

Small Group & Bible Study



Resources

Table of Contents

This resource is for anyone who is interested in leading a small group Bible study and would like recommendations on books and materials. Below is a Table of Contents that shows a variety of resources that can be found online for free or for purchase. St. John can help with the costs of any book or resource below that is not free. Please contact Pastor Adam or Deaconess Dehlia and tell them how many books to purchase beforehand.

<i>Adult Bible Studies in Print</i>	1
Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation	1
One _____ , Many _____ Series	2
God's Word for Today	3
People's Bible Commentary	4
LifeLight Bible Studies	5
<i>Women's Bible Studies in Print</i>	6
Joy: A Study of Philippians	6
Mighty & Mysterious: A Study of Colossians	7
Waiting	8
<i>Digital Adult Bible Studies</i>	9
Lutheran Hour Ministries	9
A Man Named Martin Series	9
Lost Books?	10
Fatherhood	10

The Mormons: Who They Are, What They Believe	11
The Challenge of Islam Part 1: What is Islam?	11
The Challenge of Islam Part 2: Defending the Christian Faith	12
CPH Faith Courses	12
Podcasts	13
1517 Academy Courses	14
<i>Bible Studies from the Seminary</i>	<i>15</i>
Lay Bible Institute	15
Christian Doctrine	15
<i>Still Looking for Ideas?</i>	<i>16</i>
Christian Education Chair	16
Pastor Adam & Deaconess Dehlia	16

Adult Bible Studies in Print

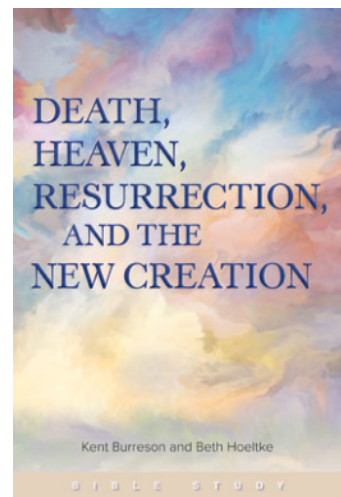
Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation

by Kent Burreson and Beth Hoeltke

Death wasn't part of God's original design for humanity; it's an unfortunate reality of living in a fallen world. It feels unnatural because it is.

But Christ has conquered death; it has no hold over us. In death, Christ becomes our all in all as we live forever in communion with Him. In light of this promise that is sealed in our Baptism, we can live this impermanent life as an act of bold confession, trust, and hope.

This six-session Bible study examines the role the physical body plays in life and death, the experience of dying, and the nature of the new creation and our resurrected bodies.



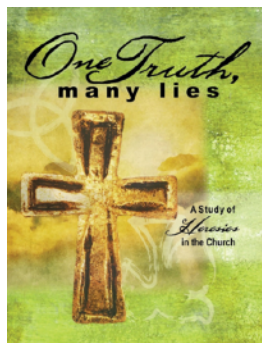
[Link to book](#)

[Link to interview with the authors](#)

One _____ , Many _____ Series

Each of these studies explores the Christian faith from a number of challenging, different topics. Copies of these studies are available in the library.

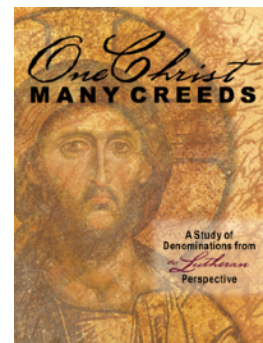
One Truth, Many Lies



A Study of Early Christian Heresies

[Link](#)

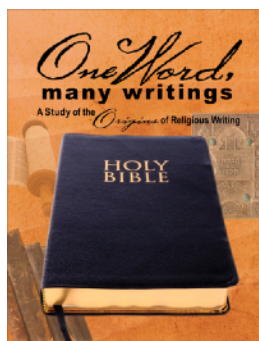
One Christ, Many Creeds



A Study of Christian Denominations

[Link](#)

One Word, Many Writings



A Study of the Oriain of Reliaious

[Link](#)

One God, Many Gods



A Study of World Religions

[Link](#)

God's Word for Today

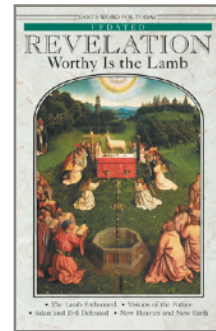
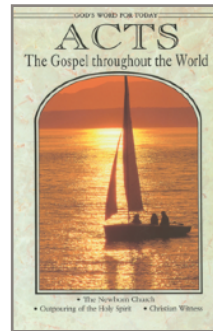
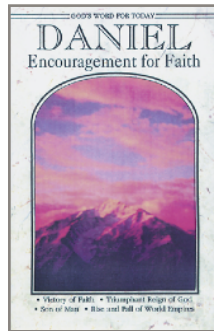
Each study in the *God's Word for Today* series provides an in-depth exploration of a book of the Bible.

Each session includes background

information on the book of the Bible, its author, audience, occasion, and purpose, as well as learning experiences that promote exciting and challenging discussions. Notes for leaders that answer questions, suggest a learning process, and provide additional information are included along with a discussion starter that help participants apply God's Word to their daily lives.

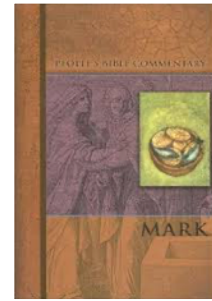
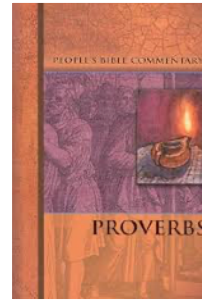
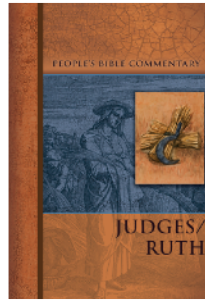
St. John already has a number of copies of this study in the church library.

[Link to all God's Word for Today studies](#)



People's Bible Commentary

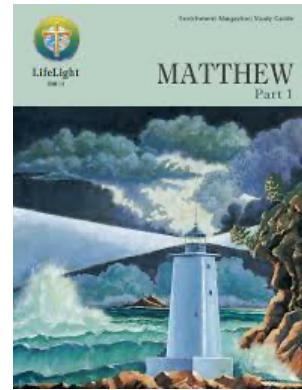
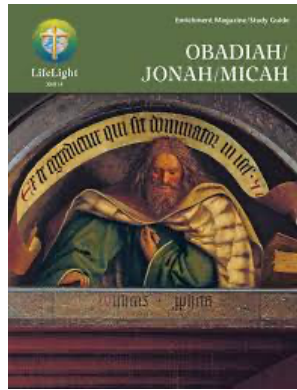
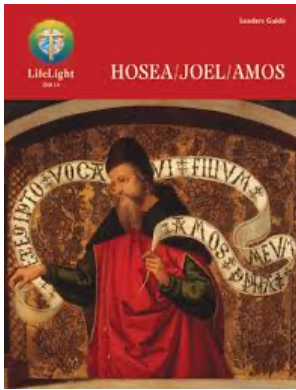
Christ-centered Bible truths unfold as you read this complete series of commentaries designed for spiritual growth and reading enjoyment. These trustworthy commentaries help you comprehend what you've read in Scripture as well as apply it to your life. This series is an excellent companion text for Bible study leaders and for individual use.



These commentaries offer:

- Easy-to-read commentary that follows the text (in New International Version (NIV)) so you learn as you read
- Scripture and commentary on the same page
- Bible text highlighted in bold
- Explanation of complicated passages
- Important facts are identified to expand understanding of Bible times and help apply passages to life today
- Maps and charts
- Many copies are already available in the church library.

LifeLight Bible Studies



These studies are a perfect way for small groups to take a deep dive into the Scriptures.

- Small Group leaders are given a detailed leader's guide.
- The rest of the group will use a student guide to study the Scriptures in a thoughtful and impactful way.

Many books of the Bible and biblical topics are covered.

[Click here to see the full list.](#)

Women's Bible Studies in Print

Joy: A Study of Philippians

by Deb Burma

This close look at Paul's Letter to the Philippians, the "letter of joy," unpacks messages of contentment, confidence, humility, and hope—all found in Christ and infused with joy—in the mountaintop moments and in the mundane.

Enclosed are eight weeks of study, divided into forty short sessions, to help you realize the gifts from God's hand more fully. Ample materials are provided to make the sessions flexible for personal or group use and to accommodate changing schedules and individual needs. Targeted study, discussion and reflection questions, and life-application challenges guide you in your exploration of joy.

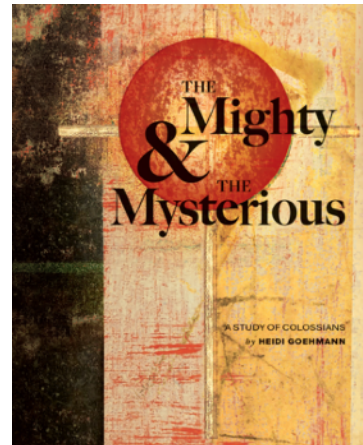


[Link to Book](#)

Mighty & Mysterious: A Study of Colossians

by **Heidi Goehmann**

New Christians in first-century Colossae were not all that different from Christians today. They, too, struggled to understand who Jesus is, how Jesus alone reconciles us to God, and why things aren't perfect in the Church.



In St. Paul's letter to these Christians he had never met, he doesn't say they should stop asking hard questions. He doesn't tell them to stop searching God's Word, to stop seeking spiritual wisdom, or to stop striving for unity within the Church. Instead, Paul focuses off of their questions and struggles on the Gospel of the mighty and mysterious God: the same God who created the universe revealed Himself among us and reclaimed us as His own through His Son, Jesus.

Walk with author Heidi Goehmann through God's Word to the Colossians. Though many things will remain a mysterious until we see our Savior face-to-face, readers will discover that God fills them right now in every way, through the mighty and mysterious Body of Christ, the Church.

Bible study features six group sessions with video and discussion questions, and six weeks of personal study that encourages readers to dig deep into Scripture and apply its truth to their lives.

[Link to book](#)

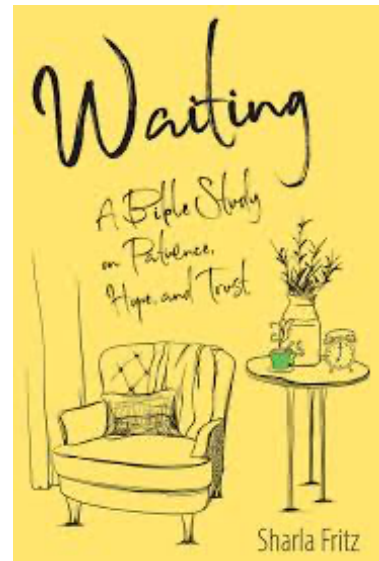
[Link to video series](#)

Waiting

by Sharla Fritz

We wait. And . . . wait. In traffic, at the doctor's office, at the restaurant. For the right guy. For a baby. For the test results. For prayers to be heard.

Waiting can be agony. In our culture where almost everything is instant, we are accustomed to getting what we want now. So when our lives are put in a holding pattern, we squirm.



But what if the waiting rooms of life are God's best classrooms? What if the Holy Spirit changes us through the uncomfortable delays of life?

Waiting focuses on the lives of eight biblical women who waited and yearned and ached. The study highlights principles that make these times more bearable, and maybe more meaningful, even if it feels like God isn't present or there's nothing we can do. Learn how to surrender your worries to God, handle the daily-ness of waiting, and draw closer to Jesus.

[Link to Book](#)

Digital Adult Bible Studies

Lutheran Hour Ministries



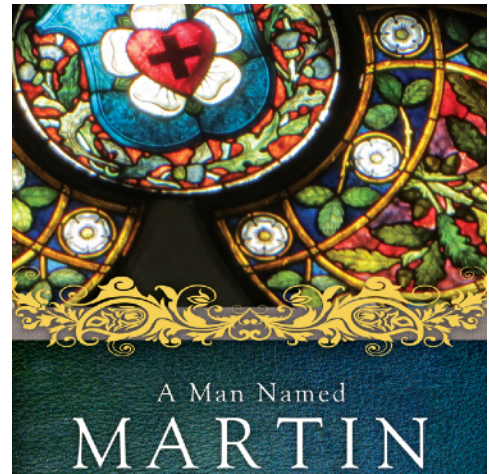
Here are a number of free downloadable video Bible studies which have been written by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Many of the studies include a discussion guide for the group to utilize after the video. Below, we also share a number studies we recommend for you and your group.

[Link to all studies](#)

A Man Named Martin Series

This study explores the life of Martin Luther, the Reformation, and most importantly the rediscovery of the Gospel of Jesus for the rescue for the world.

While the events of the Reformation are over 500 years old, do not be surprised to find out how little has changed and why it is so important to keep everything focused on Christ.



[Link to Part 1](#)

[Link to Part 2](#)

[Link to Part 3](#)

Lost Books?

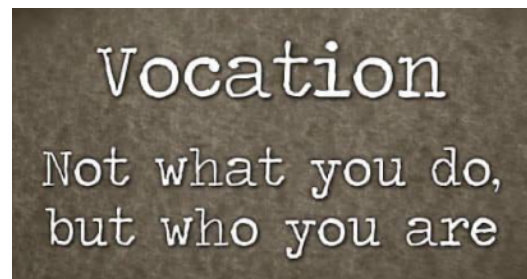
Ever wondered if some texts were intentionally excluded from the Bible and why? In *Lost Books?* this study looks at why some ancient writings failed to make the cut for inclusion, why other texts most definitely met the standard, and why others, including those "gospels" found in the last century, came up short.



[Link to Lost Books Study](#)

Fatherhood

Fatherhood is more than providing half the genetic material at conception; it's being there for the long haul. In *Fatherhood with Joel Biermann* the Concordia Seminary professor and dad relates how being a father is a demanding pursuit with a heavenly goal-raising kids who know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



[Link to Fatherhood Study](#)

The Mormons: Who They Are, What They Believe

The Mormon Church (aka The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) means different things to different people. From its feel-good, family-oriented TV commercials to its Grammy- and Emmy-winning Mormon Tabernacle Choir to its bicycling missionaries, the Mormon Church is high profile all the way. Founded in the early 19th century, this religious movement boasts more than 15 million members and 85,000 missionaries, ranking it in the top five of "Christian denominations" in the U.S., according to the National Council of Churches.



[Link to Study](#)

The Challenge of Islam | Part 1: What is Islam?

In Part One of this two-part Men's NetWork Bible study, the teachings of Islam are brought into focus. In addition to learning about the "Five Pillars of Islam," participants will examine what the Quran says about the role of Abraham, the Trinity, angels and jinn (genies), the attributes of Jesus Christ, the character of Muhammad, Judgment Day, and paradise.

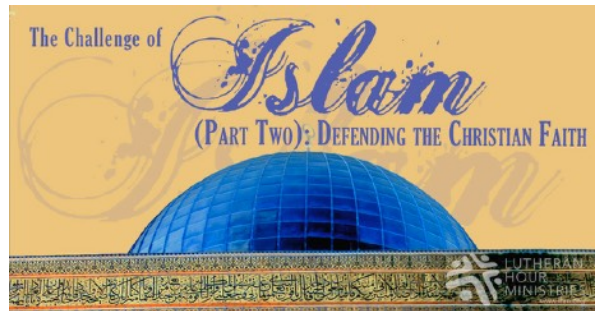


[Link to Study](#)

The Challenge of Islam

Part 2: Defending the Christian Faith

In Part Two of this Men's NetWork Bible study, Sam Shamoun, an Arab-Christian, examines key texts from the Qur'an and the Bible. Among the items he sheds light on are Islamic presuppositions concerning the priority of the Qur'an, Bible texts considered corrupt by Muslims, the sonship of believers, and Islam's position on the Trinity.



[Link to Study](#)

CPH Faith Courses

Browse a list of online courses to lead you and your small group bible study through a variety of topics.

Ranging from Bible studies to topical book studies. There is a course here for everyone.

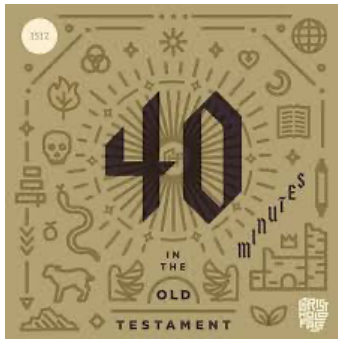


[Link to Faith Courses](#)

Podcasts

40 Minutes in the Old Testament

[Link](#)



30 Minutes in the New Testament

[Link](#)



These two podcasts follow exactly what their titles say. Either starting from Genesis 1:1 or Matthew 1:1, these podcasts slowly but surely, verse by verse work their way through the Scriptures. The hosts' engaging conversation and insights make Bible study wonderful and applicable to daily life.

During the week, small group members could listen to an episode individually. Then at their small group meeting, the group could delve deeper, ask questions, and wrestle with the Scriptures together from what was discussed in the podcast.

1517 Academy Courses



The 1517 Academy provides knowledge in service to the gospel. by creating high-quality theological resources in collaboration with the best minds in Reformation theology. These are free courses will engage many small groups in a variety of topics ranging from apologetics to the Augsburg Confession.

[Link to all the 1517 Academy Courses](#)

Bible Studies from the Seminary

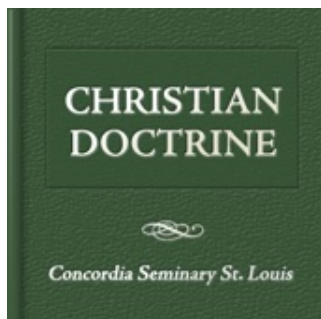
Lay Bible Institute

The Lay Bible Institute is an ongoing study of the Bible and how it relates to today's life and events. These topics are led by professors at Concordia Seminary St. Louis as a way to clarify the Bible and how it relates to our lives and events in our world today. Topics range from Decoding the Apocalypse, East African Christianity, the role of Man and Woman in Christ, and more.



[Link to Lay Bible Institute Studies](#)

Christian Doctrine



This seminary course will encourage groups to grow in their basic understanding of Christian doctrine. This course happens to be a prerequisite course for entering the seminary.

[Link to Christian Doctrine Classes](#)

Still Looking for Ideas?

Christian Education Chair

Please feel free to reach out to our Christian Education chair Duane Wegener [here](#) for more ideas for Bible study resources.

Pastor Adam & Deaconess Dehlia

Pastor Adam and Deaconess Dehlia would be glad to join your Bible Study or Small Group.

Here are a few ways how:

1) Ask the Pastor | Ask the Deaconess

This has been done before by other Small Groups. Set up a time with Pastor or Deaconess to join your group for a session.

A few weeks ahead of time, take some questions from your group. These questions can be about anything and everything related to the faith and life.

Please consider sharing those questions ahead of time for Deaconess or Pastor to prepare. But they are open to surprises too.

2) A Specific Bible Study or Topic

Another idea is to ask Deaconess Dehlia or Pastor Adam to present or lead a Bible study on a specific topic. This would be a great way to wrestle with the faith together.