Discussion of the Sunday Morning Sermon

Weird: Because Normal Isn't Working (6 Sessions)

Echoes of the Reformation (6 Sessions)

Experiencing God (13 Sessions)

Think Differently (10 Sessions)

The Meaning Of Marriage (6 Sessions)

Follow (8 Sessions)

Other Series

Discussion of the Sunday Morning Sermon

Our "default" Life Group study is a discussion of Sunday's Sermon. Pastor Paul emails his notes to all Life Group Leaders, usually by Saturday afternoon (though if he's running behind it might be Sunday after church). The leader uses the Life Application thoughts from the bulletin (also included in the sermon notes), and often develops other open-ended questions, to guide the discussion.

Weird: Because Normal Isn't Working (6 Sessions)

By: Craig Groeschel

Description

Tired of trying to fit into today's culture? The good news is you don't have to! In Weird: Because Normal Isn't Working, Craig Groeschel outlines what the world considers normal--a life filled with stress, strained relationships, and money woes, and shows how life in Christ frees you from these "normal" behaviors. Rather than live an ordinary life, you can be extraordinary by embracing the wisdom and grace of the gospel. Maybe that is weird, but with God's help it can be wonderful.

See Christianbook.com

Pastor Paul has a copy of video series.

Small Group Sessions:

Session 1 – The God Kind Of Weird
Session 2 – It's Time To Be Weird
Session 3 – Weird That Money Can't Buy
Session 4 – Pleasing God Is Weird
Session 5 – Weird Makes You Truly Sexy
Session 6 – The Weirdest Blessing Possible
**Book Chapters:**

**Part 1: TIME**
1. Killing Time
2. No Time Like the Present
3. The Rest Is Up to You

**Part 2: MONEY**
4. Rich Relatives-
5. The Best Money Can't Buy
6. A Generous Eye

**Part 3: RELATIONSHIPS**
7. Love Is .., Weird
8. Aiming at the Wrong Target
9. If You Please.

**Part 4: SEX**
10. An Affair to Remember
11. Sex Cymbals
12. A Different Kind of Education

**Part 5: VALUES**
13. Get My Drift
14. A Weird Blessing
15. Just One Thing

**Echoes of the Reformation (6 Sessions)**
Five Truths That Shape the Christian Life
DeYoung, Kevin (Author), Mohler, Dr. R. Albert (Author), Smith, Brandon D (Author)

Challenge spiritual complacency by recapturing the essential convictions and truths that emerged from the Reformation.


**Description**
It has been five hundred years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther’s theses called for the reform of the church and served as the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation. Its impact is still felt today.

This Bible study examines the five core truths that came from the Reformation, now referred to as the solas. Group members will explore these essential convictions of the faith and emerge more immersed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The solas include:

*Sola Scriptura* (by Scripture alone)
*Sola gratia* (by grace alone)
*Sola fide* (through faith alone)
*Solus Christus* (through Christ alone)
*Soli Deo gloria* (glory to God alone)
How is the Reformation still relevant today? As political pressure mounts, morality drifts with today’s culture, and evangelicalism becomes more and more refined in a post-Christian world, it’s even more important to hold the convictions of the great Reformation closer than ever. In short, the solas point us to vibrant Christian community as well as personal identity in Christ.

As you’ll see in this study, the solas are more than cold Latin terms that academics throw around in church-history books. The five solas, like the Reformation itself, are intensely practical. They were the DNA of the Reformation and are still the DNA of the church today. They are grounded in a real-life, everyday following of Jesus. They’re the most important, basic scriptural truths you can ever believe.

We stand on the shoulders of Christians in the past, and knowing where we came from will help us keep moving forward with passion and biblical clarity.

*Echoes of the Reformation Leader Kit* contains a *Bible Study Book* and 1 DVD with a promotional video and six 15- to 20-minute video sessions featuring authors Kevin DeYoung, Al Mohler, and Trevin Wax. These panel discussions introduce the topic, overview historical significance, explore the theological meanings of the solas, and include illustrations for applying these key transformative truths.

**Features:**
- Videos featuring authors Kevin DeYoung, Al Mohler, and Trevin Wax
- Biblically rooted and gospel-centered content
- Six small-group sessions that include an introductory session and application of the five solas
- Individual study opportunities for ongoing spiritual growth
- Six-session *Bible Study Book* with group and personal components
- Promotional content, including video
- Social-media assets for the group leader

**Benefits:**
- Give group members a better understanding of the Reformation’s impact on today’s church.
- Understand the weighty importance of the inspired Word of God.
- Help group members discern the theological nuances of grace and its role in the life of a disciple.
- Enhance a believer’s understanding of the biblical and historical depth of the Christian faith.
- Realize that Christ alone provides all life’s answers.
- Show group members how to live life for the glory of God and renew their commitment to this biblical mandate.

**Experiencing God (13 Sessions)**

Knowing and Doing the Will of God

*Blackaby, Henry T.* (Author), *King, Claude* (Author)

Leader Kit is the revised and expanded edition that helps leaders to promote the classic, best-selling, 13 week study by Henry Blackaby.

Description

The Experiencing God ministry is even more vibrant today than when it began. As it continues to rise, and the world continues to change, the *Experiencing God* book has been revised and expanded with more than seventy percent of its material newly written.

A modern classic that has sold millions of copies worldwide, *Experiencing God* is based on seven Scriptural realities that teach us how to develop a true relationship with the Creator. By understanding how God is working through us even as we try to fathom His ways, we can begin to clearly know and do God's will.

**Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God - Leader Kit** is the revised and expanded edition that helps leaders to promote the classic, best-selling, 13 week study and conduct an Experiencing God Weekend or churchwide spiritual growth emphasis. Written by Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude King, the Experiencing God Bible Study is based on the Experiencing God book, which has sold millions of copies worldwide. Through examination of biblical and contemporary illustrations, participants will understand and apply seven realities of experiencing God. Churches will be helped to better function as the body of Christ, as members understand how to experience God as a church.

The Leader Kit includes:
- 1 revised Member Book
- 1 revised Leader Guide
- 1 paperback trade book
- 5 DVDs with twelve 30-minute messages & bonus features
- 1 CD-ROM

About the Authors:

**Henry Blackaby** is founder and president emeritus of Blackaby Ministries International, an organization built to help people experience God. He and his wife Marilynn have five children and fourteen grandchildren and live in Rex, Georgia.

**Richard Blackaby** is president of Blackaby Ministries International and the oldest child of Henry and Marilynn Blackaby. He holds degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Dallas Baptist University. He lives with his wife and children in Canada.

**Claude King** is editor-in-chief for undated resources at LifeWay Christian Resources. He holds degrees from Belmont College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and lives with his wife in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Think Differently (10 Sessions)**

Nothing Is Different Until You Think Differently

*MacDonald, James* (Author)

Learn to renew your mind in Christ as you identify and overcome the mental, familial, and even self-created strongholds that enslave you.


Description

*Think Differently Bible Study Book* includes 10 small-group sessions, 10 weeks of personal Bible study, applicable Scripture, “How to Use This Study,” and tips for leading a group.
Why do we lose our temper? Why do we tend to hurt those we care for most? How do families find themselves broken? The reason is often the way we think. Beyond behaviors and deeper than attitudes, thinking determines outcome more than anything else. The Book of Romans challenges us to be no longer conformed to the patterns of the world but rather to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. So much of what we are missing in life is associated with the way we process events in the world around us, draw conclusions about our circumstances, and act out of conclusions uninformed by the truth of Jesus and the gospel. In a world constantly bombarded by the fictions of a self-absorbed culture, managing our thinking becomes an even trickier proposition.

If you repeatedly find yourself in places where you don’t want to go, it’s your thinking that’s leading you there. This 10-session Bible study by James MacDonald identifies strongholds, examines how they came to be, and offers believers a biblical path toward repentance and the renewing of their minds. God offers our only hope for victory over disposition, dysfunction, double-mindedness, and every other mental stronghold. With Him we can think differently.

**Session Topics:**
1. Introduction
2. Destroying the Strongholds of Your Disposition
3. Destroying the Strongholds of Your Family Dysfunction, Part 1
4. Destroying the Strongholds of Your Family Dysfunction, Part 2
5. Ending Double-Mindedness
6. Destroying Manufactured Strongholds
7. When Strongholds Crumble
8. Repentance
9. When You Fail to Think Differently
10. Renewing Your Mind

**Features:**
• Biblically rooted and gospel-centered
• Individual study opportunities for ongoing spiritual growth

**Benefits:**
• Identify and address the strongholds in your life.
• Overcome the strongholds that result from family values and systems.
• Learn how to avoid double-mindedness and indecisiveness.
• Learn how to replace strongholds and long-held conclusions with biblical truth.
• Discover biblical paths to repentance.
• Overcome the disorientation encountered along life’s journey to find hope in God’s sovereignty.
• Adopt strategies for thinking differently from a renewed, Christ-centered perspective.

**The Meaning Of Marriage (6 Sessions)**
A Vision For Married And Single People
By Timothy Keller, Kathy Keller


QUICK OVERVIEW:
In this six-session video Bible study, Timothy Keller, along with Kathy, his wife of forty years, share a profound portrait of marriage from the pages of Scripture that is refreshingly frank and unsentimental, yet hopeful and beautiful.
Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that marriage does not mean 'till death do us part, but merely for as long as my needs are being met; and that when serious differences arise, divorce is the best solution.

According to the Bible, all of these modern-day assumptions miss what marriage is all about. In *The Meaning of Marriage*—a six-session video-based Bible study—Timothy Keller, along with Kathy, his wife of forty years, draws a profound portrait of marriage from the pages of Scripture that neither idealizes nor rejects the institution but points us back to the relationship between God and man. The result is a vision for marriage that is refreshingly frank and unsentimental, yet hopeful and beautiful. This six-session video Bible study is for anyone from singles to couples considering marriage to those who have been married recently or for a long time.

Sessions include:

- Service: Marriage Isn't about You (24:00)
- Covenant: Created to Make Promises (20:00)
- Roles: Loving through Mutual Submission (25:00)
- Singleness: Strengthening the Spiritual Family (23:00)
- Sex: The Act of Covenant Renewal (20:00)
- Hope: Seeing the Great Horizon (23:00)

Pack contains one study guide and one DVD.

**Follow** (8 Sessions)

By Andy Stanley

See [https://www.christianbook.com/follow-participants-guide-with-experience-necessary/9780310823568/pd/823561?event=Bible-Studies%7C1003328#CBD-PD-Description](https://www.christianbook.com/follow-participants-guide-with-experience-necessary/9780310823568/pd/823561?event=Bible-Studies%7C1003328#CBD-PD-Description)

**Description**

Lots of people think Christianity is all about doing what Jesus says. But what if doing what Jesus says isn’t what Jesus says to do at all? Jesus’ invitation is an invitation to relationship, and it begins with a simple request: follow me. Religion says, “Change and you can join us.” Jesus says, “Join us and you will change.” There’s a huge difference. Jesus doesn’t expect people to be perfect. He just wants them to follow him. Being a sinner doesn’t disqualify anyone. Being an unbeliever doesn’t disqualify anyone. In fact, following almost always begins with a sinner and unbeliever taking one small step. In this eight-session video-based Bible study, Andy Stanley takes you on a journey through the Gospels as he traces Jesus’ teaching on what it means to follow.

In this 8-part series, Andy Stanley takes us on a journey through the Gospels as he traces Jesus’ teachings on what it means to follow.

**SERIES OVERVIEW**

For many, the Christian life feels like a long game of "Jesus Says." Jesus says pray.
Jesus says give.
Jesus says go to church.

But upon further investigation, we discover that Jesus' invitation to his first-century audience was an invitation to *relationship*. And it began with a simple request—follow me. In this 8-part series, Andy Stanley takes us on a journey through the Gospels as he traces Jesus’ teachings on what it means to follow.

**DVD CONTENTS**

- 8 Trimmed Messages for Small Groups; 15-20 minutes in length
- 8 Full-Length Messages; 35 minutes in length
PRODUCT FORMAT
Disc 1 > Viewable in a DVD Player
Disc 2 > For Use in a Computer as a Data Disc

SMALL GROUP USE
This DVD can be used for small group study. To do so, it is recommended that each group member use the companion study guide (sold separately).

MESSAGE TITLES
1. Jesus Says
2. Next Steps
3. Fearless
4. Follow Wear
5. The Fine Print
6. What I Want to Want
7. Leading Great
8. Unfollow

Other Series

For other Ideas go to http://www.lifeway.com/n/Bible-Study/Small-Groups?Sz=120&Ne=281

Andy Stanley has many great video series, which can be found here: https://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/easy_find?Ntk=author&Ntt=Andy%20Stanley

If you, as a Life Group leader, have led or experienced biblically based small group curriculum that you felt was truly impactful to you personally or your group, please let Pastor Paul know so he can review the material and possibly include it in this Life Group Study Suggestions list. Thank you!