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Take Hold of God's Vision for Your Life. A Life that is GREATER. This companion guide to Steven Furtick's life-changing Greater DVD will help you take the next step—and the ones after that—to follow Jesus's call to do even greater things than He did (John 14:12). Drawn from the powerful book Greater—and designed to be used with the Greater DVD—this user-friendly resource shows you how to apply four “greater”-releasing principles from the prophet Elisha's life: · Burn the Plows: Make a decisive

break with your old life. · Digging Ditches: Start small and make practical preparations. · Upon Further Review: Live with the knowledge that faith is never wasted. · Strike the Water: Step out to live the greater life God promises. Each chapter includes a study plan that corresponds with the DVD, discussion questions, space for individual reflection, a Bible study, and suggestions for group leaders. Created to ignite your passion and move you forward, the Greater DVD Participant's Guide will inspire you to reach for the greater life—and show you how to get there. DVD not included. This Covenant experience will guide participants in a comprehensive, in-depth study of the Bible over twenty-four weeks. Unlike the learning participants may have experienced in other groups, this in-depth study of the whole Bible emphasizes the biblical concept of covenant as a unifying pattern through all the books in the Old and New Testaments. It underscores the unique relationship that God chooses to have with us as God's people. This relationship is grounded in the faithfulness of God's love and on our ongoing commitment to stay in love with God while we share signs of that love with others. Each episode connects to an aspect of this covenant relationship, which is summarized in the heading of each participant guide. COVENANT TRANSLATES INTO ACTIONS—into how we behave in our everyday lives. That's why the second module, Living the Covenant, focuses on how the community lives out their covenant in faithful love—how

it's applied to actual relationships in daily life. The books included in these eight episodes examine the practical challenges of faithful covenant life. We explore leadership problems among tribal chieftains, kings and prophets, and spiritual and political crises. They look for practical wisdom and guidance in the teachings of Israel's sages, the letters of Paul, and more. And by demonstrating how people of vastly different cultures came together in a common purpose, they show how faithful love is the root of the covenant life. Each participant in the group needs the Participant Guides and a Bible. The CEB Study Bible is preferred. The Living Participant Guide is 8 weeks long, and has a lay flat binding making it easy to take notes in the generous space provided on each page. The Living Participant Guide contains the following episodes: Episode 9: Ruth, Esther, Song of Songs Ruth, Esther, and Song of Songs are a part of the "Festival Scroll" and linked to sacred celebrations in Israel's life. In the story of Ruth, both Ruth and Boaz risk caring beyond conventional expectations, displaying faithful, expansive love with consequences for Israel's royal future. Esther risks everything to identify with her people and rescue them from a genocidal plot. Song of Songs displays the power and passion of a "crazy love" that also helps us understand God's love. Episode 10: Luke and Acts Luke and Acts offer a vision of who God is and what salvation means. For the writer of Luke, Jesus is a prophet who reveals God's heart and intention to remake human beings

and the broader world through a new community gathered in Jesus' name: the church. Living out Jesus' prophetic role in the power of the Holy Spirit, the church continues God's call to changed hearts and lives. Through Jesus and the church, God's Spirit calls people to belong, serve, and love by welcoming those considered outsiders by the world.

Episode 11: 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings In these books the prophets serve as truth-tellers to Israel's kings. They stress that relationship rather than power is central to choosing what's best for the people God loves. Kings are at their best when they are moved by compassion that trumps every preoccupation with power. Idolatry splits our attention and distorts our priorities, distracting us from the main thing: God alone is worthy of absolute loyalty and trust.

Episode 12: 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus 1 and 2 Thessalonians are written to a community Paul loves—a community suffering and anxious about Jesus' return. 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus (pastoral letters) are written to Paul's younger partners in ministry. While 1 Timothy is intimate, 2 Timothy reads like a last will and testament for Paul.

Episode 13: Wisdom—Proverbs and Ecclesiastes Wisdom literature begins and ends with what is good for human beings in life. Starting with everyday insights gathered across time by courts scribes, these sayings are short and easy to remember. The wise person is one who understands these teachings and can apply them appropriately in real-life situations. Life is fragile and short, so wise people will

enjoy family, friends, and the simple things in life.

Episode 14: Philemon, Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians
From a place where hope goes to die, an imprisoned Paul says that God is able to restore hope and encourages reconciliation between Philemon (home church leader) and his runaway slave (Onesimus). To the Philippians Paul passes on an early hymn that speaks of Jesus as the self-emptying, suffering servant exalted by God. Paul is a pastoral thinker and his words about slaves and masters must be understood in the context of Jesus' expected return. Episode 15: James, Jude, 1 and 2 Peter These letters are written to churches suffering harassment and struggling to keep the faith when Jesus' promised return hasn't occurred. They are written in the voice of those closest to Jesus and speak to new circumstances and situations. Concerned about real-life issues like gossip and favoritism toward the rich, James is a practical book stressing who God is and what you should do about it. Peter writes to guide the church in a negotiated faithfulness that requires discernment. Episode 16: Prophets—Isaiah 1-39 and the Book of the Twelve The prophets express the feelings of God: God's deep love for Israel and all of humanity, but also God's deep pain, disappointment, and anger when the people fail to be a loving community of neighbors. They also communicate God's yearning to call the people back to taking care of each other, especially those they are most likely to exclude (widows, orphans, strangers/immigrants). For

prophets like Hosea, God has a parent's heart and refuses to give up on a faithless people. More Questions? Visit <http://covenantbiblestudy.com/> for more information. To understand the Bible, says author and pastor Randy Frazee, you need bifocal lenses, because two perspectives are involved. The Lower Story, our story, is actually many stories of men and women interacting with God in the daily course of life. The Upper Story is God's story, the tale of his great, overarching purpose that fits all the individual stories together like panels in one unified mural. In 31 video sessions, The Story video curriculum will open your eyes to God's master-plan unfolding in the lives of the Bible's characters-and in your own life. Discover the heart of God's Upper Story, and the joy that comes as you align your story with God's. The Story DVD and Participant's Guide (sold separately) are designed for use by groups of all sizes, including small groups and Sunday school and adult education classes, for each of the 31 weeks of The Story church-wide journey. Bold prayers honor God and God honors bold prayers. Do you ever sense that there's far more to prayer than what you're experiencing? This four-session video-based Bible study (DVD/digital video sold separately) is for believers who love God with a passion, but have slipped into a spiritual rut. It's time to enter a whole new level of extreme faith...it's time to become a circle maker! Through the story of Honi the Circle Maker—a man bold enough to draw a circle in the sand and not budge from it

until God answered his prayer for his people—bestselling author and pastor Mark Batterson will help you see that who you become is determined by how you pray.

Throughout this guide, Batterson: Clearly and practically lays out what prayer looks like and how it shapes and changes us. Shows you the powerful results and modern-day miracles that come from a courageous prayer life. Helps you, your group, and your entire church begin to identify dreams and future miracles to draw prayer circles around. This Participant Guide provides individual and group activities, between session personal studies, and additional background material that will enhance the experience of the video on The Circle Maker DVD (sold separately). Sessions include: 1. Becoming a Circle Maker 2. Little People, Big Risks, and Huge Circles 3. Praying Hard and Praying Through 4. Praying is Like Planting

Designed for use with The Circle Maker Video Study (sold separately). The Miracle Moment Participant's Guide is a six-session workbook designed for use with the companion DVD experience (sold separately). Based on the new book The Miracle Moment by popular speaker Nicole Unice, this is a great resource for anyone wanting to transform their relationships at home, in love, or at work! Designed for group or individual use, The Miracle Moment Participant's Guide is a six-week journey in discovering the practical tools to Learn to respect and respond to your emotions without letting them control you Speak words that help—rather than hurt—the likelihood

of your getting what you need Identify and keep yourself safe from toxic people Become comfortable setting and holding boundaries Be your best self even when you're tempted to shut up, blow up, or give up (Don't miss the companion Miracle Moment DVD Experience!) Celebrate Recovery introduces The Journey Continues—four new participant's guides designed as a revolutionary, new second step study curriculum. This step study is taken after completing The Journey Begins (Participant Guides 1-4). In the seven lessons in Guide 8: Living Out the Message of Christ, you will experience Christ-centered and biblically based studies filled with brand new acrostics, deeper questions, and more helpful Bible verses. The content in Guide 8 will focus on a deeper study of the final two principles on the road to recovery: Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination. Bible reading and prayer in order to know God and his will for my life and to gain the power to follow his will. Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words. "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew 5:10). By working through the lessons and exercises found in each of the four participant's guides of The Journey Continues, you will find a deeper sense of true peace and serenity, continue to restore and develop stronger relationships with others and with God, and find deeper freedom from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits. Are You Ready For True And Lasting Freedom?

The Freedom In Christ Course is designed to help every Christian become a fruitful disciple and make their life count. It has been an effective resource for Christians of all backgrounds, from those who have been believers for many years to those who are brand-new followers of Jesus. Over 350,000 people have gone through the curriculum in English, and it has been translated into over 25 languages. Some of the areas covered in the course include: · how we became brand-new people from the inside out when we became Christians · why we can go boldly into God's presence any time we like without fear · how nothing we do can make God love us any more or any less · how to resolve the effects of even the deepest issues from the past · how to deal with repeating patterns of sin · understanding what God's purpose for your life is (it may not be what you think!) This Participant's Guide is designed to accompany you through the course. You may also wish to download the Freedom In Christ app that will accompany you on your journey. Dr. Neil T. Anderson is the founder and president emeritus of Freedom In Christ Ministries. Dr. Anderson and his wife live in Franklin, Tennessee. For more information see www.ficm.org or www.ficminternational.org. Steve Goss is international director of Freedom in Christ Ministries. Under his leadership the ministry has gone from operating in 7 countries to operating in nearly 40 countries. He lives in Berkshire, England, with his wife, Zoe, and two daughters. This is a compassion and discipleship program

that encourages and guides us on our individual journey of change, our letting go of chains that bind, those habits, hurts and shortcomings that hold us back from experiencing true freedom and joy in Christ Jesus. Many of us are wounded people who need healing from anger, resentment, unforgiveness, unresolved grief, shame, guilt or sadness. In this 13-week program we are guided and enabled using God's Word, prayer, weekly lessons, gender-specific small group discussions and the work of the Holy Spirit in "Putting off the old self and putting on the new" (Ephesians 4:22-24 paraphrased). This Participant's Guide is a companion to the PATHWAY OF FREEDOM LEADER'S GUIDE that is used in directing the program. Our culture is in transition. Some say it is moving from a modern to a postmodern paradigm. And this emerging culture won't just blow over. In order to be effective witnesses and leaders, we need to understand this cultural paradigm shift and proactively plan how we will respond. This guide is designed by Jimmy Long to help you to explore, analyze and define what is occurring all around us. But more than that, it will help you shape your ministry for the rest of the twenty-first century. The participant's guide includes an introduction to the Emerging Culture curriculum Scripture passages with study helps interactive exercises questions to enhance discussion guidance for responding to postmodern people Here is everything you need for you to understand our new cultural environment and to move ahead powerfully

in ministry. Join bestselling author Lysa TerKuerst for *Becoming More Than A Good Bible Study Girl*, a six-session small group Bible study that helps you figure out how to trade in going through the motions for the spiritual healthy and vibrant life for which you long. “I really want to know God, personally and intimately.” Do those words resonate with you? You’re tired of just going through the motions of being a Christian: Go to church. Pray. Be nice. That spiritual to-do list just doesn’t cut it. But what does? How do you step out of the drudger of religious duty to experience a living, moment-by-moment, deeply intimate relationship with God? Join Lysa in six small group sessions (DVD/digital video sold separately) that will teach you how to: Build personal, two-way conversations with God. Study the Bible and experience life change for yourself. Cultivate great authenticity and depth in your relationships. Make disappointments work for you, not against you. Find incredible joy as you live out your faith in everyday circumstances. This Participant Guide is filled with helpful discussion starters, video overviews, space for writing thoughts, a helpful Leader’s Guide and much more. Sessions include: In My Heart In My Walk with God In My Relationships In My Struggles In My Thoughts In My Calling Designed for use with *Becoming More Than A Good Bible Study Girl Video Study* 9780310877714 (sold separately). Experience the essential truth of the Christian faith as Max Lucado unpacks one of the most beloved scriptures in the entire

Bible—John 3:16. Best-selling author Max Lucado leads readers through a word-by-word study of John 3:16, the passage that he calls the "Hope Diamond" of Scripture. Now available in a smaller, more affordable format, the study includes 12 lessons that are designed to work with both the trade book and the DVD for a multi-media experience. Features include: Scripture-focused lessons Interactive questions for reflection and meditation 12 weeks of study Leader's Guide for shepherding small groups (for download online) Designed for use with the 3:16 DVD-Based Small Group Study (ISBN 9781418548940). Lets make certain grace gets you. This Covenant experience will guide participants in a comprehensive, in-depth study of the Bible over twenty-four weeks. Unlike the learning participants may have experienced in other groups, this in-depth study of the whole Bible emphasizes the biblical concept of covenant as a unifying pattern through all the books in the Old and New Testaments. It underscores the unique relationship that God chooses to have with us as God's people. This relationship is grounded in the faithfulness of God's love and on our ongoing commitment to stay in love with God while we share signs of that love with others. Each episode connects to an aspect of this covenant relationship, which is summarized in the heading of each participant guide. LIFE, AS WE ALL KNOW TOO WELL, IS IMPERFECT. Difficulties are inevitable. That's why the final eight-weeks, Trusting the Covenant,

looks at the crises that sometimes call covenant life into question, and how we are restored to trust in God when troubling things happen. This module discusses the loss of hope, and how it is restored by faithfulness in the midst of suffering. From the story of Job, to the Hebrew exile, to the apocalyptic visions in Daniel and Revelation, we learn how faithful love is at work in everything—to restore hope, freedom, and wholeness to our lives. Each participant in the group needs the Participant Guides and a Bible. The CEB Study Bible is preferred. The Trusting Participant Guide is 8 weeks long, and has a lay flat binding making it easy to take notes in the generous space provided on each page. The Trusting Participant Guide contains the following episodes: Episode 17: John; 1, 2, and 3 John For John the God we meet in Jesus is the one who keeps coming into the world, going out of the way to be in relationship with us. Jesus meets his followers in whatever ways they need with new and abundant life. Jesus draws people back into community and promises the Holy Spirit to those who follow him. Episode 18: Psalms Psalms are songs, poems, and prayers to and about God. There is diversity of authorship across the Psalms. Three major types of psalms are laments, thanksgiving psalms, and psalms of praise. The psalms are user-friendly and give voice to our conflicts, confessions, and cries for God’s rescuing help. The Psalms teach us how to pray and that God’s primary character trait is faithful love. Episode 19: Job Like the Bible as a whole, the book

of Job offers a number of voices or perspectives. Job stages difficult human questions such as, “Why do human beings worship God?” or “Why do people suffer?” and even, “what is God’s role in suffering?” The book of Job also asks, “Does good behavior bring blessing?” and “Does bad behavior bring curse and suffering?” Episode 20: Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel Jeremiah, Lamentations, and Ezekiel offer three different perspectives on the same catastrophic event: the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 587 CE and the exile of God’s people to a foreign land. These books affirm the power of lingering with sorrow so we can hear the voices of those who are suffering. Any hope found in these books remains in the promise that God will bring life to dry bones or write a new covenant on hearts in a blessed but distant future. Episode 21: Isaiah 40-66 The story of how Israel gained and lost the land becomes a treasure that they carry with them into exile. The poetry in these passages is written to inspire and invite God’s homesick people in Babylon to become pioneers and return home to Israel. The God of Israel is no regional deity but is the one and only God of all, everywhere and all the time. Through fire and water, chaos and captivity, the people called by God and redeemed by God also belong to God. Episode 22: 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah The people returning home from exile in successive waves must rebuild their whole way of life. Ezra and Nehemiah look at the practical need for city

walls and a center for worship. The Chronicler stresses the importance of “re-remembering” our story in the right way in order to understand who we are in this new life. The practices that sustained the people in exile will define a people who weren’t old enough to remember life before exile.

Episode 23: Apocalyptic—Daniel Apocalyptic literature is not primarily about future events. It looks at traumatic events in the present and finds a divine plan at work. By using vivid symbols and imagery, the court tales and visions of Daniel stress that God ultimately controls human events. The identity of faithful people is defined by living faithfully according to the covenant teachings in a context where those values are under threat. Faith has its price, but our hope in God empowers us to never give up.

Episode 24: Revelation Revelation is a book written for poor people struggling under great duress. It uses vivid, terrifying images to express God’s unswerving faithfulness and the faithfulness of those who stand firm in the face of dehumanizing forces in the world. The symbol of hope in Revelation is the new creation and loyal love between God and the faithful. This symbol provides comfort, courage, and assurance that the one who made a covenant with all things at the very beginning will be with us at the end of all things. More Questions? Visit <http://covenantbiblestudy.com/> for more information. This problem-solving mediation training guide provides a comprehensive step-by-step walk through mediation using Christopher Moore's problem-

solving model. Included in the manual is a case study, a role play, and activities. Whether you're a new or seasoned group leader, or whether your group is well-established or just getting started, this four-session video-based Bible study (DVD/digital video sold separately) will lead you and your group together to a remarkable new closeness and effectiveness. Designed to foster healthy group interaction and facilitate maximum growth, this innovative approach equips both group leaders and members with essential skills and values for creating and sustaining truly life-changing small groups. Designed for use with the Making Your Small Group Work Video Study (sold separately). H2O is a DVD-driven, 10-week experience designed to create a safe atmosphere where people are comfortable considering the person of Jesus Christ. This companion guide follows each lesson carefully and uses engaging storytelling and thought-provoking questions to reach a media-savvy generation. DVDs (978-1-4185-3391-5) and a full church-oriented program (978-1-4185-3393-9) sold separately. Discover the key steps to building a healthy family with stepfamily expert Ron L. Deal. Now revised and updated, this interactive workbook is guaranteed to help you benefit from The Smart Stepfamily book and DVD. It includes:

- Discussion questions for before and after each DVD session
- Bonus question-and-answer section
- Group leader instructions
- Guidelines for facilitating effective groups

Through eight engaging sessions, you'll learn

useable solutions for everyday living and glean valuable insight and practical tips for becoming a smart stepfamily. Take Hold of God's Vision for Your Life. A Life that is GREATER. This companion guide to Steven Furtick's life-changing Greater DVD will help you take the next step—and the ones after that—to follow Jesus's call to do even greater things than He did (John 14:12). Drawn from the powerful book Greater—and designed to be used with the Greater DVD—this user-friendly resource shows you how to apply four “greater”-releasing principles from the prophet Elisha's life: · Burn the Plows: Make a decisive break with your old life. · Digging Ditches: Start small and make practical preparations. · Upon Further Review: Live with the knowledge that faith is never wasted. · Strike the Water: Step out to live the greater life God promises. Each chapter includes a study plan that corresponds with the DVD, discussion questions, space for individual reflection, a Bible study, and suggestions for group leaders. Created to ignite your passion and move you forward, the Greater DVD Participant's Guide will inspire you to reach for the greater life—and show you how to get there. DVD not included. In the Fathered by God Small Group Video Series, John Eldredge presents the six stages a man goes through as he matures in life and faith, sharing insights and teaching on how each stage can be encouraged and supported by those around him. This companion participant's guide follows the DVD episodes, providing additional information and

discussion questions designed to help your small group grow and bond with each other. Together you will forge companionship with God the Father while undergoing a transformation, releasing the fullness of life and the passion God designed you to live. The Celebrate Recovery Participant's Guides are essential tools for the personal recovery journey. In the seven lessons in Guide 4: Growing in Christ While Helping Others, you will work through the final two principles on the road to recovery. More than just maintenance, these principles will help you prevent relapse and give you the necessary tools to help others in their recovery process. 7 Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination. Bible reading and prayer in order to know God and his will for my life and to gain the power to follow his will. 8 Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words. "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew 5:10). By working through the lessons and exercises found in each of the four Participant's Guides you will begin to experience the true peace and serenity you have been seeking, restore and develop stronger relationships with others and with God, and find freedom from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits. All the scriptures have been updated to the new NIV 2011 version. In this participant's guide, to be used with the "Staying in Love" video, pastor Stanley discusses how to stay in love. (Relationships) In this six-session small group Bible study, pastor and

bestselling author Max Lucado reveals how your life story is part of a grand, overarching narrative, and helps you see between the lines to witness God's hand at work. With contemporary anecdotes and New Testament stories, *God's Story, Your Story* traces your Savior's unchanging, loving pursuit of you through the chaos of life. In *God's Story, Your Story* Max Lucado casts a fresh perspective on how your daily life relates to God's grand, epic story. Your journey of faith will come alive as you explore the divine narrative in New Testament and contemporary characters, and discover how the ancient stories of Scripture reveal God's plans for you today. Join America's favorite Christian author for a personal look at the story of God's eternal redemption being told through your individual story right now. Sessions include: When God's Story Becomes Yours Ordinary Measures You Hear a Voice You Can Trust You Won't Be Forsaken Your Final Chapter Becomes a Preface You Will Finally Graduate Designed for use with the *God's Story, Your Story* DVD 9780310889861 (sold separately). This resource for small groups can help participants experience the Jesus they may never have known. Capture the heart of every group member with this indispensable, interactive book. Make the most of your time together with to-the-point readings, discussion starters, creative activities, and application steps that bring the *Lead Your Family Like Jesus* experience home. Start your session with a "Grand Opening" that builds community and

focuses your group's attention on an aspect of family leadership. A "Watch This!" step follows the DVD segment with questions that get parents thinking and talking—and getting biblical input. "So What?" connects principles to practice, helping teams or individuals come up with action plans for applying the insights at home. "Your Turn" wraps things up with motivation for the week ahead. Blending the hard-won advice of veteran parents Ken Blanchard, Phil Hodges, and Tricia Goyer with your own group's dynamics, the Participant's Guide makes it all personal. It's the perfect complement to the DVD—and the perfect tool for imperfect parents who want to grow. In the six-session small group Bible study, *The Life You've Always Wanted*, John Ortberg guides you and your group through the spiritual disciplines and teaches you how they can transform your spiritual life. What does true spiritual life really look like? And what keeps you from living it? What can you do to pursue it? If you're tired of the status quo—if you suspect there's more to Christianity than what you've experienced—John Ortberg invites you to join him on a road to transformation and spiritual vigor that anyone can take. Cultivate new intimacy and confidence in prayer. Discover the freedom of secrecy. Taste the benefits of slowing life's frenetic pace. Learn how to be guided by the Holy Spirit ... and much more. As in a marathon, the secret lies not in trying hard, but in training consistently. Proven by followers of Jesus over the centuries, the

spiritual disciplines are exercises that strengthen your endurance race on the road to growth. Sessions include: It's Morphing Time 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 Designed for use with The Life You've Always Wanted: A DVD Study 9780310810506 (sold separately).

Celebrate Recovery introduces The Journey Continues—four new participant's guides designed as a revolutionary, new second step study curriculum. This step study is taken after completing The Journey Begins (Participant Guides 1-4). In the five lessons in Guide 6: Asking God to Grow My Character, you will experience Christ-centered and biblically-based studies filled with brand new acrostics, deeper questions, and more helpful Bible verses. The content in Guide 6 will focus on a deeper study of the fourth recovery principle: Openly examine and confess my faults to God, to myself, and to someone I trust. "Happy are the pure in heart" (Matthew 5:8). By working through the lessons and exercises found in each of the four participant's guides of The Journey Continues you will find a deeper sense of true peace and serenity, continue to restore and develop stronger relationships with others and with God, and find deeper freedom from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits. The Struggle Is Real Participant's Guide is a six-session workbook designed for use with The Struggle Is Real

DVD Experience (sold separately), based on the new book by popular speaker and Bible teacher Nicole Unice. A great resource for church groups, Bible studies, and anyone who's ever felt life just shouldn't be this hard. Raise your hand if you've ever had a day where everything that could go wrong does go wrong--you lock your keys in the car while it's running, lose control with your kids, make a mistake at the office that results in hours' more work. And just when you think not one more thing could possibly happen . . . well, fill in the blank. The struggle is real, friends. It may not be major stuff. Lives are not on the line here. But it makes us feel awful . . . and then we feel guilty for stressing when other people have "real" problems that are so much more serious. Yet the fact remains: We live in a world that often feels harder than we think it should be. And so it can be easy to believe the stories we tell ourselves--that we're doing it wrong, that we'll be stuck in this place forever, that God doesn't love us. We struggle practice gratitude, to make godly choices, and to live our daily lives with confidence and contentment. So what can we do? Join Nicole Unice to discover why the struggle is real . . . and what to do about it. In *The Struggle Is Real Participant's Guide* Nicole offers practical tools to help you navigate the daily ups and downs, and ways to rewrite your struggle into a new, God-centered life story. Includes access to free online video streaming for 90 days. *Practical Solutions to the Issues Stepfamilies Face* *The Smart Stepfamily*

Participant's Guide provides discussion questions to use before and after watching the DVD, space to take notes, and bonus reading material. Includes leader instructions and guidelines for facilitating effective groups. A seven-session study guide that corresponds to the Reimagining Evangelism DVD. A comprehensive program designed to help participants discover their God-given spiritual gifts, personal style, and ministry passions, and to provide participants with connections to specific ministry opportunities where meaningful service can take place. In this six-session study, award-winning author Philip Yancey probes the very heartbeat—the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing, and deeply rewarding aspect—of our relationship with God: prayer. What is prayer? How does it work? And more importantly, does it work? In theory, prayer is the essential human act, a priceless point of contact between us and the God of the universe. In practice, prayer is often frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery. *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* is an exploration of the mysterious intersection where God and humans meet and relate. Designed for use with the video. This Covenant experience will guide participants in a comprehensive, in-depth study of the Bible over twenty-four weeks. Unlike the learning participants may have experienced in other groups, this in-depth study of the whole Bible emphasizes the biblical concept of covenant as a unifying pattern through all the books in the Old and New Testaments. It underscores the unique relationship

that God chooses to have with us as God's people. This relationship is grounded in the faithfulness of God's love and on our ongoing commitment to stay in love with God while we share signs of that love with others. Each episode connects to an aspect of this covenant relationship, which is summarized in the heading of each participant guide. **GOD ESTABLISHES THE COVENANT** to be in relationship with us. So the first eight weeks, *Creating the Covenant*, examines how the covenant community is created and established—highlighting several examples throughout scripture. It discusses the story of our origins in Genesis, the Exodus narrative, the teachings of Moses, the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, as well as other books from each Testament that focus on the foundation of Christian faith. In doing so, it lays out the framework for a life lived in concert with God and others. Each participant in the group needs the Participant Guides and a Bible. The CEB Study Bible is preferred. The *Creating Participant Guide* is eight weeks long, and has a lay flat binding making it easy to take notes in the generous space provided on each page. The *Creating Participant Guide* contains the following episodes: Episode 1: *Creating the Covenant* Relationships with people in our lives are key to faithful living. Covenant is about the family God creates and the power of love that overcomes evil. We are broken and miss the mark. Substitutes for faithful love destroy our relationships. Yet God's response to broken relationships

is to restore us to wholeness. Through the shared practice of reading and interpreting the Bible scripture in holy conversation, we sharpen our understandings until they become more accurate and relevant. And we learn about God's gracious love and how to share it with others.

Episode 2: Torah—Genesis Genesis answers the question: Who are we in the scheme of things? Covenant relationships are a metaphor for life together before God. This life is characterized by both gift and responsibility. Broken relationships in these stories are countered by forgiveness and generosity. Episode 3: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers Passover is a bittersweet celebration of Israel's liberation. The covenant at Sinai creates a people with instructions for living in harmony. These instructions are ever in need of reinterpretation in new situations, much like amendments to a constitution. God is holy and calls the people to be distinct and set apart in their faithfulness. Episode 4: Gospels—Matthew and Mark The Gospels are similar to Greco-Roman biographies but with a saving twist. They paint a portrait of Jesus' significance for first-century readers living under Roman rule before and after the destruction of the temple in 70 CE. By arranging the events of his life, death, and resurrection in distinct order, these writers depict Jesus as both the suffering "human one" (Mark) and a new teacher like Moses (Matthew). Jesus comes to bring and embody a new covenant reign (kingdom) of God's saving love in the world. Episode 5: Romans and Galatians The letters of Paul substituted for

his presence and represent his attempt to deal with controversies and provide guidance to churches from a pastor's perspective. For Paul, God's grace expressed in Jesus' faithfulness on the cross is a saving gift with no substitutes. The Spirit's presence, too, is a gift that marks the community of faith and produces fruit for faithful life together, making us more gracious to ourselves and others.

Episode 6: Hebrews The book of Hebrews is a masterful sermon written by an unknown author to a struggling community. The writer encourages them to live lives of gratitude for God's saving work in Jesus. Hebrews embraces the imagery of sacrifice in the Old Testament to describe Jesus' pioneering cosmic work of redemption. Replacing fear with trust, Jesus—our faithful forerunner—made it possible for us to approach the holy with confident expectation of God's favor.

Episode 7: 1 and 2 Corinthians Paul's letters to the church at Corinth address very concrete issues in a culture that honors the freedom of superiors to do as they please. Paul counters this with the mind of Christ, patterned by the logic of self-giving love. This "logic of the cross" balances freedom with Christ-shaped responsibility to live in ways that benefit both self and community.

Episode 8: Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel These books retell the story of Israel and its responsibilities as a rescued, covenant people. As they transition to a new life in the promised land, the first commandment (no other gods) is restated positively: love God with all your heart

and strength. Life in the land after Moses and Joshua is characterized by a cycle of faithlessness, crisis, cries for help, and temporary rescue. The last tribal chieftain/first prophet Samuel will anoint kings for an unruly people when the real king missing in Israel is God. More Questions? Visit <http://covenantbiblestudy.com/> for more information. This eight-session video-based bible study (DVD/digital video sold separately), join pastor and bestselling Andy Stanley as he examines the characteristics Jesus used to define those who follow him and the implications they have for believers today. In Christian, you'll learn: What one word should be descriptive of every Christian How Jesus' followers should treat those who are outside the faith Why people love Jesus but can't stand his followers What does it mean to be Christian? Curiously, the term is never used in Scripture. Instead, Christian was a label used by outsiders to define Jesus' followers. Jesus referenced 'disciple' as the key word he used to describe his supporters along with the fact that they would be known for their love – a novel concept for their time – and ours today. Through eight engaging and enlightening sessions, Andy Stanley unpacks these qualities Jesus prescribes for his followers that made them unique. What if believers today embodied these traits? Would the non-believing world put aside its definition of 'Christian' and instead know us by our love? Sessions include: Brand Recognition Quitters Insiders, Outsiders Showing Up When Gracie Met Truthy Angry

Birds Loopholes Working It Out Designed for use with the Christian Video Study 9780310693352 (sold separately). Have you settled for far less of God than He wants to reveal? Do you feel close to God in your everyday life . . . or does He too often seem distant and silent? Maybe, like many Christians, you live somewhere between those two extremes. You occasionally sense God's presence, but at other times feel as if He's a million miles away. The wonder of closeness with God is available to you here and now. This workbook, a companion to The Presence DVD curriculum (and book) by Alec Rowlands, walks you through six sessions of seeking God. Rowlands reveals the ways God makes His presence known, how you can prepare for it, and how experiencing it will transform everything. As you draw near to God—as you are consumed by His love and your life is rearranged by His grace—you'll find fulfillment, purpose, and an unmatched sense of adventure. If you're feeling a hunger for more of God, you are already on your way to discovering: He is good. He is powerful. He is here. (The Presence DVD and book are available separately.) In this six-session small group Bible study (DVD/digital video sold separately), *Doing the Right Thing*, from Chuck Colson, Robert George, and an all-star panel examines how ethical and character issues relate to life at home, school, and the workplace. *Doing the Right Thing* explores the ethical and moral breakdown hitting culture from all sides. Through panel discussions,

interviews, and live student questions it raises ethical issues in a non-condemning but challenging way, stimulating thought, discussion, and action. This Participant Guide encourages viewers to examine themselves and how ethical and character issues relate to their lives at home, school, and the workplace. As a result of this discussion and self-examination, participants will exhort each other and promote an ethic of virtue in their spheres of influence and in the culture at large. This examination of ethics consists of six sessions, each designed to last approximately one hour. Each session consists of thirty minutes of video and thirty minutes of discussion. Session topics include: How did we get into this mess? Is there truth, a moral law we all can know? If we know what is right, can we do it? What does it mean to be human? Ethics in the market place Ethics in public life Designed for use with the Doing the Right Thing Video Study (sold separately). In this award winning, four-session small group Bible study (DVD/digital video sold separately), Carl Medearis, an international expert in the field of Arab-American and Muslim-Christian relations, provides background info on Islam and tools for sharing Christ with their Muslim neighbors. Muslims, Christians and Jesus, is the recipient of the prestigious Outreach Magazine Resources of the Year for 2012. According to Medearis, how Americans respond to Islam and how Christians think of Muslims could be one of the most significant issues of our time. Throughout the study,

Medearis helps you understand the basics of Islam, the difference between “moderate” Muslims and radical terrorists, the Muslim view of Jesus, and how we should interact with our Muslim neighbors, friends, and coworkers. From the Ground Zero mosque to whether we believe in the same God, Medearis also addresses key questions and responses to the current Muslim/Christian tensions facing our society. This Participant Guide features video notes, group discussion questions, informative sidebars and quotes, and ideas for personal application. Sessions include: What is Islam? Exploring Our Fears Understanding What Muslims Believe Jesus: The Bridge to Muslims Building Bridges through Relationship Bonus session: 10 Myths about Muslims Designed for use with the Muslims, Christians, and Jesus Video Study (sold separately). With powerful true stories and specific activities for readers to try, this participant's guide to the inspirational book shows how to live out faith in a way that improves people's lives. The book and video series, “The Next Thing: Dealing with Crisis in Personal Life” Is Cecil Taylor's first book and third video series. Cecil places discipleship in the middle of crisis, urging participants to be obedient and trusting in crisis, controlling their response to crisis while leaving the outcome in God's care. “The Next Thing” outlines a four part model of Simplify, Trust, Rest and Grieve that enables our response to crisis. It's a lot to process! The purpose of this Participant’s Guide is to allow the viewers

and readers to go deeper into their own lives to understand past crises and how to prepare for that Next Thing in their lives before the crisis hits. The Participant's Guide defines daily activities, one week for each key chapter / lesson in the book and video series. The Participant's Guide is essential for fully processing and embedding "The Next Thing" into your life. Take the Next Step Perfect for individual or group study The Finding Your Way Back to God companion Participant's Guide explore the idea that we all want to find our way home – and back to God. The participant's guide offers Bible investigation, life application questions, and prayer exercises help you take positive action on your desire to find God. Exhausted. Overwhelmed. Overscheduled. Sound familiar? Based on Bill Hybels' groundbreaking book Simplify and the companion DVD series, the Simplify Participant's Guide leads you on a journey of discovering a simpler life. Today's velocity of life can consume and control us . . . until a breakneck pace begins to feel normal and expected. That's where the danger lies: When we spend our lives doing things that keep us busy but don't really matter, we sacrifice the things that do. What if your life could be different? What if you could be certain you were living the life God called you to live—and building a legacy for those you love? If you crave a simpler life anchored by the priorities that matter most, roll up your sleeves: Simplified living requires more than just cleaning out your closets or reorganizing your

desk drawer. It requires uncluttering your soul. By eradicating the stuff that leaves your spirit drained, you can stop doing what doesn't matter—and start doing what does. In *Simplify*, bestselling author Bill Hybels identifies the core issues that lure us into frenetic living—and offers practical steps for sweeping the clutter from our souls. This study guide is an ideal resource for small groups, along with the *Simplify DVD Experience* (sold separately).

- [Network Participants Guide](#)
- [The Smart Stepfamily Participants Guide](#)
- [Greater Participants Guide](#)
- [The Jesus I Never Knew](#)
- [Growing In Christ While Helping Others Participants Guide 4](#)
- [Greater Participants Guide](#)
- [Covenant Bible Study Living Participant Guide](#)
- [The Presence Participants Guide](#)
- [Covenant Bible Study Creating Participant Guide](#)
- [Emerging Culture Participants Guide](#)
- [Reimagining Evangelism Participants Guide](#)
- [H2O Participants Guide](#)
- [316 Participants Guide](#)
- [Grace Participants Guide](#)
- [Simplify Participants Guide](#)
- [The Smart Stepfamily Participants Guide](#)

- [PATHWAY OF FREEDOM PARTICIPANTS GUIDE](#)
- [Freedom In Christ Participants Guide](#)
- [Becoming More Than A Good Bible Study Girl Participants Guide](#)
- [The Next Thing](#)
- [Problem Solving Mediation Training Participants Guide](#)
- [Muslims Christians And Jesus Participants Guide](#)
- [The Struggle Is Real Participants Guide](#)
- [The Story Adult Curriculum Participants Guide](#)
- [DO Something Participants Guide](#)
- [Covenant Bible Study Trusting Participant Guide](#)
- [Staying In Love Bible Study Participants Guide](#)
- [Making Your Small Group Work Participants Guide](#)
- [The Life Youve Always Wanted Participants Guide](#)
- [Living Out The Message Of Christ The Journey Continues Participants Guide 8](#)
- [The Circle Maker Participants Guide](#)
- [Lead Your Family Like Jesus Group Experience Participants Guide](#)
- [Prayer Participants Guide](#)
- [Christian Participants Guide](#)
- [Finding Your Way Back To God Participants Guide](#)
- [Asking God To Grow My Character The Journey Continues Participants Guide 6](#)
- [Gods Story Your Story Participants Guide](#)
- [Doing The Right Thing Participants Guide](#)

- [Fathered By God Participants Guide](#)