

Providence Presbytery Resource Center

Adult Study Materials

August 2008

BOUNDARIES (Cloud, Henry; Townsend, John, VT L02 035 C1)

Do you have trouble saying no? Can you set limits and still be a loving person? Are you in control of your life? What are legitimate boundaries? Do people take advantage of you? This video offers biblically based answers to tough questions on how to set healthy boundaries with parents, spouses, children, friends, co-workers, & even ourselves. 9 sessions.

MAKING LOVE LAST A LIFETIME (Hamilton, Adam, KT M01 3445 C1)

This kit provides the components to create a powerful small-group experience, including video presentations, a leader's guide with activities for class sessions and home use, and a thoughtful, inspiring participant's book written by Adam Hamilton. A Pastor's Guide with CD-ROM provides the information and tools needed to create a congregation-wide event that will reach beyond the classroom, beyond the sanctuary, and into the community. Designed for use in 60-90-minute sessions.

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS (Hamilton, Adam, KT A11 3453 C1)

This six week study deals openly and honestly with questions people ask about other religions, including why we should believe the claims of Christianity over those of other faiths. In the sessions on Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, Hamilton interviews a religious leader from that tradition and includes the taped comments in his remarks. He treats the world religions with great respect, recognizing the unique contributions of each and then comparing and contrasting them with Christianity. In the final session, he attempts to distill the essential beliefs of Christianity, in light of the other religious beliefs that have been presented. The kit includes a VHS and DVD, a student book, a leader's guide, and a pastor's guide

CONFRONTING THE CONTROVERSIES (Hamilton, Adam, KT P07 3481 C1)

Confronting the Controversies is a 7-session group study of tough issues based on Adam Hamilton's sermons on these topics. The seven sessions include: The Separation of Church and State, Creation and Evolution in the Public Schools, The Death Penalty, Euthanasia, Prayer in Public Schools, Abortion, and Homosexuality. This kit contains 1 each of VHS Tape, DVD, Participant's Book, Leader's Guide, and Pastor's Guide.

JUST NEIGHBORS (KT N04 012 C1)

Just Neighbors is a unique interactive multi-media curriculum that will educate your congregation about poverty, motivate them to greater service, and empower them to advocate on behalf of our neighbors in need. This curriculum includes original videos, hands-on activities, role-play exercises, lively discussions, and more. Its flexible format allows you to use it in a variety of ways to meet your congregation's needs in a Sunday school class, an adult forum, or in a retreat setting.

HOSPITALITY: RISKING WELCOME (Jenkins, David O., KT P07 3934 C1)

This is a 12-week video-and-book study, in which adults will explore key features of Christian character and then, as a group, apply those learnings in daily life. The first 6 weeks are entitled "Come and See". The group will use Scripture, videos, study & reflection guide, and leader guide to experience, discuss, and meditate on the Christian model of hospitality. In the next six weeks, entitled "Go and Do", together, supported by the leader guide, the group will create and implement an action plan for applying and embodying hospitality in their own lives. This kit includes: one Study & reflection guide, a DVD with video presentations of about 10 minutes each, exploring the topic of hospitality through interviews, mini-documentaries, personal testimonies,

dramatic readings, and Scripture, and a Leader guide with complete instructions for planning and leading the study, including suggestions for action plans your group can use.

Other Titles in this series:

DISCERNMENT: ACTING WISELY (Morrow, Sue Anne Steffey, KT P07 4012 C1)

INTIMACY: PURSUING LOVE (Burton, M. Garlinda, KT P07 4013 C1)

LIVING FULLY, DYING WELL (Job, Rueben, KT N03 3696 C1)

Our best decisions about life's important events are seldom made in a time of crisis. Living Fully and Dying Well is a resource designed to assist us in making careful, wise and prayerful preparation for meeting life's most important moments. In this study, participants will learn how to face openly and unafraid the benefits and limitations of aging and end of life decisions. The program kit includes a teaching guide for the group leader, a sample participant's book, 3 booklets for congregational use, and a DVD featuring an opening video (8-12 minutes) for each of the eight class sessions as well as additional study opportunities for adults.

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN SAMPLES (KT P07 3511 C1)

This notebook contains samples of The Thoughtful Christian on-line studies. Studies are available by yearly subscription or as individual downloads. Studies are included in the following topic areas: In The News, Bible & Theology, Popular Culture, Contemporary Issues, Spirituality, and Christian Living. Leader's Guides and student handouts are included.

FAVORITE BIBLE PASSAGES-VOLUME 1

STUDENT (BK P06 061 C1)

TEACHER (BK P06 059 C1)

This fresh look at 26 familiar texts, explores such stories as: A Still Small Voice, The Suffering Servant, Let Justice Roll, I Will Give You Rest, Go Into All the World, God Is Love, Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled, etc.

TEN KEY EVENTS IN JESUS' LIFE

STUDENT'S BOOK (Bucka, John R., BK P06 090 C1)

LEADER'S GUIDE (Bucka, John R., BK P06 092 C1)

This six session study has helpful charts showing where the same story is told in the Gospels and which characters are involved. Sessions on Birth of Jesus and Baptism of Jesus, Temptation of Jesus and Cleansing of the Temple, Sermon on the Mount and Healing of the Paralytic, Lord's Supper and Crucifixion, and Road to Emmaus and Ascension.

TROUBLESOME BIBLE PASSAGES - VOLUME 1

PARTICIPANTS GUIDE (Wingeiger & Watson, BK P06 142 C1)

LEADER'S GUIDE (BK P06 143 C1)

The Bible has many passages that are not fully understood, so we often ignore or overlook them. This book addresses 23 of these Scriptures in a way that bring out the transforming message in each passage. These troublesome passages deal with theological issues, ethical issues, and practical issues.

PARABLES FOR TODAY (McKenzie, Alyce M., BK P06 3745 C1)

This latest book in the popular For Today series introduces the reader to the main parables of Jesus in an engaging and accessible way. Professor, author, and preacher Alyce McKenzie makes the familiar parables come alive with new meaning, using the best of biblical scholarship to provide an easy entrance to this major form of Jesus' teachings. McKenzie covers the purpose, properties, and proclaimers of Jesus' parables before focusing on several of the key parables that form much of the text of the first three Gospels. With questions for discussion at the end of each chapter, this book is ideal for personal and group study.

Other Titles in this series:

APOSTLES' CREED FOR TODAY (Gonzalez, Justo L., BK P07 3746 C1)

LIFE OF JESUS FOR TODAY (Allen, Ronald J., BK P06 4002 C1)

LORD'S PRAYER FOR TODAY (Carl, William J. III, BK L01 3556 C1)

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR TODAY (Harrelson, Walter J., BK P06 3602 C1)

WHAT ABOUT THE RAPTURE? (Stringer, Denise, BK P06 045 C1)

This is an eight-session study about the end-time teachings. It provides opportunities for people to think critically about end-time teachings and to reflect upon the significance of these teachings for your faith journey and for a broken world. Designed for use with small groups.

WORLD-SHATTERING MINISTRY OF JESUS (Crumpler & Gooch, BK P06 3284 C1)

This 7 session study focuses on Jesus as a revolutionary figure and change agent, both in his own context and in ours and will help adults understand the radical nature of Jesus' ministry for and among all people, including the "outcast," and how Jesus models for us a ministry that challenges and pushes the limits. Other titles in this series:

AT TABLE WITH JESUS (Gooch, John, BK P06 2311 C1) 7 sessions

JESUS CALLS (Gonzalez, Justo L., BK P06 3283 C1) 8 sessions

KINGDOM SAYINGS OF JESUS (Stringer, Denise L., BK P06 3285 C1) 7 sessions

PARABLES OF JESUS (Kalas, J. Ellsworth, BK P06 3282 C1) 9 sessions.

GREAT THEMES OF THE BIBLE: VOLUME 1 (March, W. Eugene, BK P06 3754 C1)

This first volume in an exciting new series for laity provides an accessible study of some of the Bible's most important themes. Respected professor and author Eugene March traces the understanding of key themes through the Old and New Testaments, such as God, covenant, and sin, and demonstrates their importance for Christian life today. Discussion questions are included in each chapter to enhance the usefulness of this book for church study groups.

Other Titles in this series:

GREAT THEMES OF THE BIBLE: VOLUME 2 (Henrich, Sarah S., BK P06 3877 C1)

This volume covers these central themes: Death, disciple, faith, forgive, hope, joy, justice, love, peace, pray, reconcile, resurrection, Word.

HOW CAN I FORGIVE? (Marshall, Joretta L., BK P07 3460 C1)

This study will develop a way of talking about forgiveness that makes sense in the contemporary world and explore practical advice for receiving and offering forgiveness through the grace offered by God in Christ. 7 sessions.

CALL: CALLED TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE (Huggins, Kay E., BK P07 3466 C1)

This seven session sturdy looks at the various ways Gods calls us and empowers us to live out the purposes for which we were created.

COMMUNITY: YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS (Merrill, Timothy, BK P07 3458 C1)

The guiding theme for this book is community, the coming together of diverse peoples in response to God's love. It will look at scriptures in the Book of Acts that trace the early years of the Christian community. 7 sessions.

COVENANT: GOD'S PROJECT - EFFECTIVE CHRISTIANS (Hepler, Kathie, BK P07 3459 C1)

This book looks at the theme of covenant and the beginnings and meaning of Christian life as Paul understood it. 7 sessions.

WORKBOOK ON THE BEATITUDES (Dunnam, & Reisman, BK L01 3335 C1)

This eight week study examines the beatitudes. A daily time for reading, reflecting and recording culminates in a weekly review and application to contemporary life. Tough issues such as peace, humility and mourning call forth struggle and prayer from readers and small groups.

FASTING (Baab, Lynne M., BK L01 4006 C1)

Lynne Baab explains an ancient Christian practice that extends beyond giving up food to any regular activity in our contemporary lives. You'll see how taking a break from eating--or driving or checking e-mail or watching television--opens us up to discover new things about ourselves and God and the world around us. Includes questions for discussion & reflection at the end of each chapter.

SABBATH KEEPING (Baab, Lynne M., BK L01 3263 C1)

This book is more about letting go and keeping the Sabbath. The author encourages readers to find out what work means to them, and to let that go. Contains questions for discussion and reflection at the end of each chapter.

PRACTICING OUR FAITH (Bass, Dorothy C., ed., BK L01 3578 C1)

This book explores the stuff of everyday life, placing ordinary activities in a biblical and historical context, and discovering in them opportunities to realize God's active presence in life. Practices include: Honoring the body, Hospitality, Household economics, Saying yes and saying no, Keeping Sabbath, Testimony, Discernment, Shaping communities, Forgiveness, Healing. Online Study helps available at practicingourfaith.org.

WHEN YOU COME UNGLUED...STICK CLOSE TO GOD (Wilson, Patricia, BK L01 3910 C1)

Motivator, spiritual director and Everywoman, Wilson offers a wise and lighthearted take on the serious business of maturing in faith that's irresistible and transforming. Her deliciously candid descriptions of contemporary life reveal the ways we lose touch with God. Then she shows us how to reconnect and stick close. Reflection questions and journaling suggestions aid in taking this study further for both individuals and groups.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

STUDENT'S BOOK (Mabry, Hunter P., BK P07 014 C1)

LEADER'S GUIDE (Bennett, Judith F., BK P07 013 C1)

This 5-session study comes at a time when there is considerable national debate and commentary on the administration of the death penalty. This study combines Bible study with compelling stories from persons who have been directly affected by capital crimes to help adults form and/or reform their thinking on capital punishment. It looks at various denominational views and nations' policies related to the issue, as well as providing several suggested plans for actions. Chapters include: What is the death penalty? What does the Bible say? What do we learn from the history of Christianity? What guidance do our theological and ethical traditions provide? And The Human Burden of the Death Penalty.

WAY OF TRANSFORMING DISCIPLESHIP

PARTICIPANT'S BOOK (Hudson, & Bryant, BK L01 3464 C1)

LEADER'S GUIDE (Bryant, BK L01 3465 C1)

This six-week Companions in Christ study challenges Christians from the viewpoint of a white South African pastor who has lived through the political changes in that country and experienced with rare vulnerability the spiritual struggles inherent in the processes of truth-telling, reconciliation, deep pain, and poverty

SPIRIT GIFTS: ONE SPIRIT, MANY GIFTS

PARTICIPANT'S WORKBOOK (Brown, Patricia D., BK L01 037 C1)

LEADER'S RESOURCES (Brown, BK L01 038 C1)

Spirit Gifts is a group experience of discovery and growth that will help you find answers to questions related to your important role in God's divine plan. Workbook includes spiritual gifts survey, personal inventory, worksheets, reflective activities, Bible studies, charts, covenant and renewal service.

SERVING FROM THE HEART

PARTICIPANT'S WORKBOOK (BK P07 008 C1)

LEADER KIT (BK P07 006 C1)

A ministry development resource from Church of the Resurrection for Sunday school, small groups, retreats. This is a way to help adults discover their unique gifts and talents for service, the inspiration to serve, and a way to connect with service in your church community. This 4 to 8 week study leads adults through assessing their spiritual gifts, talents and abilities, resources, individual style, dreams and experiences - all adding up to a unique ability to serve God and neighbor. The leader kit includes easy-to-follow lesson plans for either 8 45-minute sessions or 4 2-hour sessions. The enhanced CDrom included in the kit makes leading convenient and creative with overhead slides, posters, music and leader training video.

Young Adult Studies:

BALANCE: LIVING WITH LIFE'S DEMANDS (Henderson, Tracey L., BK H02 1581 C1)

You juggle multiple demands - school or work, family, friends, church, day-to-day stuff like paying bills and dealing with junk mail - but do these activities each receive the proper priority at the proper time? This Young Adult Bible Study with seven sessions, will help you sort through various claims on your life and put your priorities into a healthy and manageable perspective.

COMMUNITY (Easterling, David, BK H02 057 C1)

Opportunities to examine biblical and personal ideas more deeply Options for service projects Community: Living Faithfully with Others introduces readers to Scriptures and life examples that delve into intimacy, work, family, and more.

COVENANT (Otto, David D., BK H02 055 C1)

This study engages readers in study sessions that explain a variety of covenants, what happens when covenants are broken, how to have a faithful covenant to care for others and for the earth, and what it means to have a sacred covenant with God.

FAMILY: FINDING WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE BELONG (Hawkins, James BK H02 3686 C1)

This 7 session study will explore how contemporary young adult Christians who are either living alone or in a family group may create or contribute to a supportive and nurturing "family" life.

FAITH: LIVING A SPIRITUAL LIFE (Guthrie, Clifton F., BK H02 1583 C1)

You may have faith, but may also realize that it can mean many things. Is it belief or trust or waiting or moral behavior or something else? Or is it all of those things? This seven session study helps young adults examine their faith and grow as Christians.

MYSTERY: EXPERIENCING THE MYSTERY OF GOD (Stroble, Paul E., BK H02 3860 C1)

Mystery will introduce young adults to the mysterious ways of God whose work through the Holy Spirit urges and encourages them to find ways to see God at work, to appreciate a sense of the holy, to identify how God actually loves and works through the church, to learn the rudiments of spiritual formation, and to understand and try various spiritual disciplines.

POWER (Cofiell, Terri S., BK H02 004 C1)

The image of power is prevalent in the Bible as well as in daily life. This volume centers on both the use and abuse of power in and toward oneself, others, God, and the church. It defines power in human experience and biblical witness and explores powerlessness and vulnerability, the power of the Divine, the power of evil, the work of the Holy Spirit, the power of the Church, and what it means to give God power over our lives. This study includes 7 sessions.

Peacemaking Studies:

LIVING FAITHFULLY IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE (Watkins, James, BK N05 2339 C1)

This five-session study course deals with the political obligation implicit in our faith. Today, it is no longer a question of whether religious people should be involved in the formation of public policy, but rather a question of who will be there and what they will say. The study offers Biblical and Theological guidelines to help Christians focus their public actions.

LIVING FOR A CHANGE TOWARD A CULTURE OF PEACE (Baker, BK N05 050 C1)

This is a five-session study that challenges us to look beyond the cessation of violence and explore what is involved in building a culture of peace. The issue of identity, touched upon in this resource, is vitally important. Sessions on Where Do We Being? Looking at our Culture, Visions of a Culture of Peace-What Would a Culture of Peace Look Like? Conforming and Transforming, Overcoming Evil with Good, and Spirituality to Sustain Peacemakers. 5 sessions

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE PUBLIC ARENA (Watkins, James, BK N05 014 C1)

This resource is designed to help people of faith build long-term relationships with elected officials and their staffs. It can be used as a basic handbook for individuals, or as an effective training tool for church groups.

SHALOM OF GOD IN THE MIDST OF EMPIRE (Kruger Gaudino, BK N05 3455 C1)

Through prayerful reflection on six different texts, participants will explore how we, as God's people, living both willingly and unwillingly in the midst of empire — citizens and hostages — wake up to the ways in which we have been seduced and reduced by empire? Participants will also consider how we move from participating in and being exploited by imperial patterns that are life-denying and constricting to what is the life-giving, spacious shalom of God?

Video Series: CURING AFFLUENZA

PART 1-ABUNDANT LIFE: WHAT IS IT? (Campolo, Tony, VT N01 016 C1)

Part 1 addresses how we can have a better life. Its Bible References are: Matthew 5:1-12; Luke 6:20-36, Mark 4:1-20, Isaiah 55:2-3, Romans 12:1-2, Mark 10:17-31, Galatians 5:13-25, I Corinthians 7, and Luke 12:16-34. Study guide included.

PART 2-MONEY: HOW POOR DOES JESUS WANT US TO BE? (Campolo, VT N01 017 C1)

Part 2 looks at Jesus' teachings about wealth and explores taking them seriously in a consumer society. Its Bible references are: Matthew 19:16-24; Matthew 16:24; I John 3:16-18, James 5, Acts 2:41-47, and Philippians 3:13-14. Study guide included.

PART 3-TIME: HOW MUCH DO I HAVE TO GIVE AWAY? (Campolo, VT N01 018 C1)

Part 3 explores spending our time in keeping with our values. Its Bible references are: Luke 14:15-24, Mark 6:20, and Ephesians 6:12. Study guide included.

PART 4-STUFF: HOW MUCH CAN I HAVE? (Campolo, VT N01 019 C1)

Part 4 looks at issues of how much can we keep, what we can spend on art and beauty, how we respond to people in need. Its Bible references are: James 2:14-16, Luke 7:36-50, Matthew 22:1-10, and Leviticus 25. Study guide included.

PART 5-SUPPORT: WHAT WILL HELP? (Campolo, VT N01 020 C1)

Part 5 suggests sources of help for changing our lifestyles. Its Bible references are: Ephesians 6:10-20, Matthew 25:31- 46, Galatians 6:1-10, Matthew 6:25-34, Luke 1:46-55, especially 52-53, Matthew 6:20-36, Luke 5:1-12, and Acts 2. Study guide included.

PART 6-NEXT: WHAT DO I DO COME MONDAY MORNING? (Campolo, VT N01 021 C1)

Part 6 explores how to live this out in the real world. Its Bible references are: Matthew 10, Matthew 19:23-26, and Romans 8. Study guide included.

Video Series: WHEN IT'S HARD TO CHOOSE

COMPASSION (VT N01 003 C1)

CONNECTEDNESS (VT N01 008 C1)

NON-VIOLENCE (VT N01 007 C1)

RESPECT FOR DIFFERENCES (VT N01 004 C1)

RESPONSIBILITY (VT N01 005 C1)

TRUTH-TELLING (VT N01 006 C1)

Living our values isn't easy. We really want to do what is right but it is a real struggle to make those tough choices. Yet, our everyday lives require us to do just that. Most of the time, we know what to do--but other times, we get stuck. In this six-part series, true-to-life stories are told about ordinary struggles we face. Then a well-known presenter responds to the stories, sharing personal experiences and teachings to prompt further discussion. Presenters are Tony Campolo, Joan Chittister, Monty Roberts and Renita Weems.

Video Series: QUESTIONS OF FAITH

Vol. V-HOW DO YOU PRAY? (VT L02 043 C1)

How Do You Pray? is the subject for discussion in this video. Emanuel Cleaver, Richard Foster, Catherine Keller, Ron DelBene, and Tex Sample led the discussion. Study guide included.

Vol. II-WHAT GIVES YOU FAITH? (VT L02 050 C1)

Desmond Tutu, Walter Wink, Robert McAfee Brown, Madeleine L'Engle are among those leading the discussion on What Gives You Faith?' in this 23-minute video. Study guide included.

Vol. II-WHOS' GOT THE TRUTH? (VT L02 048 C1)

The discussion on this 21-minute video on Who's Got the Truth? is led by Jim Forbes, Martin Marty, Harvey Cox, Anthony Campbell, and Desmond Tutu. Study guide included.

Video Series: TALKING ABOUT GOD

PROGRAM 1 - WHAT'S YOUR EXPERIENCE OF GOD? (VT L02 027 C1)

This series raises important questions about God and provides responses from a variety of people who think about God a lot. Part 1's Bible references are Romans 8:38-39 and Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7. God Unexpected, A Tin Ear for God? Discovering God in Jesus, Experiencing God in the Bible, and Pivotal Moments. Study guide included.

PROGRAM 2-HOW DO YOU TALK ABOUT GOD? (VT L02 028 C1)

Part 2's Bible references are: Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 15:11-24, Romans 8:26-27. The Problem of Language, What Does Prayer Do? and Theology and Story. Study guide included.

PROGRAM 3-WHO ARE YOU TO GOD? (VT L02 029 C1)

Part 3's Bible references are: Genesis 1:26-31; 45:4-8, James 4:15, and I John 4:4-12. Are You Good Enough? Does God Need You? and Does God Have a Plan for Your Life?

PROGRAM 4-WHERE IS GOD IN YOUR LIFE? (VT L02 030 C1)

Part 4's Bible references are: Psalms 139:1-18, Mark 15:33-4, Luke 11:1-13, and Romans 8:26-27. God in Suffering, A Sense of God's Presence, and Yearning for God. Study guide included.

PROGRAM 6-WHOSE SIDE IS GOD ON? (VT L02 032 C1)

Part 6's Bible references are: Exodus 14:15-29, Mark 14:26-15:39, Matthew 19:16-26; 28:57-60. What About WWII? Does God Prefer the Poor? and Is God Gonna Even the Score?

PROGRAM 7-HOW CAN BELIEVERS LIVE TOGETHER? (VT L02 033 C1)

Part 7's Bible references are: John 10:16; 14:5-11, Ephesians 2:13-18, Matthew 22:36-40, and Luke 10:25-37. Sheep in Other Folds, and Putting Together Community. Study guide included.

Video Series: PLACE TO PRAY

PROGRAM 1 AND PROGRAM 2 (Bondi, Roberta C., VT L02 036 C1)

Our Father-Who is God to you? A lot of learning to pray is finding out who God is: for many of us, learning that God is safe to be around. The 'Oneness' of Our Father-Have you ever wondered what it means to say hallowed or holy is God's name? Bondi talks about God's holiness being in God's presence, God's presence being in God's gifts.

PROGRAM 3 AND PROGRAM 4 (Bondi, Roberta C., VT L02 037 C1)

Your Kingdom Come-What is this kingdom? Talks about the kingdom in terms of completion & healing, rather than judgment; a time when the wounds that keep us from loving God and neighbor will be no more. Give Us This Day-What is it okay to ask God for? We can ask for whatever we need & one of the works of prayer is to figure out what that is.

PROGRAM 5, PROGRAM 6, AND PROGRAM 7 (Bondi, Roberta C., VT L02 038 C1)

Forgive Us As We Forgive-Shows that forgiveness involves giving up any desire for revenge & learning that we are injuring people. Lead Us Not Into Temptation-Wouldn't it be better just to get beyond temptation? Glory Forever-Why does God need praise? God made of creation to give & receive praise that both God & creation will be delighted. Study guide included.

DVD Series: NOOMA

BREATHE (Bell, Rob, DV L02 3675 C1)

Throughout our everyday lives we don't pay much attention to the way we breathe, do we? But for thousands of years, people have understood that our physical breath is actually a picture of a deeper spiritual reality. Includes a discussion guide.

FLAME (Bell, Rob, DV K01 3918 C1)

What's up with the word "love"? It doesn't have much meaning when we use it so loosely. Maybe we don't really get it. Maybe we don't understand what real love is. What it involves to really love somebody. What it means to give yourself to someone else. We mistake things like friendship, commitment, or lust for love. But God wired us a certain way to experience all that love was really meant to be. Not to hold us back or to make us miss out on the best life has to offer. God created love, and wants us to feel it all in the way it's meant to be felt

LUGGAGE (Bell, Rob, DV L01 3670 C1)

Maybe a friend turned their back on you. Maybe someone you loved betrayed you. It isn't always easy to forgive these people and after a while these hurts can get really heavy. So the only way to feel better seems to be somehow getting back at the people that hurt us, to get revenge. But does revenge ever truly satisfy? Maybe forgiving isn't something you do for someone else to let them off the hook. Maybe forgiveness is all about you.

LUMP (Bell, Rob, DV L01 3679 C1)

A lot of us have done things in our lives that we're ashamed of; personal junk that we keep to ourselves so we don't have to deal with it. We're afraid that if we try it's just going to make everything worse. But no matter how big our junk is, it hasn't changed how God feels about us. God loves us, he always has and always will, and there's nothing we can do to change that. Includes a discussion guide.

MATTHEW (Bell, Rob, DV N03 3917 C1)

Losing someone we love can be the most difficult thing to go through in life. All the explanations and comforting words in the world don't really help and everything can seem hopeless. But what might help us is to know, that in facing this kind of loss, Jesus wept.

NAME (Bell, Rob, DV L02 3955 C1)

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. We question why we are the way we are and not the way we wish we could be. Some of us have let the expectations of others dictate who we've become. We act a certain way to be accepted but know that we're being untrue. But why are we so concerned with what other people think, say, or look like? What does it say about us if we are unable to accept who we are? 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.

NOISE (Bell, Rob, DV L01 3677 C1)

Why is silence so hard to deal with? Why is it so much easier for us to live our lives with a lot of things going on all the time than to just be in silence? Maybe there's a connection between the amount of noise in our lives and our inability to hear God. If God sometimes feels distant to us, maybe it's not because he's not talking to us, but simply because we aren't really listening. Includes a discussion guide.

RAIN (Bell, Rob, DV L01 3672 C1)

Things don't always work out the way we want them to or the way we think they will. We get hit with some form of pain out of nowhere leaving us feeling desperate and helpless. Where is God when it really hurts? Maybe God is actually closer to us than we think. Maybe it's when we're in these situations, where everything seems to be falling apart, that God gets an opportunity to remind us of how much he really loves us

RICH (Bell, Rob, DV L01 3674 C1)

We're constantly bombarded with images of the latest styles of everything and it's easy for us to feel like what we have doesn't cut it. But to most people in the world, what we have would be more than enough. Maybe what we have is enough and God has blessed us so that we can bless and give to others. Includes a discussion guide.

TREES (Bell, Rob, DV L02 3916 C1)

We want to know why we are here. If our lives really matter. How our religion is relevant to this life today. We want to understand what significance this minute, hour, week, month, and year has to our lives. To our world. We need a God who cares about this life, in this world, right now. We want to understand why everything we think, everything we say, and everything we do matters. We don't want to just sit back and wait for something to happen or someday to come. We want to know if all the choices we make now will shape our world and lives for eternity. Because we want our lives to have meaning today, and our lives today to have meaning forever.

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