

Some resources for use in small group or 1-2-1 study contexts

The Basics of Belief

A year of study designed to give a structured grounding in the essentials of Christian belief. The materials are aimed at those who are trust in Jesus Christ as saviour and Lord, and who consider the bible as God's authoritative word. All the materials are intended to be used flexibly and therefore require a course facilitator to be prepared to be put planning into the sessions. The materials will not be effective without this level of facilitation and cannot be run 'off the shelf'. This is because they will always need to be adapted to the group and timings.

Section 1 – The Whole Story

God's Big Picture, or The Bible Course

These two options provide very helpful coverage of the whole bible timeline. They are well produced video sessions and discussion guides. The Bible course provides a series of daily readings for personal use. God's big picture is more bible study in its approach. Both have been used to good effect at Belmont

Section 2 – God's plan for the church – studying Ephesians

Two course here with the aim of working through an epistle close up and in detail yet with the content of the big picture of God's plan. Possible course

- Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin
- Ephesians - available as distance online learning Preliminary Theology Certificate (Moore College)

Section 3 – Essential Doctrine

Working with the EA basis of faith we build a solid understanding of the Christian message. Several resources are available to support this:

- Know What You Believe – Paul Little. A book which can be used for homework and then discussion (There is a study guide at the end of the book)
- Café Theology – Michael Lloyd. As above but a bit more wordy / academic
- Systematic Theology – Wayne Grudem. Weighty!

The Basics of Discipleship

Some tried and tested materials which focus on specific areas of Christian Discipleship. All will require some preparatory reading. Having spent time understanding the passage and ideas, the emphasis of the discussion should be around the action and accountability of change.

Character and Habits

Spiritual Healthcheck – Carl Laferton, 14 short and simple studies to review personal spiritual health. Particularly useful for people who are on the fringe of church or struggling in following. Each chapter is brief (3 small pages) so also suits non-readers

Discipleship – Peter Maiden, more in depth coverage of personal holiness and obedience to Christ.

The Fruitful Life or **The Pursuit of Holiness** – Jerry Bridges, chapter by chapter exploration of the fruit of the Spirit.

The Call to Spiritual Reformation – Don Carson, a helpful model for praying the bible based on Paul's prayers in the epistles. Can be well supported with the '5 things to pray for...' series

Leadership and Service

Integrity – Jonathan Lamb, a study 2 Corinthians about the qualifications, challenges and joys of leading

Excellence in Leadership – John White, learning from Nehemiah about leading others and leading God's work.

Other resources

For personal bible reading and prayer

App : **Prayermate**, a card index system updated daily with news and prayer plus space for personal information

App: **The Bible in a Year**, from HTB with audio. Could link with a Whatsapp Group for sharing comments

App: **Pray as you Go**, a much more contemplative approach to daily prayer

App: TheBible App, in which you can read a 'plan' with others and share thoughts. There are thousands of plans. Here's a few we can recommend:

Who is this man? - John Ortberg
The book of James - Francis Chan
Making sense of God - Tim Keller
Every good endeavour - Tim Keller

Books : **'For Everyone'** is a series of Old and New Testament commentaries provided in bite size chunks

