

Recommended Sequoia Group Curricula Trinity EPC January, 2010

***i4: Imagining what God Will Do:* by Bill Moore & Mark Fuller**

Four sessions to help you own God's vision for Trinity Church. In this study, you'll explore the biblical themes of intimacy with God, inner transformation, intentional community, and impacting the world. Each session includes a short introduction, individual and group bible study questions, and practical spiritual exercises to put the vision into practice in your life.



Intimacy with God

***God is Closer than You Think:* by John Ortberg**

Six Sessions on Experiencing the Presence of God The story of the Bible is the story of God's desire to be with people. God is extending himself, stretching out to reach us, to fill our lives with his presence. Every moment of your life is like a page in a *Where's Waldo?* book. God is there, the Scriptures tell us—on every one of them. But the ease with which he may be found varies from one page to the next. In this six-session DVD curriculum, award-winning author John Ortberg serves as guide and interpretive leader for experiencing the presence of God in everyday life.

***Prayer: Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels**

Do you have trouble finding time to pray? So much clamors for your attention: work, school, friends, family, church—the list goes on and on. Time for God and time to pray often seems impossible to fit in to your over-packed schedule. This study will show you how to slow down, listen to God and find refreshment in his presence.

***Fully Devoted: Living Each Day in Jesus' Name:* by John Ortberg**

This study seeks to get to the heart of what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Is this an ideal attainable only by a few "super Christians"—or is it a way of life we can all experience? *Fully Devoted* group sessions are: What Is True Spirituality? Grace, Growth, Groups, Gifts, & Giving. This series has received rave reviews from several Trinity Sequoia groups.

***Celebration of Discipline:* by Richard Foster**

In the twenty years since its publication, this classic has helped over a million seekers discover a richer spiritual life infused with joy, peace, and a deeper understanding of God. Hailed by many as the best modern book on Christian spirituality, *Celebration of Discipline* explores the classic "Disciplines," or central spiritual practices, of the Christian faith. Along the way, Foster shows that it is only by and through these practices that the true path to spiritual growth can be found. (13 chapters, study guide included)



Inner Transformation

***Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith* by Andy Stanley**

Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had absolute confidence that God was with you. Imagine how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, and even good things if you knew with certainty that God was in all of it and was planning to leverage it for good. In other words, imagine what it would be like to have PERFECT faith. In this six-week DVD study, Andy Stanley builds a biblical case for five things God uses to grow BIG faith: Practical Teaching • Providential Relationships • Private Disciplines • Personal Ministry • Pivotal Circumstances

Marriage & Family

***Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas**

Your marriage is much more than a union between you and your spouse. It is a spiritual discipline ideally suited to help you know God more fully and intimately. Sacred Marriage shifts the focus from marital enrichment to spiritual enrichment in ways that can help you love your mate more. Whether it is delightful or difficult, your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God. Everything about your marriage—everything from the history you and your spouse create, to the love you share, to the forgiveness you both offer and seek by turn—is filled with the capacity to help you grow in Christ's character. This six-session, small group DVD curriculum will equip you to love God more passionately, reflect the nature of his Son more precisely, and fulfill God's overarching purpose for your marriage.

***Parental Guidance Required* by Andy Stanley**

While the culture around you may offer many suggestions about parenting, God has much to say about how to navigate the road ahead of you. Through this study, God may give you clarity and insight into your relationship with your children as well as your children's relationships with others. This practical class is designed for all parents with kids at home, regardless of your spiritual maturity. It is an interactive six-week DVD study based on teaching by Andy Stanley.

Finance & Work

***Managing Our Finances God's Way*, by Rick Warren/Crown Financial**

One out of every six verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke is about material possessions, and nearly half of Jesus' parables are about possessions. *Managing Our Finances God's Way* is a 7-week, video-based small group study that will inspire your members to live debt-free and manage their finances according to Biblical principles. Developed in partnership with Crown Financial Ministries, this complete curriculum includes a CD-Rom with every workbook that provides financial worksheets for your personal budgeting and planning.

***Effective Stewardship* by Acton Institute**

Stewardship means different things to different people. True stewardship extends to our talents, to the environment, to our fellow man, to church and family, and yes, to the money in our bank accounts. Stewardship is everything we do after we say we believe! This 5-week, DVD-based course will help you connect with other adults at Trinity as you learn to put your faith into practice.

Bible Teaching

***The Prodigal God: Finding Your Place at the Table* by Timothy Keller**

In six captivating DVD video sessions, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller opens your eyes to the powerful message of Jesus' best-known—and least understood—parable. The Prodigal God is a revelation of the very heart of the gospel: God's radical love for sinners of every kind.

Deeper Connections by Matt Williams

The Deeper Connections series is unique. Unlike any other Bible study available, this visually stunning DVD series is written and taught by biblical experts—six professors with specialized areas of knowledge. These engaging and accessible studies are for everyone who wants to deepen their understanding of God’s Word and apply it more faithfully and effectively. In fact, a full one-third of each study is centered on modern application of Jesus’ life and teachings. Each volume consists of six fascinating sessions. The current volumes include:

- The Forgiveness of Jesus
- The Last Days of Jesus
- The Life of Jesus
- The Miracles of Jesus
- The Parables of Jesus
- The Prayers of Jesus

The Domino Effect: Falling Forward into the Story of Good and Evil by Wayfarer

The Domino Effect helps us enter into the story of good and evil that we find not just in history but all around us. What will we do with the evil that invades our lives and our world? Were we set up to be messed up? Is our world a problem of evil or an opportunity for goodness? The Domino Effect rips the bandage off of the issue of evil. This aggressively theological and intensely personal initiative prompts life-changing discussion and discovery. It gives us a behind the scenes look at God's thoughts toward good and evil, and it introduces God's solution to the problem of evil-redemption.

New Community Bible Studies by various authors

The New Community Bible Study series will help you grow in your understanding of what it means to build true community within the church and among the world. Each of these 6-session Bible studies includes challenging questions that encourage you to reflect on Scripture and its impact on your life, both as an individual and as part of a community of Christ followers. Twenty different studies to choose from, including: 1 and 2 Samuel, 2 Corinthians, Daniel, The Lord's Prayer, Luke, Nehemiah, Psalms (2 volumes), Acts, Sermon on the Mount (2 volumes), Colossians, Revelation, Romans, Parables, Exodus, James, 1 John, Philippians, and 1 Peter.



Intentional Community

Groups: The Life-Giving Power of Community by John Ortberg

Community is God's idea. Only in community can we know and be known, love and be loved, celebrate others and be celebrated by them. And only through close, transparent relationships can we be transformed as individuals. *Groups* invites you to enjoy the rewards--and embrace the risks--of community. Step by step, this study will challenge and encourage you to explore the amazing potential for growth found in authentic relationships. You'll study the true nature of friendship. The power of paying attention. The path to intimacy. The encouragement of being for one another. You'll learn what it means to live out these and other simple but vital truths for being all you are, giving all you've got, and receiving all you need as a member of God's dynamic community, the church.

Acts: Build Community by John Ortberg

In Acts, discover that God wants to do a fresh work among his people by the power of the Holy Spirit. Find the pathway to authentic community. Learn how to grow as a worshiper. And deepen your passion to invite others into the fellowship of Christ-followers we call the church. Sound exciting? Rediscover church together! This is a 6-session study.



Impacting the World

***Just Walk Across the Room* by Bill Hybels**

When Jesus walked clear across the cosmos more than 2,000 years ago, he had no forced formulas and no memorized script; rather, he came armed only with an offer of freedom for people like us, many of whom were neck-deep in pain of their own making. This dynamic 4-week experience is designed to equip and inspire you to participate in that same pattern of grace-giving by taking simple walks across rooms leaving your circles of comfort and extending hands of care, compassion, and inclusiveness to people who might need a touch of God's love today.

***The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel**

Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates from schools like Cambridge, Princeton, and Brandeis who are recognized authorities in their own fields. In this six-session DVD study, Strobel challenges them with questions like: How reliable is the New Testament? Does evidence for Jesus exist outside the Bible? Is there any reason to believe the resurrection was an actual event? Based on the Gold Medallion-winning book read like a captivating, fast-paced novel. But it's not fiction. It's a riveting quest for the truth about history's most compelling figure.

***The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel**

Why is there so much pain and suffering in our world? What should we do with our nagging doubts? Is Jesus the only way to God? Former skeptic Lee Strobel brings his tough-minded and engaging approach to these pressing questions. Based on the book *The Case for Faith*, this six-session DVD-driven study addresses the most common obstacles to faith in Christ.

***Do Science & the Bible Conflict* by Judson Poling**

In this 6-week study you'll engage in the kind of spirited dialog that shows the Christian faith can stand up to scrutiny. DO SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE CONFLICT? Isn't Christianity Based on Blind Faith? Why Are So Few Scientists Christians? Doesn't the Big Bang Disprove a Creator? Doesn't Evolution Contradict Genesis? If the Bible Is True, Why Isn't It More Scientific? Won't Scientific Progress Make God Unnecessary?

***Where Faith & Culture Meet* by Andy Crouch**

This six-session DVD-based study will help your group experience and envision how followers of Christ can engage the culture in which they live. Together you'll experience stories of believers who changed the culture around them. You'll watch and discuss how their journeys unfolded, their challenges, and their breakthroughs.