

# Faith Studies for Fall 2021

*Small group resources to journey inward and deepen your faith, so that together as a group, you journey outward to share God's love in the world.*

## **Introduction**

First, **thank you** for gathering your small group and all your preparations! You are doing sacred work! Here are a few things to consider this year:

- 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.
- There are a few changes in how to order resources. Whenever possible, we ask group members to order their own books/study guides. With advance notice, we will continue to order leader guides/DVDs with delivery directly to your home.
- To make things easy, you'll find many Incarnation resources available right on the website or through a link to view and print.
- Questions? Contact Denise at: [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org).

## **Resource Overview**

*If you are looking for a particular type of resource, here are a few general categories (descriptions of the resources are below):*

**Website/Link Resources** – View and print from the website or a link; created by Incarnation

*Our Story* – Congregation-wide theme for fall 2021

*Caring for One Another* – Theme for winter 2021

*You Matter to God* – Theme for fall 2020

*Renew Your Life* – Pastor Kai Nilsen's book and faith studies

*Psalms for Living*

*Connecting in Grace: Energized and other Connecting in Grace series*

**Engage in Learning** – A deeper exploration of the Bible, sacred art and living a life of faith

*The Saint John's Bible* – Devotions or short faith study (being developed)

*Psalms for Living*

*Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit*

*Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the 10 Commandments for Today*

*The Bible Project*

**Resources for Caring for One Another in Tough Times**

*Caring for One Another*

*Alongside*

## ***Integrating a Life of Faith***

*12 Tiny Things*

*Podcasts on current topics and discussion guides (talk with Denise Floe for more information)*

***Justice Resources*** – Contact [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org) for the most recent list, including *Dear White Peacemakers* by Osheta Moore (book), *The Black Church* by TPT (video), and others.

***Small Groups for Women*** – Contact [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org) for an expanded list of the most recent resources.

## ***Resource Descriptions***

### ***Our Story - Fall 2021 Congregation Theme***

How are our stories part of the larger God Story written about in the Biblical narrative? How do we see our stories differently once we realize that our stories are part of God's on-going activity in the world? *Your story matters* – as a life story and as a story of faith. What are the important parts of your faith story? How do you come to know your own story and share it with others? How do the stories of others make a difference for you – both those you know and those you don't know? *Faith Study available to be printed from the website or a link. Easy to use. No cost. Good for all demographics*

*Sessions:*

1. *God's Story, Our Story* – How is *Our Story* part of the Biblical narrative, *God's Story*, as it continues to unfold? How does God show up in our living, breathing, ordinary, extraordinary lives?
2. *Telling Our Story* – What is your faith story? How has God been active and present in your life? What is the value of telling your story to others?
3. *Our Neighbor's Stories* – How has our story shaped how we understand the stories of others? Whose stories are absent in our understanding of the world? What difference does it make to be missing some of the stories?
4. *Danger of a Single Story* – We often create a storyline for others (or ourselves), based on precious little information, perhaps just one idea and lots of assumptions. God sees us as multi-dimensional, wholistic beings. How can we see one another with God's eyes? How can we see that we too have a bigger story than what we tell ourselves?
5. *Unexpected, Untrue, & Ever-Changing Stories* – How is God present across all stages of our life (whether or not we are present to God)? How is God present in the times we had hoped for and the unanticipated (even undesired) times... the curves in the road? What does all this tell us for the story ahead, yet to lived?

### *Interested in Other Resources on Stories?*

*God Was with Me All Along* – Mary Lou Redding, The Upper Room

<https://upperroombooks.com/book/god-was-with-me-all-along/>

Book of devotions with written reflections and journaling questions

*Building Beloved Community Videos* – Collaboration with Ministry Lab/Methodist Church

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/buildingbelovedcommunity>

Video streaming with short video clips; discussion questions; audio recording (optional); some preparation by group leader

*Living Like They Believed Videos* – Faith and Leadership at Duke University

<https://faithandleadership.com/living-they-believe>

Video Streaming with short video clips; creative study guide; three video segments that follows four individuals through various topics; some preparation by group leader

### **12 Tiny Things** by Heidi Barr and Ellie Roscher

<https://12tinythings.com/>

Book with short chapters, discussion questions; congregational study guide; women's groups



### **Caring for One Another Faith Studies**

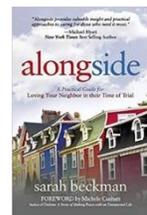
[www.incarnationmn.org/c4oa](http://www.incarnationmn.org/c4oa)

Written at ILC for devotions or as a short faith study. Ten sessions available. Use one or more. Print from on-line. Supplemental videos available.

### **Alongside: A Practical Guide to Loving Your Neighbor**

<https://sarahbeckman.org/alongside-book/>

Book, six sessions video series, leader guide; Great as a starting place or as a follow-up to *Caring for One Another*.



### **The Saint John's Bible**

Use the *Seeing the Word* curriculum or short faith studies (or devotions) currently being created by Grant Rykken. Printed guides; use one or more; under construction.

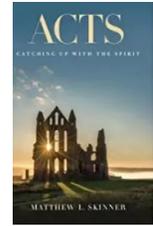
### **Podcasts & Conversation Guides**

Podcasts (by popular writers/speakers) and discussion guides created by a small group leader at Incarnation. Contact [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org) to find out more.

**Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit** by Matthew Skinner

<https://www.cokesbury.com/Acts>

DVD, leader guide, book (may or may not be needed)

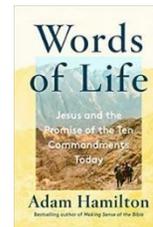


**Words of Life: Jesus & the Promise of the 10 Commandments for Today**

by Adam Hamilton

<https://www.cokesbury.com/9781791013264-Words-of-Life-DVD>

DVD and study guide



**Bible Project** – [www.bibleproject.com/](http://www.bibleproject.com/) or [www.bibleproject.com/bible-studies/](http://www.bibleproject.com/bible-studies/)

Podcasts and/or video streaming with reflection questions

**Explore** – *If interested, other websites to explore:*

**Small Group Resources Suggestions for 2020** (last year) -

<https://incarnationmn.org/faith-studies-for-fall-2020/>

**The Ministry Lab** –

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

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

**Publisher Websites:**

Cokesbury - [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com)

Zondervan - [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com)

Sparkhouse - [www.wearesparkhouse.org](http://www.wearesparkhouse.org)

The Upper Room – [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org)

### **Things to Know...**

- Most resources can now be previewed directly on the publisher's website; Incarnation also has samples of selected resources.
- Groups can be scheduled on-site (with a Zoom back-up), by Zoom or as a hybrid, depending on space availability and group preference.
- 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.
- If your group is struggling with a resource, consider making a change mid-season.

- Use the form *Tell Us About Your Small Group* to share your dates, resources and other plans for the upcoming year.

Go to: <https://incarnationmn.org/tell-us-about-your-small-group/>

Password: ilcsgm

Questions? Preview Copies? Orders? Contact [dfloe@incarnationmn.org](mailto:dfloe@incarnationmn.org)