

Small Group & Bible Study Resources and References  
“A Brief Guide to Useful Books & Internet Sites”

This is a selective, non-exhaustive listing of some books, Bible study guides, and internet resources that you may find helpful. Let me straight-forwardly and humbly admit that the selections reflect my personal preferences and limited exposure. In the last decade, there has been a huge multiplication of Bible study guides and resources, many of which are undoubtedly very good. Don't be disappointed if your favorites are not included (no ill-will intended). Maybe they will be in the next update. ☺

Included below are 4 short lists dealing with:

- 1) General Books on Small Group Leadership
- 2) Reference Books for personal Bible study and preparation
- 3) Selected Bible Study Guides
- 4) Other valuable Internet resources

Key internet websites for reviewing or purchasing resources.

InterVarsity Press: [www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com)

NavPress: [www.navpress.com](http://www.navpress.com)

Zondervan: [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com)

Faith Alive: [www.faithaliveresources.org](http://www.faithaliveresources.org)

Willow Creek: [www.willowcreek.com](http://www.willowcreek.com)

Precept Ministries: [www.precept.org](http://www.precept.org)

Christian Book Distributors (CBD): [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com)

- 1) General Books about Small Groups & Small Group Leadership:

[Small Group Leaders' Handbook \(IVP\)](#). This guide contains everything you need to know about small groups: foundation, key components, prayer and worship, evangelism, leadership, and more!

[The Willow Creek Guide to Leading Life-Changing Small Groups \(Zondervan\)](#). Bill Donahue provides a comprehensive reference to help leaders and managers look at group formation, leadership requirements and training, and discipleship within groups.

[The Big Book on Small Groups \(IVP\)](#). Jeffrey Arnold discusses the basic components and dynamics of small groups and describes how to develop relationships within the group, how to train group leaders, and much more.

[How to Lead Small Groups \(NavPress\)](#). Neal McBride provides a valuable primer about how to be an effective small group leader of a more successful small group.

[Biblical Foundations for Small Group Ministry \(IVP\)](#). Drawing on biblical teaching and the ministry of the early church, Gareth Icenogle offers guidance for setting up and running a biblically based small group ministry program. (Pretty intense and somewhat academic.)

[Turning Committees into Communities \(NavPress\)](#). Roberta Hestenes clarifies that caring isn't optional, even in task groups. Find out how to get things done and have a heart for each other, too.

[How to Ask Great Questions \(NavPress\)](#). Karen Lee-Thorp helps you design and ask questions to prompt good thinking and life application.

[Building a Church of Small Groups \(Zondervan\)](#). Bill Donahue and Russ Robinson provide leaders with the vision, values, and steps necessary to begin building a church where small groups are integrated throughout a church's entire ministry.

[The Connecting Church \(Zondervan\)](#). Randy Frazee challenges us to reclaim the kind of love, support, and spiritual growth that first century Christians experienced! He explores 3 elements of authentic community and explains how to put into practice the principles that undergird intimate relationships. See also: [The Connecting Church 2.0](#).

## 2) Reference Books for personal Bible study and preparation

### a) Bible Dictionaries:

[New Bible Dictionary \(3<sup>rd</sup> Edition\), IVP](#)  
[The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, Moody](#)  
[Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Nelson](#)

### b) Bible Commentaries:

[New Bible Commentary \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\), IVP](#)  
[The New International Bible Commentary, Hendrickson](#)  
[The New International Commentary Series, Eerdmans](#)  
[Tyndale New Testament Commentary series, Eerdmans](#)  
[New Illustrated Bible Commentary, Nelson](#)

### c) Bible Atlases:

[New Bible Atlas, IVP](#)  
[Bible Maps & Charts, Nelson](#)  
[Oxford Bible Atlas \(3<sup>rd</sup> edition\), Oxford](#)

### d) Others:

[Thompson Chain Reference Bible](#)  
[Nave's Topical Bible, Hendrickson](#)  
[The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance \(Nelson\)](#)

## 3) Selected Bible Study Guides

Listed below are just a few of the good Bible study guide series that are available. Please remember:

- This is not an exhaustive list—you may know of other excellent series.
- These are series of studies, rather than individual study guides. Within a series, some study guides may be better than others.
- A good guide helps you study the Scripture, provides study and leaders notes, and offers questions that help you study and apply the text.
- Rely on your personal study and the Holy Spirit's leading—not just the study guide!
- And if you are leading a group study, never just read the questions. Reframe the questions (and be selective) so that you are comfortable asking the questions. Make the questions your own!

Oasis study guides, specially prepared for GC's LIFE Communities: [www.grace.org/studyguide](http://www.grace.org/studyguide)

LifeGuide® Bible Studies, IVP

Interactions Series (Willow Creek), Zondervan

Fruit of the Spirit Bible Study Series, Zondervan

Pursuing Spiritual Transformation (Willow Creek), Zondervan

New Community (Willow Creek), Zondervan  
Discover Your Bible, Faith Alive  
Home Builders Couples Series®, Faith Alive  
John Stott Bible Studies, IVP

For Women especially:

Women of Character Bible Study Series, IVP  
Women of the Bible Study Series, Zondervan  
Women of Faith Bible Study Series, Zondervan

For Men especially:

Discover Life Bible Studies, Faith Alive  
Man in the Mirror (see [www.maninthemirror.org](http://www.maninthemirror.org))

4) Other valuable Internet resources:

Many of the publishers listed on page one have terrific small group resources and internet links to networks and assistance. For instance, [www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com) is a gold mine.

- Bible Gateway: [www.biblegateway.org](http://www.biblegateway.org) – View any passage from the Bible, numerous translations
- Christian Website: [www.christianwebsite.com](http://www.christianwebsite.com)
- Bible Study Tools on crosswalk.com: [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com)
- Biblical Studies Foundation: [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org)
- Christian Research Inst: [www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org) – Has searchable database for articles on a variety of issues
- Christian Answers: [www.christiananswers.net](http://www.christiananswers.net) – Wide-ranging Christian site, covering contemporary issues, movie reviews, apologetics, cults, political issues, a lot here
- The Evidence Bible: [www.evidencebible.com](http://www.evidencebible.com) – Online Bible with notes that help with witnessing. There are lots of online Bibles, but this one also has useful notes aimed towards evangelism.
- Minuteman Library Network: [library.minlib.net/search](http://library.minlib.net/search) – Our local library system has a vast number of books and electronic resources to help the researcher. Many Christian books are available through the library system.