has been said about the gift of the cross itself, but what of the other gifts? What of the nails, the crown of thorns? What about the garment taken? What about the garments given? Have you taken the time to open these gifts?

*Chris Kylander's Life Group*

### **No Wonder They Call Him the Savior** (Max Lucado)

Book & Study Questions

Pre-Easter study

Max Lucado takes you through the drama of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – bringing to life Peter's denial, Pilate's hesitancy, and John's loyalty. Relive the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, from the foggy garden of Gethsemane to the incandescent room of the resurrection.

*Chris & Mandy Kylander's Life Group*

### **It's Not About Me** (Max Lucado)

Book & Study Questions

*Chris & Mandy Kylander's Life Group*



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## Outreach Organizations

**Serve City**, 622 East Ave, Hamilton, OH 45011

**Contact- Glenna Carroll, 477-7477**      [www.servacitychosen.org](http://www.servacitychosen.org)

**Bio:** Serve City is an outreach center in Hamilton, Ohio, dedicated to serving the needs of Butler County's low-income and homeless individuals and families. A ministry of the Hamilton area churches, the outreach includes: **The Lord's Cupboard**, one of the largest choice food pantries in southwestern Ohio (serving over 3,000 needy per month); **CHOSEN** houses for the homeless, **providing a 48 bed shelter and meals to approximately 750 needy people annually**

### **Mission Statement**

"We are called to be an instrument through which the faith community in Hamilton can be a visible, dynamic, and transforming presence in the city of Hamilton. Our operating goal is to provide "Help for Today and Hope for Tomorrow."

**Needs:** Serve City is always in need of clothing, food and financial donations for their supplies. Volunteers are needed during pantry hours to assist people with their shopping Tuesday, Thursday's and Saturday's from 10:00a.m.- 12:00p.m. Volunteers are always needed to help supply, prepare and serve food to our guests during the evenings. The Chosen homeless shelter is often in need of general maintenance and repair. It's an excellent opportunity if you have handyman skills, tools and materials.

**RASKALS**, West Chester Parks, 9113 Cin-Day Rd., West Chester, OH 45069

**Contact- Laura Groff, 759-7312**      [www.westchesteroh.org/guide/senior](http://www.westchesteroh.org/guide/senior)

**Bio:** West Chester Township coordinates a program each year to help senior citizens in our community with simple yard clean-up chores. Volunteer teams are matched up with senior citizen homeowners in need of help.

**Needs:** Volunteers who are ready and willing to get out and dirty helping local seniors. This program runs twice a year and needs volunteers typically the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of November and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of May.



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**Reach Out Lakota**, 6561 Station Rd., West Chester, OH 45071  
**Contact- Lourdes Ward, 779-7515**      [www.reachoutlakota.org](http://www.reachoutlakota.org)

**Bio:** Reach Out Lakota is a non-profit, ecumenical, community-sponsored organization that gives eligible families in West Chester and Liberty Township food and clothing, as well as paper, cleaning, baby, personal care and household items. No one can predict a layoff, a fire, or unfortunate event. We help our neighbors who have fallen on hard times. We also provide referrals to other agencies when additional assistance is required. Over 1,000 pieces of clothing and 18,000 pounds of food are given away monthly.

**Mission Statement**

“The mission of Reach Out Lakota is to assist families in the Lakota School District who, through some form of hardship, have found it difficult to support their families.”

**Needs:** Reach Out Lakota is always in need of clothing, food and financial donations for their supplies. We need volunteers to sort food and household items and to wash, dry, fold, and sort clothing items. Volunteers can be helpful anytime but especially during these hours;

*Hours when Volunteers are Needed:* (any or all parts of the shift)  
Mon: 4-7 pm, Wed 10 am to 1 pm, Fri 10-12 ;

**One Way Farm**, 6131 E River Rd, Fairfield, OH 45014  
**Contact- Brenda Snowden, 829-3276**      [www.onewayfarm.org](http://www.onewayfarm.org)

**Bio:** One Way Farm Children's Home provides residential care 365 days a year, 24 hours a day for abused, abandon and/or delinquent youth. Our agency provides an Animal Education Therapy Program, an Employment Training Program, Counseling Services and a Youth Program to further the healing of our children. We have served approximately 8,000 children and have been in business since 1976. Our continuing goal is to provide for the best interest of the child.

**Mission Statement**

“To stop the cycle of child abuse and provide a loving environment for children to grow in mind, spirit and body.”

“To develop an educational system to further the potential of all children without regard to race, color or national origin.”



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**Needs:** One Way Farm is always in need of food and clothing to help stock their pantry and thrift store. Change of seasons needs are yard work, flowers planted, cleanup etc. Christmas needs are wrapping of packages and present sorting, decoration setup. Always need help in the Thrift Store sorting merchandise, setting it out and organizing. ALWAYS AN ONGOING LIST OF HELP NEEDED ANYTIME OF THE YEAR. Suggest maybe bringing dinner one night (pizza, hot dogs, KFC, whatever) and sitting to talk and eat with the kids.