

Resources worth exploring... (as of May 10, 2019)

An important note about using the resources:

These resources are available for all Life-Groups across St. George's. They are held in the office and need to be signed out either through Stan Thorburn, Kate Berkley, or Gareth Walters. It is the responsibility of the Life Group leaders to make sure that the resources are returned to the office after use. Please return them promptly after using them, as there will be other groups who may wish to use them. If you would like to book a resource then please contact any of the above, and they will enter it into our booking system. Please note, it is important not to lend these resources out to individuals as they can get lost and the process of getting them back can be protracted.

Many thanks,

Rev Gareth Walters

1. The Alpha Course:

This is an on-line or digital version of the critically-acclaimed Alpha Course.

- Recently updated, "**The Alpha Film Series**", '...is emotive, engaging and epic in scale and scope.' Nicky Gumbel and two new presenters, Toby Flint and Gemma Hunt, walk through the basics of the Christian faith in a way that everyone can relate to. **The eleven-week series (fifteen episodes) of talks about 20-30mins in length**, feature inspiring stories and interviews from all around the world, as well as visual illustrations and motion graphics. It is especially helpful for people who are investigating, returning to or seeking to refresh their faith.
- On the website you can find **both English and Mandarin versions** of 'The Alpha Course'.
- **You can also find a version of 'The Alpha Course' with Nicky Gumbel** (filmed at Holy Trinity Brompton, in its original format) and a **Youth Alpha Course** (updated). Note: We also have a copy of this older version available as a DVD series, in our Life Groups Library.
- These resources can be accessed by setting up a simple account, by going to **alpha.org/run**
- This website will take you to all the resources you need in order to run an Alpha Course in your own home/life-group.
- Note: There is an '**Alpha Prayer Course**' - a free -online, video course of four sessions. www.prayercourse.org; plus a discussion guide



2. Jesus – The Game Changer: By Olive Tree Media

This is a **DVD or on-line film series** put together by Australian broadcaster and Christian Karl Faase. This **ten-week series** explores the seismic contribution that Jesus Christ has made to some of the most important aspects of world history, culture and progress. Starting with an exploration of who this Jesus is (Session 1), Karl Faase interviews renowned Christian scholars, leaders and activists on themes as diverse as equality (Session 2), forgiveness (Session 3), democracy (Session 5) and reason and science (session 10). This series is a must for those wishing to explain to others the contribution of Christianity throughout history and why we follow Jesus. The film sessions run for 30 minutes and are accompanied by questions you can access via an app for free called 'Jesus the Game-Changer'.

- **You can access the film series by simply borrowing a copy from St. George's (see Lynette Eaton) or logging into the website: olivetreemedia.co.au**
- **Log-in is: garethw@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz and then enter the password: *gratitude***

This allows you to download the film series.

3. Towards Belief: By Olive Tree Media (201

Like, 'Jesus - the Game-Changer', this film series follows the same format. Divided up into a ten-week series, Karl Faase interviews Christian thinkers, practitioners and activists on a range of topics that are a block to many people, seriously engaging with belief in a Christian idea of God. "Towards Belief" explores significant themes such as suffering (Session 1), the Bible (session 2) supernatural (Session 3), and church abuse (session 6). The film sessions run for 30 minutes. Note: there is a session on the theme of 'homosexuality' in this

resource that may or may not be appropriate to screen to your group. Please preview and use at your discretion.

- **Log-in is: garethw@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz and then enter the password: *gratitude***

4. The Life You've Always Wanted: (DVD Series) John Ortberg (Two copies)

This is a **six-week DVD series** that each week, explores a core aspects of Christian Spirituality and Formation. Each episode includes John Ortberg's teaching material - based on his best-selling book "*The Life You've Always Wanted*". There is a participator's guide where notes can be made, and discussion questions that help explore this vital topic of spiritual formation. The resource includes a leader's guide.

- It's 'Morphing' Time – The Hope of Being Changed/Training vs. Trying
- Slowing Down and Celebrating
- Praying and Confessing
- Meditating on Scripture and Seeking Guidance
- Practicing Servanthood, Finding Freedom
- Going the Distance with a Well-Ordered Heart

5. What's So Amazing About Grace? Philip Yancey

This is a **ten-week DVD series** that is based on Philip Yancey's breakthrough book, 'What's So Amazing About Grace?' Philip Yancey, himself leads through each week's session, providing insights from his book. There is a participator's guide with Bible study material and questions for discussion, and questions for personal reflection. This is an excellent resource in helping people discover again the wonder of grace. Sessions include:

- Session 2: 'Letting God's Grace Soak In': God's Love for the Undeserving
- Session 3: 'An Unnatural Act': Extending Grace When You've Been Wronged
- Session 4: 'The Art of Forgiving': Responding with Grace When It Seems Impossible
- Session 9: 'Dispensing Grace': How Can We Do It?

6. Emotionally-Healthy Spirituality – An eight-week DVD series that serves as a companion to the book 'Emotional Healthy Spirituality'.

There is a DVD for this course.

7. 'Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God' (Six-part DVD series) – Dallas Willard, Richard Foster and John Ortberg

During a Renovare Institute in Colorado, Richard Foster and John Ortberg joined Dallas Willard in an event designed to introduce the core theme of *Hearing God*. On this DVD are six thirty-minute sessions that explore six key themes:

- You were created for Intimate Friendship with God
- What Hearing God, is Not

- Trinitarian Fellowship
- The Still Small Voice
- Hearing God in the Context of the Kingdom of God
- Hearing God as Life.

Availability: Currently with the Cooper's Life-Group as of May 1, 2019

8. Carey Baptist Resources (DVDs)

Over the last ten years, Carey Baptist College, Auckland has recorded a number of lectures, sermons and talks and made them available as a Life Group resource. We are fortunate to have a selection of these DVDs. These resources come with leaders' guides, and discussion questions.

- **'After One Eight: Mission Then and Now'**: seven short messages bringing the early church and the Book of Acts into a 21st century context – ideal as a small group resource to initiate discussion about mission today.
- **'The Spirit Then and Now'**:
- **'Compassionate Community Work:'** Dave Andrews
- **'Gospel Then and Now'**
- **'Mission Then and Now'**
- **'Church Then and Now'** – Aiming at the ideal amidst the challenges of the real. Ideal as a small group resource to initiate discussion about church today.
- **'Leadership Then and Now'**: injecting fresh biblical voices into a wider conversation
- **'Sermon on the Mount'**

10. Jesus – the Wounded Healer – (DVD) Mick Brooks

Jesus is a wound-healer – His ability to heal our wounds flows from the fact that He Himself experienced our wounds. The God we see in Jesus did not study our sufferings from a distance in a cold and detached way, but wrapped Himself in our flesh and felt what we feel. These **five fifteen-minute talks** will help you see how God can transform our lives.

11. The Nooma DVD Series – by Rob Bell

We can get anything we want, from anywhere in the world, whenever we want it. That's how it is and that's how we want it to be. Still, our lives aren't any different than any other generations before us. We want spiritual direction, but it has to be real for us and available when we need it. The Nooma series offers us a selection of DVD's of about 15 minutes in length that promote discussion. A worthwhile resource to dip into.

- 001 'Rain'
- 002 'Flame' (x2)
- 003 'Trees' (x2)
- 004 'Sunday'
- 005 'Noise'

- 007 'Luggage'
- 008 'Dust'
- 009 'Bullhorn' (x2)
- 012 'Matthew'
- 015 'You'

12. The Regent College DVD Lecture Series:

Please note, these are lectures filmed at Regent's College. While the DVD and presentation are in some way dated, the ideas they explore are worthwhile.

- **Kingdom, Spirit and the People of God - Dr. Tom Wright**
- **Jesus and the Victory of God - Dr. Tom Wright**
- **The Holy Spirit in Pauline Literature - Gordon Fee**
- **The Theology of Renewal - Dr J. I. Packer**
- **Rattling the Cages: Evangelicalism Confronts Contemporary Culture - Dr. Alister McGrath**

13. 'The Rich Living Series': A Rocha Bible Study Series

These New Zealand-developed Life Group Study resources are a breath of fresh air. Pitched to a New Zealand audience, they help the church think through our approach to God's Creation and the environment. "The existing Western lifestyle is unsustainable - our consumption habits impact on the wellbeing of our human and non-human neighbours." These booklets on 'Water', 'Climate Change' and 'Food' are designed to assist communities to help make sustainability integral to their lives of faith.

We have bought eight copies of each, to provide a group set to lend to your Life Group to study:

- **'Water' - eight copies**
- **'Climate Change' - eight copies**
- **'Food' - eight copies**

14. King David in 2 Samuel (DVD Series): Biblical studies in power and love, friendship and betrayal for 21st century disciples - featuring Dr. Rod Thompson

This is a must-have Bible study resource made-up of **six twenty-minute talks** by Dr. Rod Thompson. Exploring how the life of King David can help inform the way we live in our 21st century world of families, schools, workplaces and communities. This series comes with a study-guide to make the most out of the series.

15. The Bible and the Christian Life - (DVD) Series - John Stott

Six Sessions on the Authority, Interpretation and Use of Scripture.

- The Authority of the Bible
- The Nature of the Bible
- The Interpretation of the Bible
- The Problem of Culture
- Developing a Christian Mind
- Making an Impact on Society

16. Surprised by Hope – Rethinking Heaven, Resurrection and the Mission of the Church (Six-part DVD Series)

Christians normally think of the future in terms of ‘heaven’, but the promised reality is far greater: a new heaven and a new earth, a whole new creation, that once grasped will transform your understanding of life in the present. Including a leader’s guide and participant’s guide, this six part series of 20-minutes each, will be a helpful resource post-Easter.

- Session 1: Hope for the World
- Session 2: The Hope of Resurrection
- Session 3: The Hope of Heaven
- Session 4: The Hope of Jesus’ Second Coming
- Session 5: The Hope of Salvation
- Session 6: The Hope of the Church

17. Life Guide Bible Series:

These are Bible studies that are written as either individual or small group Bible Studies. They offer an opening discussion, a core Bible reading from the book under discussion, and core questions that mine the context and their application for our lives.

- **‘Psalms: Prayers of the Heart’ – Eugene Peterson (study-guide)**

A twelve-week course, for individuals or groups that helps to explore the full range of our human journey with God, through the Psalms. This study provides a single psalm each week to study and some core questions for discussion.

- **‘Isaiah: Trusting God in Troubled Times’ – Howard Peskett (Trinity College, Bristol) (study guide)**

A twenty-two week course, for individuals or groups that helps to explore the theme of ‘Trusting God in Troubled Times’, through the lens of Isaiah’s difficult experience. Each week, a chapter is provided and helpful discussion notes help unpack not only the passage but provide scope for application in our own lives.

- **‘Daniel – Spiritual Living in a Secular World’ – Douglas Connelly**

A twelve-week Bible study that takes your group through the chapters of Daniel. This is particularly helpful for people who, at times themselves feel as if they are in ‘exile’. Each week examines a different chapter and dwells on the lessons Daniel offers us, as we engage with culture.

‘Prayer: An Adventure with God’ – David Healey (study guide)

This twelve-week Bible study series, explores the full-width of prayer. Drawing from Old and New Testament passages of Scripture, each week brings into focus the different experience of biblical figures, ‘in the adventure of prayer with God’.

- **‘Colossians and Philemon’ – Martha Reapsome**

This ten-week study, explores these two important letters from Paul the Apostle. We all long for more – more wisdom, more maturity, more power, more faith. To fill these needs, we attend seminars, go to concerts, hear celebrity speakers and read their latest books. Yet often we come away empty and unfulfilled. Colossians and Philemon were written to such an audience. They explain the vital importance of finding fulfillment in Christ.

- **‘The Cross’ – John Stott (study guide)**

A thirteen-week study guide focused on the centrality of The Cross. World-renowned scholar John Stott looks at the fullness of the Cross and what it means for us the world. It includes an exploration of the different theories of atonement, including ‘ransom’, ‘sacrifice’, and ‘Christus Victor’. Ideal as a Lent series.

- **‘Christ: Basic Christianity’ (study guide)**

Six studies that explore the person and character of Jesus Christ – this man who has altered the face of history like no other. Built on the premise that God is seeking us, John Stott leads us through six sessions that explore, The Claims of Christy, The Character of Christ, The Resurrection of Christ, The Meaning of the Cross, and The Spirit of Christ.

- **‘Christian Community’ – Rob Suggs (study guide)**

A ten-week study, that reminds us that one of the greatest gifts that Christ has given is one another. Through his body, the church, we find our gifts and experience worship, healing and power. This guide explores how we can grow in loving and nurturing one another.

18. Cover-to-Cover Bible Study Series

- **‘Fruit of the Spirit: Growing More Like Jesus’ – Selwyn Hughes**

Seven sessions that explore what the fruits of the Spirit look like in the Scriptures and in our daily lives. Each session offers three Bible passages, a reflection on the passages and some discussion questions. They conclude each session with suggestion for personal application. The sessions cover: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness, faithfulness; humility and self-control.

- **‘The Holy Spirit: Understanding and Experiencing Him’ – S. Hughes**

Seven sessions that will lead to an empowering discovery of how your Christian walk can be transformed by the Holy Spirit – a Divine Person, not simply an influence or power. He is part of the Godhead and we need to understand and

depend on the Spirit just as Jesus did. Here you will find the key steps to take in order to experience more of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

- **'Joseph: The Power of Forgiveness and Reconciliation' – Elizabeth Rundle**

Seven sessions that provide a historic retelling of the story of Joseph, exploring the geography, theology and humanity found in one of the Bible's most popular passages. The studies contains great insights and offers a challenge to every reader - to both identify with the key character, and discover how Jesus embodies all the virtues of Joseph and more.

'The Prodigal Son – Amazing Grace' – Rob Frost

In this seven-part series, Rob Frost takes a fresh look at this well-known parable... Join Rob as he explores the rich and complex subject of grace and understand more of the depths of love in the Father Heart of God.

'James: Faith In Action': Trevor J. Partridge

Seven sessions that explore the Letter of James. This letter to the scattered Church is a practical, 'how to book' on Christian living. It pulls no punches. James confronts, challenges and calls us to be committed to not only hearing the Word, but being doers of the Word also'. James deals with the gap between belief and behavior. This study will challenge you to 'walk the walk not just talk the talk.'

'Meeting God in the Flesh' – 8x discussions for the Curious and the Skeptical by Don Everts

In this **eight-week series** we get the opportunity to explore a chapter from the life of Jesus and the reactions of people who encountered him. Who was this Jesus? Was he God? Come take an honest look at his life, and decide for yourself.