

## **Adult Education Group Study Resources for Loan**

### **The Asphalt Gospel**

Sometimes you have to go a long way to make a difference. In 2006, six ordinary people set out on a walking journey to change the face of Christianity in America. This is their story.

### **Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol (Four Week Bible Study for Advent)**

The classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is a cherished symbol of Christmas and a wonderful story of redemption and hope – perfect for a study in Advent. Contained in one spiral-bound volume are both the full original text of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as well a four-part discussion guide that coincides with the four weeks of Advent. Perfect for small groups (with or without leaders), individual study, Sunday morning Bible study or youth groups, the discussion guide incorporate the story itself with study of Scripture, engaging activities, and thought-provoking discussion starters.

### **Countering Pharaoh's Production—Consumption Society Today** featuring Walter Brueggemann

Countering Pharaoh is a small group, DVD-based study that can be conducted over four to five one hour sessions. Sessions include: The Way Out; The Decalogue; Countering Caesar; An Act of Imagination; On Not Doing God Any Favour.

### **Embracing a Life of Meaning**

Kathleen Norris provides a unique viewpoint on “what matters most,” including: Belief matters; The bible matters; Community matters; Place matters; and We matter. This DVD contains all video content needed to conduct a five session study. Each session begins with a 10-15 minute video presentation followed by filmed interaction with a diverse small group of adults. Participant workbook also required.

### **Embracing Spiritual Awakening**

Diana Butler Bass expands on the ideas she developed in recent book, *Christian after Religion*, exploring what Christianity may look like “beyond religion and beyond the church.” The 5-session study includes 1) Arriving, 2) Believing, 3) Behaving, 4) Belonging and 5) Awakening.

### **Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture**

Walter Brueggemann takes you through the poetic prophecy of the Hebrew Scripture, identifying cultural contexts, putting a framework to Israel's history, and, most significantly—and at times challengingly!—drawing connections between Israel's sociological, economic and spiritual status and that of America today. This 6-session DVD includes 1) Moses, Pharaoh, the Prophets and Us, 2) The Prophets as Uncredentialed Purveyors of Covenant, 3) Moral Coherence in a World of Power, Money and Violence, 4) The Shrill Rhetoric that Breaks Denial, 5) The Grief of Loss as Divine Judgment and 6) The Promissory Language that Breaks Despair.

### **First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God** featuring John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg

A DVD and web-based study filmed on location through the Galilee and Jerusalem. A 12 session DVD including: The matrix of Jesus; The advent of the messiah; God's great cleanup; Collaborative eschaton; The lake as the world; Parables as Lures; Jesus as Lord; Substitutionary atonement?; Demonstrations in Jerusalem; The crowd and the Crucifixion; Resurrection as resistance; and America and the New Rome.

### **The Fit Life Course: Living a Balanced and Meaningful Life** with Tim Perry (DVD)

Discover the difference God makes in your life today. The Fit Life Course offers eight sessions (25-35 minutes) of practical advice and encouragement on living a balanced and meaningful life. Sessions include: Understanding who God is; Developing a positive self esteem; Learning to balance your life; Establishing clear values for living; Looking after your body; Learning to travel light; Turning your failures into success; and Living with the certainty of life after death.

### **The Healing Oasis: Guided Meditations for Mind, Body and Spirit**

This CD contains six meditations, including: 1 – The Healing Pool; 2 – The Parable of the Growing Seed; 3 – On Forgiveness; 4 – The River of Life; 5 – The Temple of the Spirit; and 6 – Crossing to the Other Side.

### **Living the Questions**

A program for Christian exploration and spiritual formation. Suggested group size eight to 10 participants. Sessions include: An invitation to journey; Thinking theologically; Creativity and stories of creation; restoring relationships; Evil, suffering and a God of love; Intimacy with God; Social justice; A kingdom without walls; Lives of Jesus; Compassion: the hearts of Jesus' ministry; A passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle; Out into the world: challenges facing progressive Christianity; The contribution of Wesleyan theology.

### **Living the Questions 2.0: An Introduction to Progressive Christianity**

Living the Questions (DVD and resource materials) is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Living the Questions creates an environment where participants not only interact with one another in exploring the best of today's theological thought, but together strive to explore what's next for Christianity. This program features 30 of today's leading voices and is comprised of 21 sessions that may be offered in sequence or as three independent flights (Invitation to Journey; Reclaiming the World; Call to Covenant) of seven units each. The 20 minute video segments include conversation with leading voice of faith, sermon and lecture clips, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices.

### **Painting The Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith**

Celebrating the communion of science and Faith, Painting the Stars explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. The basic format for each 1-1.5 hour session includes conversation around the reading, a 20 minute video presentation and a guided discussion. Sessions include: 1 – Toward Healing the Rift; 2 – A renaissance of Wonder; 3 – Getting Genesis Wrong; 4 – An Evolving Faith; 5 – Evolutionary Christianity; 6 – Imagining a Future; and 7 – An Evolving Spirituality: Mysticism.

### **Saving Jesus** featuring leading religious voices such as J. Bell, M. Borg, M. Fox, J. Spong, etc.

This 12-session program includes two DVDDs and a CD with printable facilitator and participant guide with readings, quotes and questions for discussion. The format for each 1-1.5 hour session includes a conversation around the readings, a 20 minute video segment and guided discussion. Sessions include: Introduction: Jesus through the ages; Who was Jesus?; What can we know about Jesus (and how)?; The world into which Jesus was born; Jesus' birth: incarnation; Teaching of Jesus: wisdom tradition; Jesus' program: the kingdom of God; Jesus; ministry of compassion; killing Jesus, Part one: who killed Jesus?; Killing Jesus, Part two: the Atonement; The resurrection of Christ; and Why Jesus is worth saving.

### **Singing the Unsung** with John Bell

Singing the Unsung is a dynamic, interactive resource designed especially for music leaders, worship design teams, and pastors seeking the revitalization of worship for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. John Bell guides participant reflection on the theology of the church's song and offers practical techniques on how we can sing and pray together with integrity. This two DVD set includes nine 30 minute video segments and introduces 30 songs from around the globe for congregation or choral use. Session themes: Why We Sing; What We Sing: Congregational as Choir; Improving Congregational Singing; The Think Place that is Iona; Christian Music Around the World; Why We Worship; Becoming the Body of Christ; and Living the Gospel.

### **Stirring Up Advent**

This 4-session study looks at the themes of covenant, grace, empowerment and intimacy in relationships. Each session includes an ice-breaker, thematic Bible study questions and reflections. The large-format Leaders Guide includes all answers, helpful study notes, and session directions.

### **Uppity Women of the Bible**

All four volumes include a facilitator's guide. Each volume is a separate program.

**Volume 1: Ruth** – Seven engaging sessions with Rev. Dr. Lisa Wolfe takes you on an enlightening journey through the Book of Ruth. Sessions include: Bittersweet; In Case of Emergency; The Go'el?; A King's Ancestry; Understating Ruth; An Uppity Woman?; and Grace and Hospitality.

**Volume 2: Songs of Songs** – Explore the mysterious, beautiful and alluring Songs of Songs, at times referred to as Song of Solomon, in this six session study led by Rev. Dr. Lisa Wolfe. Sessions include: Her and Him; What About Solomon?; A Misunderstanding Book; Don't Hurry Love; Your Eyes are Doves; and What's It All About?

**Volume 3: Esther** – Join Dr. Wolfe for this fascinating study of power, corruption, violence and courage. Ester is presented in six sessions, perfect for any study group with or without a leader. Sessions include: Who's Who?; Setting the State; The Defiant Queen; From Coronation to Doomsday; The King's Scepter; and Uppity Esther?

**Volume 4: Judith** – This video series examines the story of Judith who took things into her own hands. This six session video series takes you from a mythological battlefield and a besieged city into the studio and psyche of the Baroque painter Artemesia Gentileschi. Sessions include: The Real King Antiochus; Besieged; Judith's Plan; An Unlikely Hero; Piety and Violence; and The Art of Artemisia.

## **Via Media**

Is an eight session evangelism tool designed to be used again and again in your congregation. It can be used to incorporate new members, to refresh your congregation with an Anglican primer, to build community in existing small groups or leadership teams and vestries, or as Christian formation and confirmation and baptism classes. Sessions include: 1 - An Anglican way of being Christian; 2 - God & Creation: The abundance of God's goodness; 3 - God in Jesus: An Incarnational Faith; 4 – God the Holy Spirit: The Breath of New Life; 5 – The Word of God for the People of God; 6 – Sin: Roadblocks to Abundant Life; 7 – Thy Kingdom Come: The Promise of Christian Hope; and 8 – So What?

## **Victory and Peace of Justice and Peace?** with John Dominic Crossan

This program includes nearly four hours of DVD content and discussion guide. Can be conducted over 4, 8, or 12 weeks. Four lectures include: 1 – Justice and the world: What is the character of your God?; 2 – History and Jesus: What is the content of your faith?; 3 – Worship and violence: What is the purpose of your prayer?; 4 – Resurrection and community: What is the function of your church? Bonus sermon: Justice as Love.