

Mini-Courses for Ladies

BOOK STUDY DESCRIPTIONS

APRIL 2011

4-Week Courses:

Monday 7-9pm

Trusting God Even When Life Hurts by Jerry Bridges

When unexpected situations arise that appear unjust, irrational, or even dreadful, we feel confused and frustrated. And before long, we begin to doubt God's concern for us or His control over our lives. Adversity is hard to endure and can even be harder to understand. If God were really in control, why would He allow the tragic auto accident or crucial job loss? How could He permit cancer in a loved one or the death of a child? Grappling with His concern for us we ask, "Why is God allowing this?" or "What have I done wrong?" In an effort to strengthen his own trust in God during a time of adversity, Jerry Bridges began a lengthy Bible study on the topic of God's sovereignty. What he learned changed his life, and he now shares the fruit of that study with you in *Trusting God*. As you begin to explore the scope of God's power over nations, nature, and the detailed lives of individuals, you'll begin to acknowledge His loving control. And as you come to know Him better, you'll find yourself trusting Him more completely—even when life hurts.

Course led by Kelly Cooley & Janeen Willison

Monday 7-9pm

Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure by David Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Believing that Christian joy was one of the most potent factors in the spread of Christianity in the early centuries, Lloyd-Jones not only lays bare the causes that have robbed many Christians of spiritual vitality, but also points the way to the cure.

Course led by Janet Palmer & Megan Brewer

Tuesday 10am-noon

A Praying Life by Paul Miller

This is as fine a book on prayer that you will ever read, but it is so much more. It is the story of our struggle to actually live like we believe that our heavenly Father really does love us. If we did, nothing could keep us from being committed to the day-by-day hard work of prayer. Paul Miller exegetes our struggle in a way that is convicting, insight giving, and encouraging. This is a book on prayer that actually makes you want to pray!

Course led by Marge Merryman & Sherly Giglio

Wednesday 9-11am

Bookends of the Christian Life by Jerry Bridges and Bob Bevington

The authors use an extended metaphor to serve up a little book with a big message about two essentials of the Christian life. So what are the bookends of the Christian life? The first is Christ's righteousness transferred to dependent believers, and the second is the Holy Spirit's transformative power. All the "books" of our lives are held safe and secure between these two bookends. The authors use their extended metaphor to help readers answer questions like:

- How can I overcome persistent guilt?
- How can I deal with the pressure to measure up?
- Where can I find the motivation it takes to grow?
- How can I live the Christian life with both my head and my heart?
- How can I be sure God loves *me*?
- How can I change in an authentic and lasting way?

Course led by Mariana Spitzberg & Dawn Lockwood

Wednesday 1-3pm

Girl Talk: Mother-Daughter Conversations on Biblical Womanhood by Carolyn Mahaney, and Nicole Mahaney Whitacre

Mothers and daughters have a lot to talk about. That's how God designed it. A mother is her daughter's first role model, teacher, and friend, and she carries the responsibility of passing on to her daughter a legacy of biblical womanhood. Join mother-daughter team Carolyn Mahaney and Nicole Whitacre as they give you insights and suggestions on how to talk—really talk—to each other about what it means to become a godly woman. Tips and study questions make it easy for moms and their pre-teen and teenage daughters to read, share, discuss, and grow.

Course led by Julie Minard & Shelley Techtmann

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Wednesday 7-9pm

Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped Women of the Bible, and What He Wants to Do with You by John MacArthur

They were ordinary, common, and in some cases shockingly low-caste, yet each was made extraordinary by her life-changing encounter with God. Readers will be challenged and motivated by *Twelve Extraordinary Women*, a poignant and personal look into the lives of some of the Bible's most faithful women. Their struggles and temptations are the same trials faced by all believers at all ages. Inside this book, best-selling author and Bible teacher John MacArthur shows that the God to whom they were so committed is the same God who continues to mold and use ordinary people today.

Course led by Patti Wilson & Melinda Wilson

Thursday 10am-noon

The Path of Loneliness: Finding Your Way Through the Wilderness to God by Elisabeth Elliot

Whether through the death of a loved one, divorce or estrangement in a marriage, or by being a single person in a world of couples and families, loneliness eventually comes to us all. Elisabeth Elliot lost her first husband to murder in the South American jungle and her second to the ravages of cancer. She has felt the deep pain of loss. In *The Path of Loneliness*, Elliot gives hope to the lonely through tender reflections on God's love for us and his plans to bless us. She tackles this difficult topic with grace and faith, showing readers how to make peace with loneliness and grow through it.

Course led by Susan Jansen & Becky Faherty

Thursday 7-9pm

Dig Deeper: Tools for Studying God's Word* by Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach

Christians who wield these sixteen Bible-reading tools will better understand God's guidance for their lives, come to know him better, and grow to love him more. It is true that without some care in your interpretation, you can "make" the Bible say almost anything. *Dig Deeper* is written out of the conviction that there is a right way to understand the Bible and a wrong way, and the authors show us how to read it correctly. *Dig Deeper* offers sixteen "tools" readers can use to get to the bottom of any Bible passage and discover its intended meaning. Examples show how each tool helps readers discover something exciting and relevant in a passage, and the "dig deeper" exercises offer the opportunity to practice using the tools. The book's brevity and easy-to-read format make it ideal for Christians who want to get the most out of their Bible.

***This course will include homework and Bible reading assignments from the book.**

Course led by Carol Nelson & Marianne Linn

Friday 10am-noon

Ruth: Under the Wings of God by John Piper and Cory Godbey

This beautifully illustrated cycle of poems by John Piper sheds light on the key figures and themes of the book of Ruth. Walk with Boaz from promise to fulfillment, with Ruth from widowhood to motherhood, and with Naomi from death to life.

Course led by Beth Kelley & Maria Halowell

Friday 7-9pm

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Course led by Johnnilyn Kutten & Luann Pengidore

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Friday 7-9pm

Relationships: A Mess Worth Making by Timothy S. Lane

Hope for messy, conflict-ridden relationships. Your best friend is suddenly cool and distant. Your spouse can't stop complaining about your bad habits. Your son refuses to talk to you. What are you supposed to do? Plans A, B, and C might be to shut down, lash out, or get out. But consider Plan D: Recognize that God has the last word on those messy, conflict-ridden relationships. He can use them to make you into someone who can give and receive love with God and others. Impossible? Idealistic? Not really. In *Relationships: A Mess Worth Making*, Tim Lane and Paul Tripp show you how God does it, and how it can happen for you. They help you tackle the stubborn problems that plague many close relationships. They show you the deeper issues that drive our reactions, choices, and behaviors. And they show you how God steps in to help you build relationships that are all he intended them to be.

Course led by Janice Young & Jane Alam

Saturday 9-11am

Because He Loves Me: How Christ Transforms Our Daily Life by Elyse Fitzpatrick

This book shows that a heartfelt desire to live a godly life flows out of a recognition of how we've been loved and transformed through Christ. God's love has the power to change lives. Christians, then, should exhibit the greatest transformation of all because, rightly understood and cherished, God's love makes them increasingly more like the One who has lavished his love on them. So why do we so often struggle to exhibit God's love? Biblical counselor Elyse M. Fitzpatrick asks one simple question: "In your pursuit of godliness, have you left Jesus behind?" We need to be rescued from our "identity amnesia" and pointed to our true identity as God's beloved children—adopted by the Father, united with the Son, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Fitzpatrick shows how a genuine transformation of identity leads to a transformation of our daily lives. Those who struggle with either legalism or lawlessness will find encouragement to return to God's love, the source of authentic and lasting change. Study questions and invitations to further discovery conclude each chapter.

Course led by Amy Gaynor & Crystal Livelsberger

Saturday 10-noon

Knowing Scripture by R. C. Sproul

Practical tools for interpreting the Bible. The Bible is the written Word of God, and it is treasured in many of our homes. But it is also an ancient book about people and cultures very different from us. Thus, while we know we should read it, many of us don't because we have a hard time understanding the Bible. R.C. Sproul helps us dig out the meaning of Scripture for ourselves. The author says, "The theme of this book is not how to read the Bible but how to study the Bible." He presents in simple, basic terms a commonsense approach to studying Scripture and gives eleven practical guidelines for biblical interpretation and applying what we learn. With a minimum of technical jargon, Sproul tackles some of the knotty questions regarding differences of interpreting the Bible, including: discovering the meanings of biblical words, understanding Hebrew poetry, proverbs and parables, approaching historical and didactic passages, being careful with predictive prophecy, discerning how culture conditions the Bible, choosing and using Bible translations, commentaries, Bible software and others. *Knowing Scripture* is a basic book for both beginning Bible readers and those who have been at it for a long time.

Course led by Terry Mayo & Elizabeth Ondulich

8-Week Course (Starting in March):

Tuesday 7:30-9:30pm

When I Am Afraid: A Step by Step Guide Away from Fear and Anxiety by Ed Welch

You know how anxiety and fear feels--your stomach drops, your neck tightens, your whole body tenses--but do you know what to do when anxiety fills your days and troubles your nights? You have probably already tried a few strategies, like denial or working harder, and noticed that they are not a permanent solution. If you are tired of dealing with anxiety and worry on your own, then this guide is just for you. As you go through each set of meditations, anxiety will gradually yield to hope, peace, and rest. Of course, this is a lifelong process, but going through this devotional guide, either by yourself or with a small group, will kick-start the process and bring lifelong change.

Course led by Yvonne Wyzga & Janet Crow