

Faith Studies for Small Groups

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Version: 8/15/2022



For Everyone

Questions God Asks

We often go to the Bible looking for answers, but in the Biblical stories we find that God asks us questions too! This faith study is based on Trevor Hudson's book, *Questions God Asks Us*. The chapters are fast and easy to read.

- Featured resource for fall 2022 (there will not be another new faith study for fall).
- Simply use the Incarnation faith study outline (with new added content) or add one of the following...
- Options: (1) videos and chapter summaries by Josh Allen of Brentwood Hills Church or (2) Short videos of Trevor Hudson and guided meditations from The Upper Room.
- For a no-homework option, consider reading selections from the chapters OR use the chapter summaries from Brentwood Hills Church at: <https://brentwoodhills.org/event-items/questions-god-asks-us/>.
- See the last page for more information...

Undistracted

How to move back from all the busy, all the crazy to find purpose in a less distracted life. Bob Goff brings his inspirational, engaging and humorous stories to show how to live a more focused and attentive life, present to others and to joy and purpose.

- Check out the promo at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9ZhFimxL1Y>
- Preview session one at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcVcOSZVR7o>
- Five sessions with 15-minute videos and a study guide
- Easy to use

The Saint John's Bible

Reflect with others in your group on Bible texts and engage your spiritual imagination with the illuminations from *The Saint John's Bible*. A series of short sessions have been written to open-up the rich discussion and new insights that can happen only in a group setting. Grant Rykken or others from The Saint John's Bible Action Group can also visit your small group for an introductory session. Incarnation is incredibly blessed to have a Heritage Edition of the Bible to view on-site or use the "coffee table" size books available for use in other settings. Some illuminations can also be viewed on-line (for Zoom gatherings).

- Can be short or longer, depending on time available
- Use for a devotion, single session or a series

Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit

Dive into the book of Acts with Luther Seminary professor Matthew Skinner on video. The faith study explores six key themes that illustrate the ways in which reading Acts is capable of igniting our imagination about the character of the Christian gospel, the work of God's people and the challenges of living faithfully in a complex and changing world.

- Six videos and a leader guide. Reading the book is recommended, but it may be possible to engage in the conversation without having read the chapter.
- Watch a preview video and find out more at: <https://www.cokesbury.com/Acts>

More Resources – Available at Incarnation or Used by Other Groups

Bible and Bible Themes

On-Line Resources

The Bible Project – www.thebibleproject.com or www.bibleproject.com/bible-studies – book studies/thematic studies on-line

Enter the Bible – www.enterthebible.org – more information below

DVD/Study Guides

Adam Hamilton studies – *Making Sense of the Bible; The Lord's Prayer* (and more)

Matthew Skinner – *Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit* (see above)

Amy Jill-Levine studies – *Short Stories by Jesus* (and more). Preview on YouTube

Book Study

What is the Bible? – Rob Bell – Book/discussion questions

Care for One Another

Alongside – How to walk with others in difficult times – Sarah Beckman – video/questions – www.sarahbeckman.org/alongside-book/

Caring for One Another – Incarnation series – Go to: www.incarnationmn.org and use the search bar

No Cure for Being Human – Kate Bowler – book/discussion questions

Incarnation Faith Studies – Easy to use and available on the website: *Renew Your Life, Caring for One Another, Our Story, Be Loved, Your Life Matters, Connecting in Grace: Radical Gifts, Radical Grace and Energized*. Go to: www.incarnationmn.org and use the search bar.

Grace

What's So Amazing About Grace – This Philip Yancey classic has changed lives – now newly filmed and updated. <https://philipyancey.com/books/whats-so-amazing-about-grace>

Justice

Dear White Peacemakers – Oshetta Moore – book/study guide

Dialogues: On Race – Sparkhouse – DVD/study guide
See also *Dr. Jacqui Lewis* resources below

Other Faith Traditions (*recommended by other leaders*)

Holy Envy – Barbara Brown Taylor – book/discussion questions

Christianity and World Religions – Adam Hamilton – DVD/study guide

Podcasts – Blogs – Articles – Books

Church Anew – Genesis study; Blog articles for discussion – A ministry of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie; www.churchanew.org

Enter the Bible – Blog, podcasts, courses from Luther Seminary; Free faith studies; May need to create your own questions; www.enterthebible.org

Living Lutheran – Website for this monthly publication includes articles and study guides at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/category/spiritual-practices-and-resources/>

Fierce Love (book) and podcasts – Dr. Jacqui Lewis – <https://jacquilewis.com/>

Women

12 Tiny Things – Local writers, Ellie Roscher and Heidi Barr, explore 12 essential areas of life where small, doable changes can make a big difference in growth and renewal;

Book/study guide for faith settings; <https://12tinythings.com/>

I Guess I Haven't Learned That Yet – Shauna Niequist – Book; DVD/study coming in Dec.

Talk with Denise for other ideas and studies available at *Incarnation*

Window Shopping

If you like “window shopping” check out these websites where you might find a unique fit for your small group:

The Ministry Lab

<https://theministrylab.org/faith-formation/> AND

<https://unitedseminary.libguides.com/ml/faithformation/adults>

Publisher Websites

Cokesbury – www.cokesbury.com

Sparkhouse – www.wearesparkhouse.org

The Upper Room – www.upperroom.org (go to “shop”)

Fortress Press - <https://www.fortresspress.com/store/category/287006/Ministry>

Zondervan – www.zondervan.com

Things to Know...

Previews

- Most resources can be previewed directly on the publisher's website or on YouTube.
- Samples of selected resources are available in Adult B or contact Denise.
- Incarnation resources are available on the website or through a link to view and print.

Locations

- Groups can be scheduled on-site, by Zoom or as a hybrid, depending on availability. With Amy Martell's summer leave, give us some extra time.
- Think about where your group prefers to meet and how to be flexible and adapt, if needed. This might make a difference in the resource you select.

Orders

- Incarnation will order leader resources and asks that group members order their own copies of books/study guides. Please allow 2-3 weeks before the time that you need a resource to prepare for the group, when ordering through Incarnation.
- If your group is struggling with a resource, consider making a change mid-season.

Links for *Questions God Asks*

Incarnation faith study outline – contact Denise at dfloe@incarnationmn.org

Questions God Asks Us by Trevor Hudson, Upper Room Books

<https://www.cokesbury.com/Questions-God-Asks-Us?refq=questions%20god%20asks%20us>
<https://upperroombooks.com/?s=questions+god+asks+us>

Brentwood Hills Church, Pastor Josh Allen

Questions, video, written reflection – Note: discussion questions also in the Incarnation guide. We have permission to use this resource.

<https://brentwoodhills.org/event-items/questions-god-asks-us/>

e-Learning Course with Trevor Hudson, Upper Room Books

Videos with Trevor Hudson, e-book, guided meditations

Ask Denise for instructions on how to preview

Thank you for creating sacred space to connect with God and one another!