

## Resource Guide

This is a summary of some excellent books that we would encourage you to consider working through in your Fight Club. Most contain study guides or discussion questions. For those that don't we hope you will be able to make up your own questions. Here are a few suggestions to get you started: *What is your overall impression of the chapter? What impacted you most and why? What didn't make sense or needed clarification? What behaviour/attitude/belief will you change as a result?*

### Bible Study Guides

*Twelve Dead Men Speak* by David Shearman (includes discussion questions)

A helpful book with 12 chapters unpacking the message of each of the minor prophets, Hosea to Malachi, for today. "The messages from twelve men from the past are brought to life by David Shearman – compelling and challenging; real and relevant; timeless and timely." (J John)

*Basics for Believers: An Exposition of Philippians* by DA Carson

In *Basics for Believers*, Don Carson opens up the life-transforming lessons of Philippians, showing us how we can put the whole gospel first, learn to live as disciples of Christ, and never give up the Christian walk.

Some of *The Bible Speaks Today* Commentaries include study/discussion questions and are worthwhile working through together.

### Bible Study Skills/Overview

*Dig Deeper: Tools to Unearth the Bible's Treasure* by Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach (includes Bible study exercises)

"An excellent user-friendly set of principles to help the Bible reader understand its message with increasing confidence and relevance." (David Jackman)

*God's Big Picture: Tracing the Story-Line of the Bible* by Vaughan Roberts (includes Bible study and discussion questions)

This helpful overview shows how the different parts of the Bible fit together under the theme of the kingdom of God.

### Biblical Manhood/Womanhood

*Men of God* with contributions from Richard Coekin, Tim Chester, David Jackman, Rico Tice and others (includes Bible study and discussion questions)

"With men being tugged in so many directions, it's a pleasure to recommend a book that faithfully reflects so much Scripture and that presents the application of that Scripture in faithful and sensible ways." (DA Carson)

*God's Design for Women* by Sharon James (includes study guide)

This super book refreshingly accepts and celebrates the differences between men and women, and offers a return to the Biblical model for women and their place in marriage, the home, the family and also in the workplace.

## Church

*The Spirit Filled Church: Finding Your Place in God's Purpose* by Terry Virgo

This is a magnificent expression of everything the church should be and do.

*Gospel Centred Church* by Steve Timmis and Tim Chester (includes short Bible study and questions for discussion)

The principles contained in this workbook are an attempt to articulate what a true gospel ministry might look like. It is designed to help clarify our thinking about how to be more faithful to God's saving message.

## Doctrine

*Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know* by Wayne Grudem (available as a 160 page book with discussion questions and as a DVD course)

"Wayne Grudem is a master teacher with the ability to explain profound truths in simple language. He is a man of deep conviction and theological passion - and those who read this book will be both educated and encouraged in the faith" (R. Albert Mohler Jr.)

## Evangelism & Apologetics

*Basic Christianity* by John Stott (new edition includes study guide)

This book is "an absolute gem" (Mike Pilavachi); it "explains complex and difficult issues with great insight and wisdom." (Nicky Gumbel) It is suitable for Christians to use to equip them to share the gospel persuasively or to work through with a not-yet Christian or young Christian to ground them in the gospel.

*Breaking the News* by J John (includes questions and exercises)

The short 92 page book is an outstanding explanation by one of the UK's most gifted evangelists on how to speak naturally about Jesus to our friends.

*Becoming a Contagious Christian* by Mark Mittleberg, Lee Strobel and Bill Hybels (DVD course with leaders' manual and participants guide)

This material will train you to build spiritually significant relationships, direct conversations towards matters of faith, explain biblical truth in everyday language, share your own story of coming to faith, prayer with someone to receive Christ, and much more.

*Reason for God* by Tim Keller (free discussion guide, aka 'Penguin Reader Guide' available online)

This is an excellent book for anyone interested in a deeper understanding of Christianity and the case for belief, whether a long time Christian or someone who is just beginning to question whether there is a God.

## Gospel Centred Living

*Gospel-Centred Life* by Steve Timmis and Tim Chester (includes short Bible study and questions for discussion)

This is a radical reassessment of what Christian living should look like for believers today. "How can ordinary Christians live the truly extraordinary life that God calls us to?" ask the authors. "How can we become the person that God wants us to be?"

*Gospel in Life* by Tim Keller (DVD and study guide)

An eight-week course on the gospel and how it is lived out in all of life— first in our hearts, then in community, and out into the world.

## **Gospel Centred Discipleship**

*Counterfeit Gods* by Tim Keller (with our own downloadable study guide available from the Fight Clubs of Faith ministry page on our website)

This is a powerful book pondering the persistent temptation to worship what can only disappoint.

*Start* by Terry Virgo (interactive Bible study with great questions)

You've made a start in the Christian life – where to now? Should I be baptised? What about the Bible? Why is prayer important? Who is the Holy Spirit? To help find answers Terry Virgo presents thirty-one interactive studies so that you can build a firm foundation for your faith and future.

*Freedom in Christ* by Neil Anderson and Steve Goss (13 week DVD course with leaders' manual and participants workbooks)

"The FIC Discipleship Course has made a big difference to our church. It is now a significant part of our nurturing of new Christians and we try and build the Discipleship Course into small group life as much as we can. One of the strengths of FIC materials is that they are based on the fundamental fact that most Christian's behavioural problems are at root belief problems. As the truth is brought to individuals and they believe it, they become free." (John Groves, Senior Pastor, Winchester Family Church)

*You Can Change* by Tim Chester (includes reflective and personal questions which can be discussed)

"A book about Christian growth that is neither quietistic or moralistic is rare. A book that is truly practical is even rarer. This volume falls into both categories." (Tim Keller)

## **Holy Spirit/Spiritual Gifts**

*God Inside Out: An In-depth Study of the Holy Spirit* by Simon Ponsonby

If you're looking for a well-rounded theology of the Spirit that will engage your mind and heart, look no further.

*Joy Unspeakable: the Baptism and Gifts of the Holy Spirit* by Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Martyn Lloyd-Jones explores the assertion of John the Baptist that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33). The result is a classic call to submit afresh to the Spirit for power, purity and assurance, while keeping our heads in the face of pitfalls that might distract or ensnare us. "This is vintage Lloyd-Jones. As always, timeless and timely." (R.T. Kendall) "I welcome this new publication of the Doctor's urgent appeal to the church not to quench the Spirit. This is no age to advocate restraint; the church today does not need to be restrained, but to be aroused, to be awakened, to be filled with the Spirit of glory. I for one rejoice that his clarion call can still be heard." (Terry Virgo)

## Knowing God

*Knowing God* by JI Packer (newer editions include study guide)

"A spiritual classic...The truth he handles fires the heart." (John Stott) Dr Packer's volume says it simply, says it best." (Joni Eareckson Tada) "Has the rare ability to deal with profound and basic spiritual truths in a practical and highly readable way." (Billy Graham)

*The Pursuit of the Holy* by AW Tozer (newer editions include study guide)

There are many "devotional" style books out there, but very few come close to this in either writing style, but more importantly in content. Tozer writes clearly, simply, and very powerfully. Best read in small chunks because even though the writing is clear, the thoughts are deep and require reflection before moving on.

*King's Cross* by Tim Keller

"Keller engages the reader with astute pastoral application, littered with excellent sermon illustrations... King's Cross finds Keller in familiar territory: producing another great book, leaving readers from atheist to Christian grappling with the nature and implications of the gospel of Jesus Christ." (Michael Johnson, DesiringGod.org)

## Leadership

*The 21 Most Powerful Minutes in a Leader's Day* by John Maxwell

21 weeks' worth of bite-sized daily lessons on leadership, based on biblical principles and the figures who embody them. Maxwell, the popular author of more than two dozen books on personal and leadership development, has always based his teachings on scriptural tenets. This time, he turns more explicitly to the Bible to illustrate principles such as effectiveness, influence, empowerment, sacrifice, and timing, which he introduced in a well-received earlier book, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*.

*The Making of a Leader* by Dr Robert Clinton (includes application questions)

In this classic work on Christian leadership, Dr Robert Clinton identifies the patterns God uses to develop a leader through the lives of historical and biblical leaders. As you examine these principles you'll begin to realise that the ministry of leadership flows from a person's being.

## Spiritual Disciplines

*Disciplined for Life* by John Loftness and CJ Mahaney (includes exercises and discussion questions)

Outstanding book for Fight Clubs to work through addressing essential spiritual disciplines, such as hearing from God, training to be godly, prayer, meditation, fasting, solitude and maintaining an appetite for God.

## Work

*Thank God it's Monday* by Mark Greene

This excellent book by the Executive Director of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity is a thoroughly practical and often humorous description of how best to serve God in the workplace.

*God at Work* by Ken Costa (also a course with leaders' guide and participant workbooks)

"As an investment banker in the City of London, I [Ken Costa] have read the Financial Times and the Bible almost every day for the last 30 years. People often ask how I reconcile being a banker and a Christian. There is a widespread view that God and business simply don't mix: the competitive, cut-throat demands of the marketplace are seen as the obvious enemy of Christian compassion and love. But I have found that the God who created and sustains the world is also the God of the workplace. If the Christian faith is not relevant in the workplace, it is not relevant at all..."