

## Church Group Time God Ucy

Scott and Lisa Mitchell are Christian Marriage Professionals who have served couples for over 20 years through mentoring, training and education. Serving in Pastoral ministry since 1990 in positions of Youth, Associate and Lead Pastor, they recently launched Marriage Rocks, a non-profit ministry. Their purpose is to encourage, equip and inspire couples to develop radically successful marriages and families. In this book, they share the timeless Biblical principles that have guided their marriage since 1988 as well as their unique life stories, insights, honesty and humor. Their prayer is that God will use Marriage Rocks to bless couples moving toward marriage as well as those who have been married for years.

Every year thousands of God's servants leave the ministry convinced they are failures. Years ago, in the midst of a crisis of faith, Kent Hughes almost became one of them. But instead he and his wife Barbara turned to God's Word, determined to learn what God had to say about success and to evaluate their ministry from a biblical point of view. This book describes their journey and their liberation from the "success syndrome" - the misguided belief that success in ministry means increased numbers. In today's world it is easy to be seduced by the secular thinking that places a number on everything. But the authors teach that true success in ministry lies not in numbers but in several key areas: faithfulness, serving, loving, believing, prayer, holiness, and a Christlike attitude. Their thoughts will encourage readers who grapple with feelings of failure and lead them to a deeper, fuller understanding of success in Christian ministry. This book was originally published by Tyndale in 1987 and includes a new preface.

A manifesto for the despairing children of the eleventh hour, this book deals with the issues that are tearing apart the fabric of innocence: suicide, insanity, drugs, violence, the occult, the apocalypse, and finally our salvation, suffering, and resurrection out of the depths of the modern wasteland. It offers a painfully honest appraisal of society from the perspective of the young who are hurt and in despair, and shows how many of their "punk values" become much more meaningful when viewed in the context of authentic Eastern Orthodox Christianity -- particularly within monasticism.

Shepherding God's Flock is both a textbook for students of pastoral ministry and a handbook for pastors. Jay Adams is well-known for his practical and thorough approach to the many issues of Christian counseling. That same practicality and thoroughness is found in this unparalleled handbook on pastoral ministry. Not only does it offer pastors one of the best resources in print, but it also provides church elders with an orientation and practical guide to aspects of ministry for which they have responsibility. It is truly a shepherd's handbook. The book is divided into three parts. Pastoral Life deals with the pastor, his calling, and the general care he provides the flock. Pastoral Counseling provides an overview of the

task and a general approach for pastoral counselors. Pastoral Leadership offers a perspective on the ways the pastor can lead the church in its many tasks and responsibilities.

The Christian life is often defined as "no." What starts with a desire to reject destructive things morphs into a "no" to people, enjoyment, laughter, pleasure, success, and ultimately life itself. Before we know it, we've reduced the Christian faith to a huge rejection of just about everything God has created. Is it any wonder why many in our culture think of Christianity and "no" comes to mind? We need perspective. We need more than just "no." We need to experience a divine "yes" to all of life as a gift from God. Ecclesiastes, through Solomon's journals, gives us a huge dose of reality. Solomon's entire experience is a counterintuitive "yes" to God and every aspect of life. It provides a framework for a faith that squares off with reality and finds it infused with meaning. THE GOD OF YES will explore this counterintuitive approach and provide clear application on how faith can infuse meaning to the monotony of everyday life. It will flip Ecclesiastes upside down to show that it is actually affirming life in all of its parts with God at the center. It will challenge the reader that his or her life can look different even if nothing changes externally.

Welcome to the Church of the Nazarene is an engaging introduction to church membership, written in everyday language for the new Christian or for the Christian who is new to the Church of the Nazarene. Readers will learn about: The history of the Church of the Nazarene: of the church to the ministry of Phineas F. Bresee, a short but complete history of the Church of the Nazarene's early days. What Nazarenes believe: The Articles of Faith of the Church of the Nazarene and basic Christian doctrines from a Wesleyan perspective, explained in everyday language. How the church is organized: From global to local, how the church is organized in leadership, finances, and ministry. What it means to be a member of the Church of the Nazarene: Topics include growing as a Christian, tithing your income, serving in ministry, and sharing your faith. How Nazarenes live as Christians: How Nazarenes respond to controversial social issues.

You have a source of power within, that is able to meet all your needs right now. The truth is that you are more than someone with problems – You are someone with infinite potential, on a path of return to the Divine source. Starting today, you can make changes in your life that will transform the nature of your reality. The Book of Virtue is a practical guide to achieving Self-Transformation. Through The Book of Virtue, you will learn: - To see Life as a Mirror of Our Inner World - Transform our negative karmic seeds into positive results - To utilize meditation as a practice of cultivating intuition - To activating your Highest Potential with positive affirmations - Utilization of vows to empower your life Many other techniques and concepts are covered in great detail. It is the goal of the Book of Virtue that the reader adopts a new life of Mystical Self-Transformation, achieving all their goals (including the Highest Goal of Oneness with the Divine.)

Whatever else one might say about Emergence Christianity, says Phyllis Tickle, one must agree it is shifting and re-

configuring itself in such a prodigious way as to defy any final assessments or absolute pronouncements. Yet the insightful and well-read Tickle offers us a dispatch from the field to keep us informed of where Emergence Christianity now stands, where it may be going, and how it is aligning itself with other parts of God's church. Through her careful study and culture-watching, Tickle invites readers to join this investigation and conversation as open-minded explorers rather than fearful opponents. As readers join Tickle down the winding stream of Emergence Christianity, they will discover fascinating insights into concerns, organizational patterns, theology, and most pressing questions. Anyone involved in an emergence church or a traditional one will find here a thorough and well-written account of where things are--and where they are going.

Discover true community. Has the pursuit of the "perfect life" left you feeling depleted, disappointed, dissatisfied, and disconnected? Are you tired of being lonely and left out at work, home, church, and online? Are you hungry for true community, deeper connection with God, and friendships that are greater than just "likes" on social media? Are you ready for real connections with those around you? In this four-week Bible study, Amberly Neese provides biblical and practical help for cultivating meaningful relationships that glorify God through an exploration of four "one another" sayings in the New Testament: Love one another Serve one another Build up and strengthen one another Forgive one another In her trademark style, Amberly combines Bible study with delightful humor to create a refreshing and engaging experience that will encourage and equip women to pursue deeper relationships and true belonging. Other components for the Bible study, available separately, include a DVD. Bible Study Features: A shorter, four-week study is ideal for in-between or busy times. Accessible and friendly format. DVD features the amazing Amberly Neese, who masterfully combines solid Bible teaching and delightfully funny humor (in four 20-minute segments). Inspires and encourages women to pursue deeper relationships and true belonging for a more fulfilled, purposeful life. Helps women grow in their capacity to love, serve, and forgive. Study guide with leader helps includes group session guides, discussion questions, prayers, video viewer guides, and more.

Is there a universal consciousness in whose consciousness we live, move, and have our being? The exploration of consciousness is the final frontier in the exploration of life and the mysteries of existence - its origin, its on-going presence - as well as for answering questions that intellectual analysis cannot answer because it is based on the speculations of the five senses. Consider then that within every human being there are simultaneous states of existence that are active - predating human life, during human life, and beyond human life. Participate in this world of illusions but always retain the light of universal awareness, wherever your soul's purpose path may lead you. - Dr. Paul Leon Masters

Why bother with the interpretive categories of biblical faith when in fact our energy and interest are focused on more immediate matters? The answer is simple and obvious. We linger because, in the midst of our immediate preoccupation with our felt jeopardy and our hope for relief, our imagination does indeed range beyond the immediate to larger, deeper wonderments. Our free-ranging

imagination is not finally or fully contained in the immediacy of our stress, anxiety, and jeopardy. Beyond these demanding immediacies, we have a deep sense that our life is not fully contained in the cause-and-effect reasoning of the Enlightenment that seeks to explain and control. There is more than that and other than that to our life in God's world!

Forty-six of Machen's shorter writings, organized into ten categories. Selections made by Machen's biographer, who contributes an introduction, a bibliography, and "For Further Reading."

Based on the National Study of Youth and Religion--the same invaluable data as its predecessor, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*--Kenda Creasy Dean's compelling new book, *Almost Christian*, investigates why American teenagers are at once so positive about Christianity and at the same time so apathetic about genuine religious practice. In *Soul Searching*, Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton found that American teenagers have embraced a "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism"--a hodgepodge of banal, self-serving, feel-good beliefs that bears little resemblance to traditional Christianity. But far from faulting teens, Dean places the blame for this theological watering down squarely on the churches themselves. Instead of proclaiming a God who calls believers to lives of love, service and sacrifice, churches offer instead a bargain religion, easy to use, easy to forget, offering little and demanding less. But what is to be done? In order to produce ardent young Christians, Dean argues, churches must rediscover their sense of mission and model an understanding of being Christian as not something you do for yourself, but something that calls you to share God's love, in word and deed, with others. Dean found that the most committed young Christians shared four important traits: they could tell a personal and powerful story about God; they belonged to a significant faith community; they exhibited a sense of vocation; and they possessed a profound sense of hope. Based on these findings, Dean proposes an approach to Christian education that places the idea of mission at its core and offers a wealth of concrete suggestions for inspiring teens to live more authentically engaged Christian lives. Persuasively and accessibly written, *Almost Christian* is a wake up call no one concerned about the future of Christianity in America can afford to ignore.

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Fear is a complex emotion. Sometimes it saves us. More often it robs us of the life we want. But we can take our lives back. You'd be hard-pressed to overstate the extent to which fear, anxiety, and worry permeate our lives today. Fear wreaks havoc on our relationships and communities. It leads us into making bad decisions. It holds us back from the very pursuits that promise fulfillment and joy. Making matters worse, not a week goes by when some new threat or calamity isn't dominating the headlines.

Why are there so many tragedies? we wonder. What will happen next? As the senior pastor of a large, diverse church in America's heartland, Adam Hamilton has seen the cost of fear up close. When he surveyed his congregation on how fear affects them, 2,400 people responded--and what they said was eye-opening. Eighty percent admitted to living with moderate or significant levels of fear. *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* is Reverend Hamilton's insightful and impassioned response. Drawing on recent research, inspiring real-life examples, and fresh biblical insight, Hamilton shows how to untangle the knots we feel about disappointing others, failure, financial insecurity, loneliness, insignificance, and aging. Then he helps readers understand and counter fears related to such outside perils as terrorism, death, and the apocalypse. Writing with generosity and intelligence, Hamilton shows how believer and unbeliever alike can develop sustaining spiritual practices and embrace Jesus's recurring counsel: "Do not be afraid." For anyone struggling with fear or wondering how families and communities can thrive in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions.

Through this 10-week study, Lydia Brownback examines the twelve judges and how they exemplify the persistent grace of God in the face of human rebellion.

Once upon a time, people knew their neighbors. They talked to them, had cook-outs with them, and went to church with them. In our time of unprecedented mobility and increasing isolationism, it's hard to make lasting connections with those who live right outside our front door. We have hundreds of "friends" through online social networking, but we often don't even know the full name of the person who lives right next door. This unique and inspiring book asks the question: What is the most loving thing I can do for the people who live on my street or in my apartment building? Through compelling true stories of lives impacted, the authors show readers how to create genuine friendships with the people who live in closest proximity to them. Discussion questions at the end of each chapter make this book perfect for small groups or individual study.

It is what you've always dreamed but never expected. It's having God as your dad, your biggest fan, and your best friend. It's having the King of Kings in your cheering section; it's hearing the applause of heaven. Max Lucado believes that the Beatitudes provide what we truly need to discover: the joy of God. Much more than a how-to book on happiness, *The Applause of Heaven* is an encounter with the Source of Joy.

Looks at the Grand Canyon from a biblical worldview and explains how the splendor and grandeur of the Canyon is a display of God's power of creation.

The true story behind the events that inspired the major motion picture *Only the Brave*. A "unique and bracing" (Booklist) first-person account by the sole survivor of Arizona's disastrous 2013 Yarnell Hill Fire, which took the lives of 19 "hotshots"--firefighters trained specifically to battle wildfires. Brendan McDonough was on the verge of becoming a hopeless, inveterate heroin addict when he, for the sake of his young daughter, decided to turn his life around. He enlisted in the Granite Mountain Hotshots, a team of elite firefighters based in Prescott, Arizona. Their leader, Eric Marsh, was in a desperate crunch after four hotshots left the unit, and perhaps seeing a glimmer of promise in the skinny would-be recruit, he took a chance on the unlikely McDonough, and the

chance paid off. Despite the crew's skepticism, and thanks in large part to Marsh's firm but loving encouragement, McDonough unlocked a latent drive and dedication, going on to successfully battle a number of blazes and eventually win the confidence of the men he came to call his brothers. Then, on June 30, 2013, while McDonough--"Donut" as he'd been dubbed by his team--served as lookout, they confronted a freak, 3,000-degree inferno in nearby Yarnell, Arizona. The relentless firestorm ultimately trapped his hotshot brothers, tragically killing all 19 of them within minutes. Nationwide, it was the greatest loss of firefighter lives since the 9/11 attacks. Granite Mountain is a gripping memoir that traces McDonough's story of finding his way out of the dead end of drugs, finding his purpose among the Granite Mountain Hotshots, and the minute-by-minute account of the fateful day he lost the very men who had saved him. A harrowing and redemptive tale of resilience in the face of tragedy, Granite Mountain is also a powerful reminder of the heroism of the people who put themselves in harm's way to protect us every day.

Learn to live at peace with others even when you disagree by studying biblical stories of rivalries in Common Ground by Amberly Neese. Whether it is in politics, the professional world, a party, or a pew, we face conflict every day. As discussions get more heated and social media is deluged with opinion-spewing, hurt feelings, and broken relationships, we need hope and practical tools to navigate the tumultuous waters and live at peace with everyone. Fortunately, the Scriptures hold the key to living at peace despite our differences. In Common Ground, a four-week Bible study, Amberly Neese combines stories of sibling rivalries from the Bible with personal experience, humor, hope, and her love of God's Word. Stories examined from the Old and New Testaments include: - Joseph and His Brothers: How to Combat Jealousy - Moses, Miriam, and Aaron: How to Work Together Despite Differences - Mary, Martha, and Lazarus: How to Appreciate the Contributions of Others - Rachel and Leah: Having Compassion for the Plight of Others These stories point us to peace and reconciliation in all our relationships, reassuring us that it is possible to find common ground with everyone—despite our differences. Women will find biblical and practical help for: - Facing conflict - Navigating broken relationships - Handling heated discussions (in person and on social media) - Living at peace despite differences Components for this four-week Bible study, each available separately, include a Study Guide with Leader Helps, and video sessions with four 20 to 25-minute segments (with closed captioning).

Be careful. This book is dangerous. It explores with startling freshness the most important question you could ever ask, and offers with breathtaking courage the most extraordinary answer you could ever imagine. That answer is so theologically revolutionary and so spiritually empowering that it could change the course of human history. If embraced, it most certainly will change your life. There are people and institutions in the world, long in place and long in power, that want neither of these outcomes to occur. They would rather that you put this book down right now. It's up to you.

Join Ruth Chou Simons in this 7-session study as she walks through the Book of Colossians to demonstrate a pattern of being filled up with the truth of God's Word. Learn what it means, how to preach truth to your own heart, and how doing so can help shape your thought patterns, identity, and actions. There's no shortage of self-help, easy fixes, and worldly advice addressing all the concerns on your heart, but only the truth of God's Word was meant to fill you up and satisfy you fully.

Business as mission (BAM) is a mission strategy whose time has come. As global economics become increasingly interconnected, Christian business people and entrepreneurs have unanticipated opportunities to build kingdom-strategic business ventures. But Christian companies and business leaders do not automatically accomplish missional purposes. BAM requires mastery of both the world of business and the world of missions, merging and contextualizing both into something significantly different than either alone. C. Neal Johnson offers the first comprehensive guide to business as mission for practitioners. He provides conceptual foundations for understanding BAM's unique place in global mission and prerequisites for engaging in it. Then he offers practical resources for how to do BAM, including strategic planning and step-by-step operational implementation. Drawing on a wide variety of BAM models, Johnson works through details of both mission and business realities, with an eye to such issues as management, sustainability and accountability. Business as mission is a movement with enormous potential. This book breaks new ground in how faith and work intersect and are lived out in crosscultural contexts, where job creation and community transformation go hand in hand. Come, participate in what may well be one of the most strategic mission paradigms of the 21st century.

Battling alcoholism, depression, and trauma by surrendering to Christ and having a daily spiritual connection with God. From Sorrow to Amazing Grace: One Cop's Journey is written by Keith Knotek.

The early Christian Church was a chaos of contending beliefs. Some groups of Christians claimed that there was not one God but two or twelve or thirty. Some believed that the world had not been created by God but by a lesser, ignorant deity. Certain sects maintained that Jesus was human but not divine, while others said he was divine but not human. In *Lost Christianities*, Bart D. Ehrman offers a fascinating look at these early forms of Christianity and shows how they came to be suppressed, reformed, or forgotten. All of these groups insisted that they upheld the teachings of Jesus and his apostles, and they all possessed writings that bore out their claims, books reputedly produced by Jesus's own followers. Modern archaeological work has recovered a number of key texts, and as Ehrman shows, these spectacular discoveries reveal religious diversity that says much about the ways in which history gets written by the winners. Ehrman's discussion ranges from considerations of various "lost scriptures"--including forged gospels supposedly written by Simon Peter, Jesus's closest disciple, and Judas Thomas, Jesus's alleged twin brother--to the disparate beliefs of such groups as the Jewish-Christian Ebionites, the anti-Jewish Marcionites, and various "Gnostic" sects. Ehrman examines in depth the battles that raged between "proto-orthodox Christians"--those who eventually compiled the canonical books of the New Testament and standardized Christian belief--and the groups they denounced as heretics and ultimately overcame. Scrupulously researched and lucidly written, *Lost Christianities* is an eye-opening account of politics, power, and the clash of ideas among Christians in the decades before one group came to see its views prevail.

Many new believers have questions about what it means to live as a Christian in the context of a local church, and pastors are looking for resources to pass along to their congregations to help them think biblically about the Christian life. *Church Questions* is a series by 9Marks that seeks to provide Christians with sound and accessible biblical teaching by answering common questions about church life. Each booklet offers biblical answers and practical applications with the goal of nurturing healthy church practice and commitment. This booklet unpacks Scripture's teaching on the importance of baptism in the local church by responding to 7 reasons that baptism is often neglected as well as answering 3 common questions about baptism.

• A must-read for Christians in the present political conversation • Speaks to the larger narrative of faith rather than mere partisan storytelling

Citizen helps Christians find our place in the politics of the world. In these pages, Bishop Andy Doyle offers a Christian virtue ethic grounded in fresh anthropology. He offers a vision of the individual Christian within the reign of God and the life of the broader community. He adds to the conversation in both church and culture by offering a renewed theological underpinning to the complex nature of Christianity in a post-modern world. How did we get here? Is this the way it has to be? Are there implications for conversations about politics within the church? Doyle contends that our current debates are not about one partisan narrative winning, but communities of diversity being unified by a relationship with God's grand narrative. Crafting a deep theological conversation with a unified approach to the Old and New Testament, Citizen asks, what does it truly mean to live in community?

This collection of Bible stories presents the history of God's interaction with His people told through the words of Holy Scripture. Children ages 8 to 12 will review God's many Old Testament promises to send a Savior and see how these promises have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Each story includes discussion questions, a memory verse, and a full-color illustration. Extra features include maps, a timeline, and a glossary with explanatory notes on key words and phrases. 120 Bible Stories is perfect for use in the homes and classrooms to increase your child's familiarity with God's Word.

A sympathetic, compassionate, and inspiring guide for parents—from the founders of one of the first Christian ministries for parents of LGBTQ children. Greg and Lynn McDonald had never interacted with members of the LGBTQ community until they discovered that their son was gay. Without resources or support, they had no idea how to come to terms with this discovery. At first they tried to “fix” him, to no avail. But even in the earliest days of their journey, the McDonalds clung to two absolutes: they would love God, and they would love their son. “An essential resource for Christian parents of LGBTQ kids,” (Matthew Vines, Executive Director of The Reformation Project) this book follows the McDonald family's journey over the next twenty years, from a place of grief to a place of gratitude and acceptance that led the McDonalds to start one of the first Christian ministries for parents of LGBTQ children. Based on their experience from counseling and coaching hundreds of struggling Christian parents, they offer tools for understanding your own emotional patterns and spiritual challenges. They also help you experience a deeper relationship with God while handling difficult or unexpected situations that are out of your control. You will discover tested principles, patterns, and spiritual lessons that can change the way we all see our families, and help Christians at large think through Christ-like ways to respond to the LGBTQ community. Written in an unvarnished, honest, reassuring, and relatable voice, this is a practical guide for parents and a roadmap to learning to love God, the people He created, and the church, even when they seem to be at odds. Normally confident moms and dads grow weak-kneed when their children enter--gasp!--puberty. Barbara and Dennis Rainey, parents of six teenage or older children, map out the unfamiliar, demanding landscape of both pre-adolescence (ages 10-12), as well as the teen years that follow. "Preadolescence is when convictions are shaped; adolescence is when convictions are tested," they advise parents. In Parenting Today's Adolescent the Rainey's help children and parents build a satisfying relationship while forging a vision for a productive, God-honoring life-before, during, and after adolescence.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." But it often seems like conflict and disagreement are unavoidable. Serious, divisive conflict is everywhere—within families, in the church, and out in the world. And it can seem impossible to overcome its negative force in our lives. In *The Peacemaker*, Ken Sande presents a comprehensive and practical theology for conflict resolution designed to bring about not only a cease-fire but also unity and harmony. Sande takes readers beyond resolving conflicts to true, life-changing reconciliation with family members, coworkers, and fellow believers. Biblically based, *The Peacemaker* is full of godly wisdom and useful suggestions that are easily applied to

any relationship needing reconciliation. Sande's years of experience as an attorney and as president of Peacemaker Ministries will strengthen readers' confidence as they stand in the gap as peacemakers.

ECPA BESTSELLER • A compelling emotional and spiritual case against hurry and in favor of a slower, simpler way of life “As someone all too familiar with ‘hurry sickness,’ I desperately needed this book.”—Scott Harrison, New York Times best-selling author of Thirst “Who am I becoming?” That was the question nagging pastor and author John Mark Comer. Outwardly, he appeared successful. But inwardly, things weren't pretty. So he turned to a trusted mentor for guidance and heard these words: “Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life.” It wasn't the response he expected, but it was—and continues to be—the answer he needs. Too often we treat the symptoms of toxicity in our modern world instead of trying to pinpoint the cause. A growing number of voices are pointing at hurry, or busyness, as a root of much evil. Within the pages of this book, you'll find a fascinating roadmap to staying emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world.

In *Sticky Teams*, Larry Osborne exposes the hidden roadblocks, structures, and goofy thinking that all too often sabotage the health and harmony of even the best intentioned ministry teams. Then, with practical and seasoned advice, he shows what it takes to get a leadership board, ministry team, and an entire congregation headed in the same direction, sticking together, unified and healthy for the long haul.

In this 10-lesson Bible study, bestselling author Max Lucado helps individuals and small groups get to know 10 women of the Bible and what they can learn from their stories.

Social justice and mission are hot topics today: there's a wonderful resurgence of motivated Christians passionate about spreading the gospel and caring for the needs of others. But in our zeal to get sharing and serving, many are unclear on gospel and mission. Yes, we are called to spend ourselves for the sake of others, but what is the church's unique priority as it engages the world? DeYoung and Gilbert write to help Christians “articulate and live out their views on the mission of the church in ways that are theologically faithful, exegetically careful, and personally sustainable.” Looking at the Bible's teaching on evangelism, social justice, and shalom, they explore the what, why, and how of the church's mission. From defining “mission”, to examining key passages on social justice and their application, to setting our efforts in the context of God's rule, DeYoung and Gilbert bring a wise, studied perspective to the missional conversation. Readers in all spheres of ministry will grow in their understanding of the mission of the church and gain a renewed sense of urgency for Jesus' call to preach the Word and make disciples.

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