

Adult Bible Study

The Beatitudes For Today by James C. Howell. Westminster John Knox Press, 2006. Howell takes the well-known phrases of the Matthew passages and creatively applies Jesus' teachings to our contemporary world and Christian lives today. Discussion questions at the end of each chapter, for those experienced in the faith, 14 chapters

The Bible From Scratch: The New Testament for Beginners by Donald Griggs. Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. Any work from Griggs is bound to be successful. Although geared to those who do not know scripture, this study is a great refresher course or general resource for Sunday school leaders. This study is unique in that Griggs begins each chapter with a Psalm that calls the participant to ask questions that apply to his/her Christian life and pray about these reflections. It goes over the general structure, themes, historical timeline, and types of literature covered in the N.T. Both participant and leader's guides are included in this one resource. Very reader friendly, 7 sessions

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From Mary to Lydia: Letting New Testament Women Speak to Us by Nell W. Mohny. Dimensions For Living, 2002. Mohny tells the stories of eight New Testament women who may have lived in a time and culture vastly different from ours, but have valuable lessons to offer us. She then uses poignant stories from her life and the lives of others to reflect on the practical and spiritual insights we can glean from both sets of stories. Study questions included at the end of each chapter.

Faith Crossings Bible Series, where life experiences and our faith cross. These studies delve into scripture, applying its meaning to daily life. They can be studied in six 90 min. sessions or in 12 weeks. Extra activities are offered. If you want multiple copies go to Amazon.com.

- ***The Jesus Attitude: Christ's Call to Discipleship*** by LaTaunya Bynum. Christian Board Publishing, 2000. This is a study of the beatitudes and how we can apply them to our daily lives. Some biblical knowledge is required.
- ***Living Water: Water Symbolism in the Bible*** by Larry Paul Jones. Christian Board Publishing, 1999. This study invites us to see water in God's creation and deliverance, as a sign of God's judgment and healing, and as God's gift of baptism and the gift of Jesus.

Four-Dimensional Jesus: Seeing Jesus Through the Eyes of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, by John Timmer. Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2001. This excellent study shows how each gospel uniquely presents Jesus and the events of his life. There are chapters on parables, miracles, the calling of the disciples, the use of apocalyptic language, bringing forth the kingdom, Jesus' birth, death, last supper and resurrection, and more. 13 sessions, separate leader's guide

Glimpses of Glory by Carol M. Bechtel. Westminster John Knox Press, 1998. Gifted author Carol Bechtel invites us into a more intimate relationship with the Bible and the God who is revealed in it. She divides 30 short meditations/stories into three sections: Stories of God's Surprises, Neglected Texts, and Bible Portraits. Some studies are attuned to particular times in the church year. Very reader friendly and easily self-directed

A Hope, Skip, and Jump Through the Bible by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Abingdon Press, 2007. This may be a hop, skip and jump, but is written for participants with some previous biblical knowledge. It would make an excellent supplement to a study of the Bible. Kalas seeks to present the Bible as the continuing story of God's relationship with man. Through descriptions, reflections and content (historical and biblical) of each of the books of the Bible, Kalas also shows how there is an overarching plot that binds all the stories and writings together. Study guide included

Horizons Women's Bible Studies, published by Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church, USA.

- ***Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth*** by Carol M. Bechtel with suggestions for leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker, 2007. This study will challenge you to ask: What am I called to do? Who am I called to be? What am I called to say? 9 sessions
- ***Jubilee: Luke's Gospel for the Poor*** by Dale Lindsay Morgan with suggestions for leaders by Louise Lawson Johnson, 2008. Morgan highlights Jesus' message of jubilee. Learn about the many ways that Christ's jubilee message turned the world upside down, exalting the poor and including outsiders, bringing the love of God to all.

Infuse Adult Bible Study Series, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

This new series helps people (You don't have to be a biblical expert.) discover how the Bible intersects with real life. The studies are inductive, helping people to discover what the Bible is saying by asking questions and seeking answers. Additional insights from maps, timelines, artifacts and other sources help fill in details that connect the particular series study in the context of the larger picture of God's love and care for us. Leader's Notes are available on the Faith Alive website. There are follow-up ideas and at home readings also. Length of studies varies.

- ***Esther: Courage in a complicated world*** by Diane Averill, Diane Dykgraaf, Sam Huizenga, and Paul Faber. 2010. Esther's world is filled with twists and turns, happy and fearful moments, and dangerous and deadly outcomes. What's more, it shows God's deliverance and care for his people then and always. Six lessons
- ***Matthew: One king to rule them all*** by Marilyn A. McGinnis and Faith Alive Staff. 2010. Matthew introduces us to Jesus Christ from a unique point of view. What was the life of Jesus like? Who was he? Where did he come from? Who opposed him and why? What was his message and purpose for the Jews? For everyone else? While there are eight sessions, each session is divided into two episodes, so a minimum of 12-18 meetings is suggested. The whole book of Matthew is covered.

Journey Through The Word by James E. Davison and Sara Covin Juengst. Westminster John Knox Press, 2003. This insightful study takes eight themes coordinated with periods of biblical history, each building on the other. Chapter themes are creation, covenant, the People of God, sin, righteousness, hope, compassion and discipleship. Detailed lesson plans are multisensory and consider various learning styles. Eight to thirteen weeks, depending on how extensive the use of the lesson plans

The Kerygma Program

Founded in 1977 these quality courses help participants learn the basics and complexities of the Bible, develop skills for interpreting Scripture and apply learning from the Bible to personal and corporate life in today's world. These are intensive studies with homework. Leader and resource (student) books

- ***God Saves a People: Great Themes of the Bible*** by James A Walther, Sr., 2000. This study traces the saving grace of God from the Exodus, the wanderings, and the Kingdom's rise and fall, on to God's new act of salvation through Jesus, into the early church. 7 sessions
- ***The Light Will Shine: A Study for Advent*** by Carol J. Miller, 2001. Discover new light in traditional texts and seasonal themes. Find fresh perspectives on the journey through Advent to Christmas and beyond. 4 or 5 sessions, for lectionary or non-lectionary
- ***Passion, Promise and Praise*** by Donald L. Griggs, 1993. Still an enriching study, it brings forth the richness of the Psalms in terms of spirituality, personal growth, and worship. Griggs's broad and deep exploration of the "Prayer Book of God's People", includes a 49 day guided reading of selected Psalms appropriate for Lent or a special study on spirituality. 7 sessions
- ***Romans*** by Calvin J. Roetzel, 2001. Faith comes to life in this real letter to real people. Called "the most inspirational letter ever written", these words to

the Church in ancient Rome echo still with energy and power. Encounter theology in the making as Paul wrestles with enduring issues: justification and grace, sin and salvation, a vision of unity, and the faithfulness of God.
14 sessions

The Mighty Acts of God Revised Edition by Arnold B Rhodes. Geneva Press, 2000. This is a very detailed biblical and historical resource very helpful to preaching elders in particular. This skillfully crafted text is framed into seven sections: The might acts of creation, , God's covenant of redemption, God's righteous acts of judgment, God's gracious acts of renewal, God's mighty acts in Jesus Christ, God's transforming acts in the church, and God's coming acts of consummation. This can be used as an adult study, as questions are interspersed in the text.

Reading Through The Bible in a Year or Less Studies

The Bible In 90 Days Kit by Ted Cooper Jr. Zondervan, 1996.

If 365 days doesn't appeal to you, and you like DVD's, here is an excellent resource. Read twelve pages a day and accomplish this goal in 14 weeks. Participant's guide has good detail and everyday application. Kit includes three DVD's with leader's guide, one participant's guide, an enhanced CD-ROM with promotional material, listening plan and additional teaching resources, and one ***Bible in 90 Days NIV*** thin-line Bible in large print. Good on-line support. Adult, although the Bible is geared for ages 16 and up.

- ***The Essential Bible Companion*** by John H. Walton, Mark Strauss, Ted J. Cooper

Supplement: This companion to ***90 Days*** is an easy- to- use reference guide. Each book of the Bible is presented with a two page spread-maps, themes, timelines, terms, people.

The Essential 100 Challenge sponsored by Scripture Union.

www.ScriptureUnion.org and www.Essential100Challenge.com

In another variation of a church-wide reading the Bible program, here are 100 carefully selected short Bible passages that help participants get the whole picture of the Bible and not get bogged down. It's organized in 20 sets of five 1-2 chapter readings, easily read in 10 minutes or less. There are options to customize, use seasonally, or in 365 days. Sermon outlines are included on a CD. The kit includes promotional pieces, leader's guide, CD, discussion questions, individual reading plan, and scripture passage pamphlet. Great online support High School-Adult

- ***The Essential Bible Guide*** by Whitney T. Kuniholm. Waterbrook Press, 2003. This supplement guide follows each of the 100 passages and encourages the reader to pray, reflect on the passage and how it can be applied to his/her life, and ends in a prayer.

The Grand Sweep: 365 Days From Genesis Through Revelation by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Abingdon Press, 1997. This is the most complete set of detailed resources. The participant daily response book is a must. It gives a good overview of the scripture and the response time relates scripture to what this means for us today. Leader's guide and sermon suggestions for 52 weeks included

Meet the Bible by Philip Yancey and Brenda Quinn. Zondervan, 2000. More for individual use, this daily, one year devotional includes daily scripture, contemporary commentary, and questions for contemplation. The resource is designed to offer insight into how the passage fits into the overall story of the Bible, and how it speaks to life today. Would need a skilled leader to do group study.