

New Resources April 2021

Date: 2021-04-30

ADULTS
232.1
SOBEL

Sobel, Jason. ***Mysteries of the Messiah DVD: Unveiling Divine Connections from Genesis to Today***. Nashville, Tennessee, W Publishing Group, an imprint of Thomas Nelson, 2021.

Summary: In this six-session video Bible study, Rabbi Jason Sobel uncovers connections between the Old Testament and New Testament that are vital in giving us a complete picture of God's plan for sending Jesus into the world as the Messiah. In the Gospel of Luke, we read how Jesus revealed this connection to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They listened as Jesus explained, "beginning with Moses and the Prophets . . . what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself," and later asked themselves, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:27,32). Too many of us today are likewise missing this connection. We are settling for just the New Testament or the Old Testament and not understanding how the Bible fits together as a whole to offer one complete picture of Jesus. Both the Old and New are God's priceless possessions . . . and neither one is more or less valuable than the other. However, together their value increases dramatically! For both are needed in order for us to experience our full inheritance in God's kingdom and His beloved children. As Rabbi Jason unlocks these connections, participants will come to understand: How the foundation of the Bible (The Torah) fits with the rest of Scripture. How the Torah answers the question of "who is the promised seed?" How all of the Bible works to give a picture of the promise of Messiah. What implications this has for their lives as the Old and New Testaments come together. The *Mysteries of the Messiah* will show participants that God's Word—written by many people over thousands of years—is not a random selection of people and stories but of intricate connections. Rabbi Jason will connect the dots, helping them see with clarity and "high definition" what God intended. Designed for use with the *Mysteries of the Messiah Study Guide*. --Thomas Nelson

Content Notes:

- 1. Finding Jesus in the Story of Creation (22:00) -- 2. Finding Jesus in the Story of the Patriarchs (22:00) -- 3. Finding Jesus in the Story of Joseph and Judah (22:30) -- 4. Finding Jesus in the Story of Moses (23:00) -- 5. Finding Jesus in the Story of Ruth and Boaz (22:00) -- 6. Finding Jesus in the Story of David (22:30)

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SOBEL

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Summary: In this six-session video Bible study, Rabbi Jason Sobel uncovers connections between the Old Testament and New Testament that are vital in giving us a complete picture of God's plan for sending Jesus into the world as the Messiah. In the Gospel of Luke, we read how Jesus revealed this connection to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They listened as Jesus explained, "beginning with Moses and the Prophets . . . what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself," and later asked themselves, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with

us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:27,32). Too many of us today are likewise missing this connection. We are settling for just the New Testament or the Old Testament and not understanding how the Bible fits together as a whole to offer one complete picture of Jesus. Both the Old and New are God's priceless possessions . . . and neither one is more or less valuable than the other. However, together their value increases dramatically! For both are needed in order for us to experience our full inheritance in God's kingdom and His beloved children. As Rabbi Jason unlocks these connections, participants will come to understand: How the foundation of the Bible (The Torah) fits with the rest of Scripture. How the Torah answers the question of "who is the promised seed?" How all of the Bible works to give a picture of the promise of Messiah. What implications this has for their lives as the Old and New Testaments come together. The Mysteries of the Messiah will show participants that God's Word—written by many people over thousands of years—is not a random selection of people and stories but of intricate connections. Rabbi Jason will connect the dots, helping them see with clarity and "high definition" what God intended. Designed for use with the Mysteries of the Messiah DVD. -- Thomas Nelson

Content Notes:

- How to Use This Guide -- 1. Finding Jesus in the Story of Creation -- 2. Finding Jesus in the Story of the Patriarchs -- 3. Finding Jesus in the Story of Joseph and Judah -- 4. Finding Jesus in the Story of Moses -- 5. Finding Jesus in the Story of Ruth and Boaz -- 6. Finding Jesus in the Story of David -- Leader's Guide.

ADULTS
234.25
OWENSBY

Owensby, Jacob W. ***Looking for God in Messy Places: A Book about Hope.***

Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2021.

Summary: "When something breaks, it usually leaves a mess. The same is true with our broken lives. When we compare ourselves to others, stress becomes too much to handle, or when life in general overwhelms us, it's hard to find hope inside the mess of our brokenness. Without hope we lack the courage to face adversity, the strength to tackle everyday problems, and sometimes, the will just to get out of bed in the morning. Looking for God in Messy Places by Jake Owensby is a book for anyone who has ever been frozen in place by loss or regret or endured suffering, cruelty, or rejection. Quite simply, it is a book about hope. How to find it. How to practice it. How to grow in it. How it makes life worth living. Because when we look for God in the middle of the mess, we find hope." Includes discussion questions. --Provided by publisher.

ADULTS
248.843
COWART

Cowart, Jennifer. ***Pursued DVD: God's Relentless Love for YOU : A Study from***

Genesis to Revelation. Nashville, Abingdon Women, 2021.

Summary: Discover how God is pursuing you as you explore His relentless love from Genesis to Revelation There is something in all of us that longs to be loved, to be desired, to be pursued—whether by a special someone, our friends, or others in our lives. This longing for love and acceptance is the underlying story of many of our lives, and it's the overarching story we see throughout the Scriptures. In this six-week study, Jennifer Cowart explores the main theme that runs throughout the stories in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation: God's relentless love for us. Like Cain, Abraham, Sarah, Rebekah, David, the adulterous woman, Peter, and many others, we have broken relationship with God. Yet God runs after us anyway to bring us

home. Together we will explore God's love as evidenced in the stories of creation, the patriarchs, the judges and prophets, Jesus, and the early church. We will see the big picture of God's love for us, discover that God wants a personal relationship with each one of us, and realize that God will never stop pursuing us. Components for this six-week women's study, each available separately, include a Participant Workbook, a Leader Guide, and a DVD. The DVD contains video sessions with six 15-minute segments (with closed captioning). --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- 1. Pursued from the Very Beginning (14:03) -- 2. Pursued Through Growing Pains (15:28) -- 3. Pursued in a Cycle of Obedience and Rebellion (14:23) -- 4. Pursued and Rescued (13:44) -- 5. Pursued in Our Unsavory Moments (13:16) -- 6. Pursued for the Sake of Others (14:29) -- Promotional Video (0:60)

ADULTS
248.843
COWART

Cowart, Jennifer. ***Pursued Leader Guide: God's Relentless Love for YOU : A Study from Genesis to Revelation***. Nashville, Abingdon Women, 2021.

Summary: Discover how God is pursuing you as you explore His relentless love from Genesis to Revelation There is something in all of us that longs to be loved, to be desired, to be pursued—whether by a special someone, our friends, or others in our lives. This longing for love and acceptance is the underlying story of many of our lives, and it's the overarching story we see throughout the Scriptures. In this six-week study, Jennifer Cowart explores the main theme that runs throughout the stories in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation: God's relentless love for us. Like Cain, Abraham, Sarah, Rebekah, David, the adulterous woman, Peter, and many others, we have broken relationship with God. Yet God runs after us anyway to bring us home. Together we will explore God's love as evidenced in the stories of creation, the patriarchs, the judges and prophets, Jesus, and the early church. We will see the big picture of God's love for us, discover that God wants a personal relationship with each one of us, and realize that God will never stop pursuing us. Components for this six-week women's study, each available separately, include a Participant Workbook, a Leader Guide, and a DVD. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- About the Author -- Introduction -- Basic Leader Helps -- Introductory Session -- 1. Pursued from the Very Beginning -- 2. Pursued Through Growing Pains -- 3. Pursued in a Cycle of Obedience and Rebellion -- 4. Pursued and Rescued -- 5. Pursued in Our Unsavory Moments -- 6. Pursued for the Sake of Others -- Video Viewer Guide Answers.

ADULTS
248.843
COWART

Cowart, Jennifer. ***Pursued Participant Workbook: God's Relentless Love for YOU : A Study from Genesis to Revelation***. Nashville, Abingdon Women, 2021.

Summary: Discover how God is pursuing you as you explore His relentless love from Genesis to Revelation There is something in all of us that longs to be loved, to be desired, to be pursued—whether by a special someone, our friends, or others in our lives. This longing for love and acceptance is the underlying story of many of our lives, and it's the overarching story we see throughout the Scriptures. In this six-week study, Jennifer Cowart explores the main theme that runs throughout the stories in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation: God's relentless love for us. Like Cain, Abraham, Sarah, Rebekah, David, the adulterous woman, Peter, and many others,

we have broken relationship with God. Yet God runs after us anyway to bring us home. Together we will explore God's love as evidenced in the stories of creation, the patriarchs, the judges and prophets, Jesus, and the early church. We will see the big picture of God's love for us, discover that God wants a personal relationship with each one of us, and realize that God will never stop pursuing us. Components for this six-week women's study, each available separately, include a Participant Workbook, a Leader Guide, and a DVD. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- About the Author -- Introduction -- 1. Pursued from the Very Beginning -- 2. Pursued Through Growing Pains -- 3. Pursued in a Cycle of Obedience and Rebellion -- 4. Pursued and Rescued -- 5. Pursued in Our Unsavory Moments -- 6. Pursued for the Sake of Others -- Video Viewer Guide Answers -- Notes.

ADULTS
248.843
NEESE

Neese, Amberly. ***Common Ground Bible Study Guide with Leader Helps: Loving Others Despite Our Differences : A Study of Sibling Rivalries in the Bible.*** Nashville, Abingdon Women, 2021.

Summary: Learn to live at peace with others even when you disagree by studying biblical stories of rivalries. Conflict has always been part of our lives, but these days, disagreements seem ramped up, don't they? Whatever the discord may be over, it feels as if we're constantly having to choose sides. In *Common Ground*, a four-week study for women, author Amberly Neese shows us that the Scriptures hold the key to living at peace despite our differences. She combines stories of sibling rivalries from the Bible with personal experience, humor, hope, and her love of God's Word to illustrate how we can have peace and reconciliation in all of our relationships—all while reassuring us that it's possible to find common ground with everyone—despite our differences. A Study Guide with Leader Helps and a video session with four segments, each available separately, complement the study. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- About the Author -- Introduction -- 1. Joseph and His Brothers -- 2. Moses, Miriam, and Aaron -- 3. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus -- 4. Rachel and Leah -- A Final Word -- Leader Helps -- Video Notes Answers -- Notes.

ADULTS
248.843
NEESE

Neese, Amberly. ***Common Ground DVD: Loving Others Despite Our Differences : A Study of Sibling Rivalries in the Bible.*** Nashville, Abingdon Women, 2021.

Summary: Learn to live at peace with others even when you disagree by studying biblical stories of rivalries. Conflict has always been part of our lives, but these days, disagreements seem ramped up, don't they? Whatever the discord may be over, it feels as if we're constantly having to choose sides. In *Common Ground*, a four-week study for women, author Amberly Neese shows us that the Scriptures hold the key to living at peace despite our differences. She combines stories of sibling rivalries from the Bible with personal experience, humor, hope, and her love of God's Word to illustrate how we can have peace and reconciliation in all of our relationships—all while reassuring us that it's possible to find common ground with everyone—despite our differences. A Study Guide with Leader Helps and a video session with four segments, each available separately, complement the study. The DVD video sessions contain four 20–25-minute segments (with closed captioning). --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- 1. Joseph and His Brothers (24:44) -- 2. Moses, Miriam, and Aaron (23:06) -- 3. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (23:33) -- 4. Rachel and Leah (24:00) -- Promotional Video (0:60)

ADULTS
253 KOTAN

Kotan, Kay. ***Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World: Game Changers for the Post-Pandemic Church***. Knoxville, Tennessee, Market Square Books, 2021.

Summary: Opportunity is born out of crisis. The global pandemic has been horrific. No one could have predicted such chaos to occur for so long. Yet, there is opportunity, the proverbial silver lining. Crisis is an accelerator. The church was catapulted into the digital future. Some churches had no choice but to embrace technology they once refused. The church learned there are more ways to offer worship than we had previously imagined. We learned it is possible to engage people in online ministry that might never become involved in on-site ministry. The church learned that it could change, and it changed quickly. During a pandemic period, when everything seems to have turned upside down, there is an opportunity to stop some things that had not been working anyway, eliminate some things that were seemingly impossible in “normal” times, and start new things that might have been hard to imagine in the past. As some churches began to resume on-site worship, another quandary came into being. How many of our folks will return? What does social distancing look like in a sanctuary with pews? How do we handle singing? What about the choir? Masks or no masks? What about our meet and greet time? How do we collect the offering? As the church begins to emerge from the pandemic, our role is changing. It was already changing pre-pandemic, but the change is sure to escalate drastically post-pandemic. This resource is designed to serve as a guide to what conversations might be helpful for you and your church’s leadership. This book is to be used as a tool, not an instrument of judgment or criticism. This resource was created out of a heart full of love for the local church and the hope it will be helpful in finding our next faithful steps to being the vital church in the post-pandemic world. Guest Contributors: Bishop Laurie Haller, Bishop Sharma Lewis, Bishop Michael McKee, Bishop Bruce Ough, Bishop Jeremiah Park, Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball, and Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett. --Cokesbury

ADULTS
259 LAMPE

Lampe, Karen. ***The Caring Congregation Ministry Care Implementation Guide***.

Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2021.

Summary: Learn to build, launch, and sustain a congregational care ministry in your church—no matter the size, type, or denomination. Although caring for one another within a church family may seem easy, the theology of caring and the practicalities involved and even visitation etiquette are issues about which Congregational Care Ministers must be aware and understand. In *The Caring Congregation Ministry*, Karen Lampe and Melissa Gepford have put together an indispensable implementation guide that equips pastors and lay leaders of any size, type, or denomination of church with all the necessary resources needed to build and sustain a Congregational Care ministry, including handouts, worksheets, and templates, in addition to advice on teaching people how to listen, comfort, and encourage congregants. --Cokesbury

ADULTS
259 LAMPE

Lampe, Karen. ***The Caring Congregation Ministry Care Minister's Manual***. Nashville,

Abingdon Press, 2021.

Summary: The Care Minister's Manual is the personal training workbook and reference guide for Congregational Care Ministers (CCM's), who serve a central role in the Caring Congregation Ministry. CCM's receive in-depth training, where they learn the theological foundations of congregational care, plus the behaviors, habits, and practices they will need to follow in order to serve others well. Each CCM-in-training should have a copy of this Manual. It serves as their training workbook, which then becomes the CCM's personal reference guide. The Caring Congregation Ministry is a model for congregational care that's been proven to work in small and large churches across the U.S. It is a laity-centered ministry, where laypersons receive training and then are commissioned to serve as Congregational Care Ministers or CCM's, caring for the people in their congregation and community. The Caring Congregation Ministry: Implementation Guide is the main book for pastors and other leaders seeking to build, launch, and sustain a Caring Congregation Ministry in their church. --Cokesbury

ADULTS
261.7
MARSHALL Marshall, Ellen Ott. ***Christians in the Public Square: Faith that Transforms Politics.***

Eugene, Oregon, Wipf & Stock, 2015.

Summary: This book calls Christians to resist meanness, divisiveness, and dogmatism in the public square by enacting love, attending to moral ambiguity, and practicing theological humility - in other words, to transform politics by refusing to play politics. --Wipf & Stock

Content Notes:

- Introduction: Refusing to play politics with faith -- Love -- Moral ambiguity -
- Theological humility -- Conclusion: Faith that transforms politics.

ADULTS
261.83228
SLEETH Sleeth, J. Matthew. ***Hope Always: How to be a Force for Life in a Culture of Suicide.***

Carol Stream, Illinois, Tyndale House, 2021.

Summary: "Every single day, someone you know is thinking about committing suicide. It isn't just one or two-ten million Americans will consider killing themselves in the upcoming year. Dr. Matthew Sleeth believes Christians-and our churches-should be the first to offer hope. Are we prepared to do so? As a physician and minister, Dr. Sleeth shares his personal and professional experiences with depression and suicide, challenging Christians to become part of the solution. With sound medical principles finding their rightful place beside timeless biblical wisdom, Hope Always offers the practical and spiritual tools that individuals, families, and churches need to help loved ones who are stressed and struggling. In Hope Always, you will find research-based and scientifically grounded information about the suicide epidemic, biblically based information to start a conversation about the spiritual and emotional battles that so many of us face, and a practical toolkit to consult when a loved one is dealing with suicidal ideation. After reading Hope Always, you will have the resources at your fingertips to build communities of hope that help save lives!"-- --Provided by publisher.

ADULTS
261.8325
THEOHARIS Theoharis, Liz. ***Always with Us?: What Jesus Really Said about the Poor.*** Grand

Rapids, Michigan, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2017.

Summary: A strong theological call for ending the abomination of systemic poverty Jesus's words "the poor you will always have with you" (Matthew 26:11) are regularly

used to suggest that ending poverty is impossible, that poverty is a result of moral failures, and that the poor themselves have no role in changing their situation. In this book Liz Theoharis examines both the biblical text and the lived reality of the poor to show how that passage is taken out of context, distorted, and politicized to justify theories about the inevitability of inequality. Theoharis reinterprets "the poor you will always have with you" to show that it is actually one of the strongest biblical mandates to end poverty. She documents stories of poor people themselves organizing to improve their lot and illuminates the implications for the church. Poverty is not inevitable, Theoharis argues. It is a systemic sin, and all Christians have a responsibility to partner with the poor to end poverty once and for all. -- Eerdmans

Content Notes:

- Is ending poverty possible? -- Reading the Bible with the poor -- No needy among you -- Don't laugh, folks, Jesus was a poor man -- More than flinging a coin to a beggar -- Christ, the social-movement.

ADULTS
287.6092
CARTER

Carter, Kenneth H. ***God Will Make a Way: Spiritual Life and Leadership in a Contested Season***. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2021.

Summary: In *God Will Make a Way*, Bishop Ken Carter shares reflections from his journey from the 2016 General Conference, through his leadership in *The Way Forward*, his role as Presiding Bishop, into the special 2019 Conference, and the postponed 2020 General Conference in the midst of a pandemic. The book is both a spiritual journey and an inside view of one of the most tumultuous periods of national and denominational history. Carter casts his personal spiritual reflections against a backdrop of life-shaping events: the first *Way Forward* meetings, the tragedy at Mother Emmanuel, interactions with Kenneth Feinberg, Jurgen Moltmann, and others, the Pulse and Parkland shootings, and more. Throughout, the high points are experiences and conversations between people, often from dramatically different stances, who find common ground, new understanding, and hope while the dark times are from conflict-inspired anger, national violence, and shaken hope. -- Cokesbury

ADULTS
305.8
TISBY

Tisby, Jemar. ***How to Fight Racism Study Guide: Courageous Christianity and the Journey Toward Racial Justice***. Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 2021.

Summary: The *How to Fight Racism Study Guide*, used together with the *How to Fight Racism Video Study*, provides groups and individuals with practical tools and suggestions, along with real-world examples of change, to enable them to become proactive initiators of racial justice. Tisby offers an array of actionable items to confront racism in our relationships and in everyday life through a simple framework--the A.R.C. Of Racial Justice--that helps readers consistently interrogate their own actions and maintain a consistent posture of anti-racist action. This book is for anyone who believes it is time to stop compromising with racism and courageously confront it. The study guide, along with the video study, offers readers the opportunity to be part of the solution to racial problems and suggests that the application of these principles can offer us hope that will transform our nation and the world. Tisby encourages us to reject passivity and become active participants in the struggle for human dignity across racial and ethnic lines. Readers of the book will come away with a clear model for how to think about race in productive ways and a compelling call to dismantle a social hierarchy long stratified by skin color. --Zondervan

ADULTS
305.8
TISBY

Tisby, Jemar. ***How to Fight Racism Video Study: Courageous Christianity and the Journey Toward Racial Justice***. Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 2021.

Summary: How to Fight Racism Video Study is a how-to guide for pursuing racial justice. It is long past time to move beyond mere discussions about racism, and equip people with practical tools and suggestions to actually do something about it. By providing a series of hands-on suggestions for practice bolstered by real-world examples of change, Jemar Tisby offers viewers an array of actionable items to help them become proactive initiators of racial justice. Far more than a simple list of items to do, it also provides a simple framework to help viewers consistently interrogate their own actions and maintain a posture of anti-racist action. This video study is for anyone who believes it is time for the church to stop compromising with racism and courageously confront it. How to Fight Racism Video Study offers viewers the opportunity to be part of the solution to racial problems in the church and the nation. It equips them to become activists in the cause of racial justice and to see themselves as participants in the struggle for human dignity across racial and ethnic lines. In the end, viewers of the study will have a model for how to think about race in productive ways and to lend their energy in dismantling a social hierarchy that has long been stratified by skin color. --Zondervan

Content Notes:

- 1 - How to Fight Racism (15 min) -- 2 - How to Explain Race and the Image of God (30 min) -- 3 - How to Explore Your Racial Identity (19 min) -- 4 - How to Study the History of Race (18 min) -- 5 - How to Do Reconciliation Right (20 min) -- 6 - How to Make Friends (17 min) -- 7 - How to Build Diverse Communities (17 min) -- 8 - How to Work for Racial Justice (16 min) -- 9 - How to Fight Systemic Racism (26 min) -- 10 - How to Orient Your Life to Racial Justice (17 min) -- 11 - Conclusion (4 min)

YOUTH
259.208664
SANDERS

Sanders, Cody J. ***A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth***. Louisville, Kentucky, Westminster John Knox Press, 2017.

Summary: Despite our best efforts to create welcoming and affirming congregations, the reality is that church can still be a harmful place to LGBTQIA youth. Inside *A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth*, author Cody J. Sanders challenges pastors and church leaders to reflect on the various trials that adolescence brings for LGBTQIA youth. Designed for congregations that currently have a theologically and biblically affirming stance toward the LGBTQIA community, this unique resource provides insight and practical advice for tough questions like: How does an affirming stance toward LGBTQIA people affect the day-to-day experience of teenagers in a church setting? In what ways can a church's youth ministry have a positive impact on the lives of LGBTQIA youth who want to fully live out their Christian faith and their gender identity? How can a pastor, youth minister, or youth ministry volunteer embrace, nurture, and provide skillful care for LGBTQIA youth in a congregation or community? A glossary of terms to use when talking about LGBTQIA issues and a list of national and location resources that can be used to support LGBTQIA youth are included. --Westminster John Knox Press