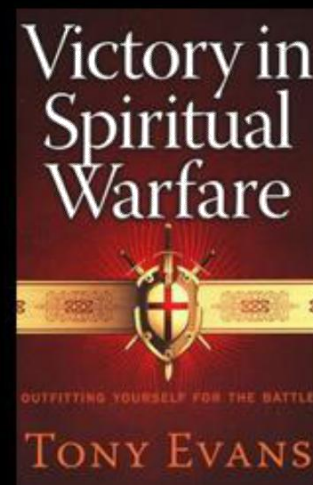
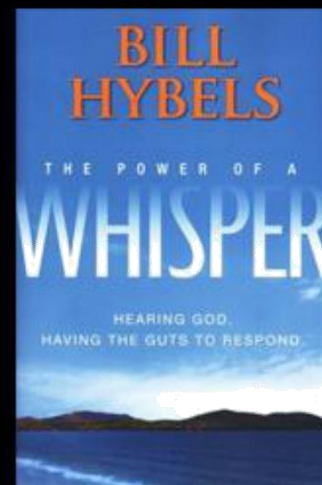
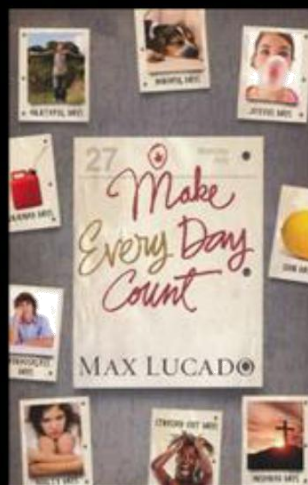
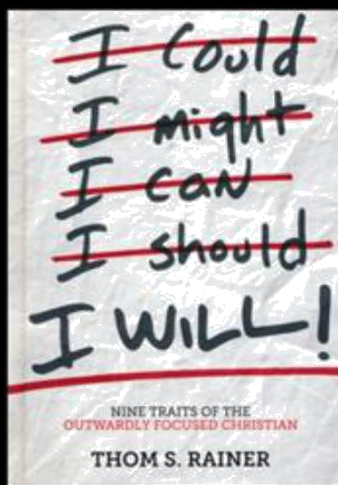
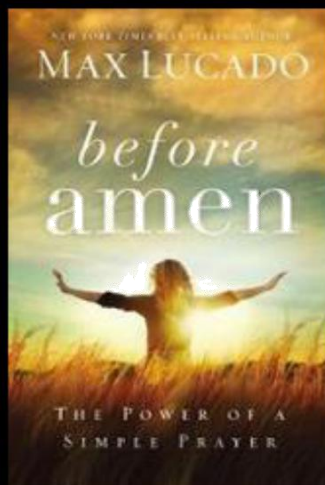
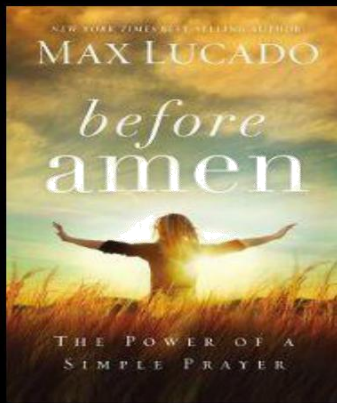


## Small Groups Approved Study Books







# Before Amen

\$

We pray to stay sober, centered, or solvent. When the lump is deemed malignant. When the money runs out before the month does. When the marriage is falling apart. We pray.

But wouldn't we like to pray more? Better? Stronger? With more fire, faith, and fervency?

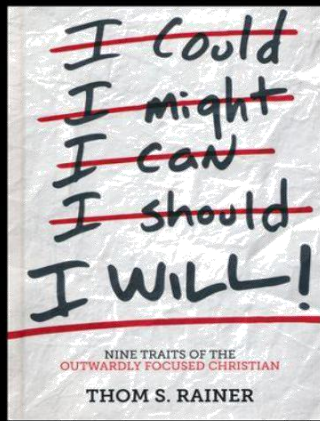
Yet we have kids to feed, bills to pay, deadlines to meet. The calendar pounces on our good intentions like a tiger on a rabbit. And what about our checkered history with prayer? Uncertain words. Unmet expectations. Unanswered requests.

We aren't the first to struggle with prayer. The first followers of Jesus needed prayer guidance too. In fact, prayer is the only tutorial they ever requested.

And Jesus gave them a prayer. Not a lecture on prayer. Not the doctrine of prayer. He gave them a quotable, repeatable, portable prayer. Couldn't we use the same?

In *Before Amen* best-selling author Max Lucado joins readers on a journey to the very heart of biblical prayer, offering hope for doubts and confidence even for prayer wimps. Distilling prayers in the Bible down to one pocket-sized prayer, Max reminds readers that prayer is not a privilege for the pious nor the art of a chosen few. Prayer is simply a heartfelt conversation between God and his child. Let the conversation begin.

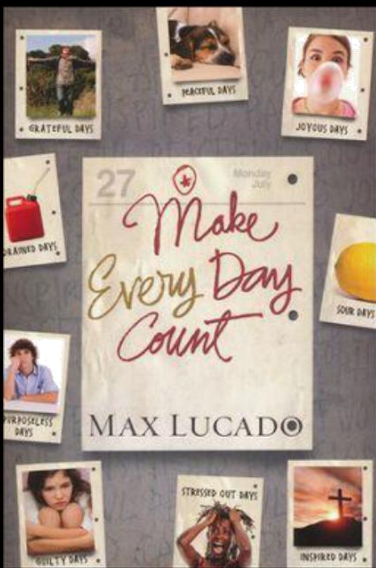
**\*Separate Purchase- Study Guide & 4 Session DVD**



# I Will! Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian

\$

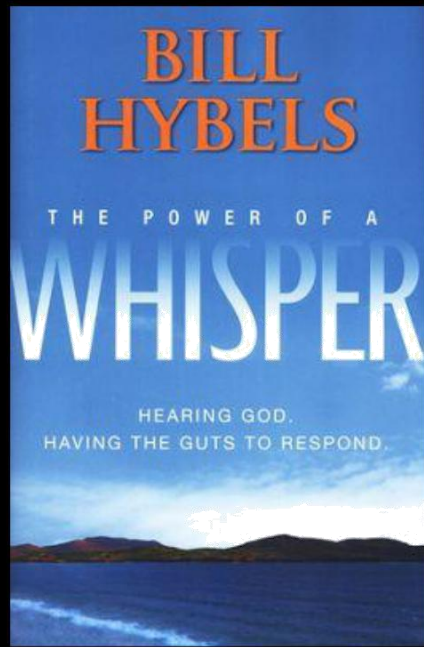
Every day we see the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those around us. But what are we to do about it? Best-selling author Rainer answers this question by offering nine simple traits that *all* believers can incorporate into their lives---no matter their background, stage of life, or sense of capability. 96 pages, hardcover.



# New For Our Teens!! Make Every Day Count, Teen Edition

\$

Help your teens get over the "it's all about me" syndrome with this thoughtful study guide that helps impressionable teens learn that their level of gratitude reflects in their attitude. *Make Every Day Count* shows readers how to deal with each day-no matter what it throws at them. Real-life teen stories, biblical accounts, and inspiring "Daylifters" encourage teens to make each day count for God. A study Guide at the back of the book makes this a perfect choice for individual or group study.



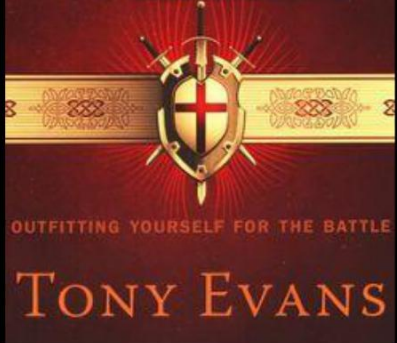
# The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond

Using real-life experiences, Hybels reveals the attitudes and actions that helped him hear directly from God when facing challenges. You'll learn how to listen for whispers that determine choices, nudges that rescue us from despair, promptings that spur growth, urgings that come from others, and inspiration that reveals the terrible plight of people around the globe. 272 pages, hardcover from Zondervan.

**\*\*Separate Purchase- Participants Guide & 4 Session DVD**

# Victory in Spiritual Warfare

## Victory in Spiritual Warfare



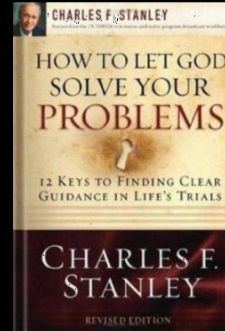
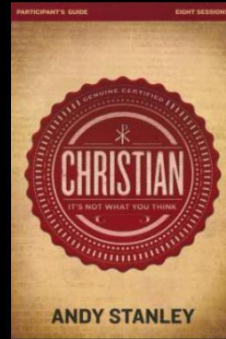
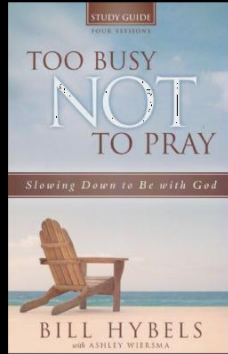
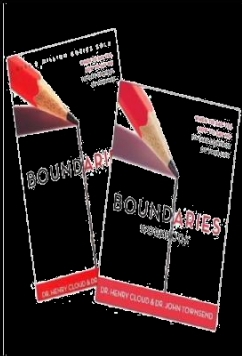
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In this timely, unique exploration of spiritual warfare, Dr. Evans unveils a simple yet radical truth: every struggle and conflict faced in the physical realm has its root in the spiritual realm. With passion and clarity, Dr. Evans demystifies spiritual warfare so that readers can tackle challenges and obstacles with spiritual power and God's authority as they:

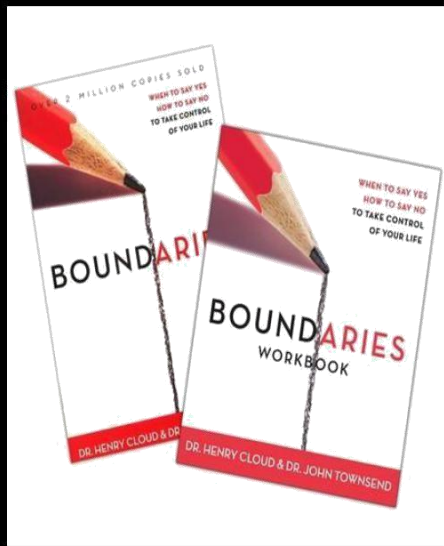
- understand how the battle is fought by Satan
- actively use the armor of God
- find strength in prayer and sufficiency in Christ
- win over chemical, sexual, emotional, relational, and other strongholds

**\*\*Separate purchase-Field Guide for Battle**

Harvest House Publishers

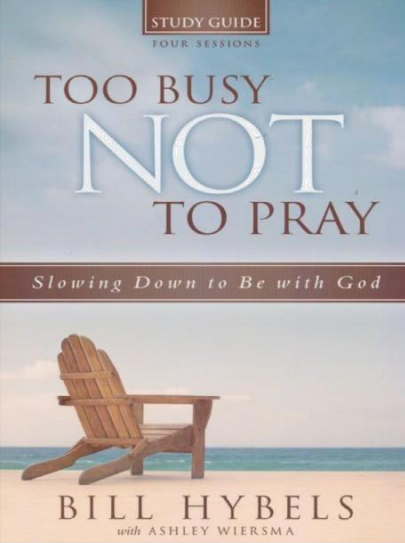






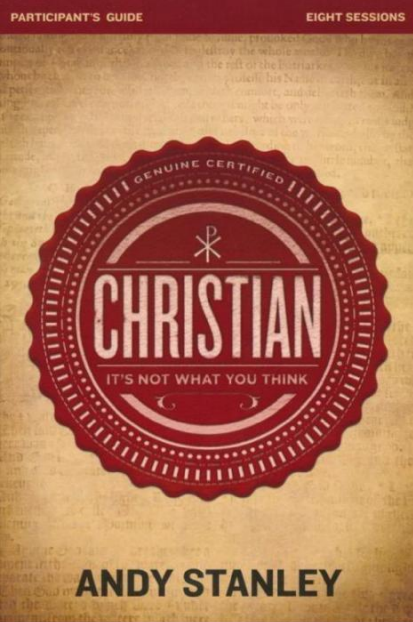
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“This nine-session small group study, Boundaries by Dr.'s Henry Cloud and John Townsend uncovers the secrets to cultivating the habit of setting and maintaining healthy boundaries that provide the framework for rich, productive relationships. Healthy relationship and sound living depend on maintaining effective personal boundaries. But many people don't know where to start. Do you have trouble saying no? Can you set limits and still be a loving person? Are you in control of your life? Do people take advantage of you? Based on the bestselling book by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend, these nine interactive sessions can make a life-changing difference. Amazon.com



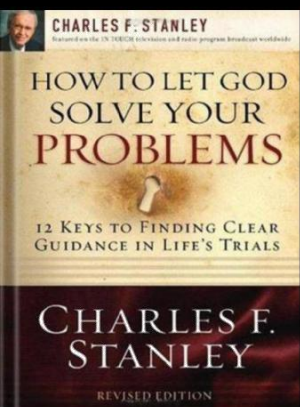
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For the past twenty years *Too Busy Not to Pray* has stood as a classic on prayer, helping Christians all over the world slow down to draw near to God. During those years, the world certainly hasn't slowed down. If anything, the pace, intensity and number of distractions have only increased. Brokenness and pain seem to have increased as well, with news of civil war, poverty, broken families and sex-trafficking touching us daily. The urgent need for prayer is clear, but busyness still keeps many of us from finding time to pray. Two truths *haven't* changed in twenty years: God is the same powerful, just, holy God he's always been; and true prayer--prayer that changes us and allows us to participate in God's work in the world--can't happen on the fly. So Bill Hybels once again offers us his practical, time-tested ideas on slowing down to pray. *Too Busy Not to Pray* calls both young and old to make prayer a priority, and broadens our vision for what our eternal, powerful God does when his people slow down to pray.



\$

What does it mean to be a Christian? Ask 100 people that question and you are likely to get 100 different answers. One reason people have such difficulty defining what a Christian should be is that the Bible never gives a definition. The followers of Jesus did not defer to themselves as Christians, it was a label placed on them from the outside. The early believers called themselves disciples, and the Bible is very clear in defining what a disciple looks like. Jesus gave his disciples one word that should define them. What if we as his followers embodied this one word? What if our behavior was so consistent with this word that folks around us were drawn to us---and to God? In Christian, you will learn: What one word should be descriptive of every disciple. How Jesus followers should treat those who are outside the faith. And why people love Jesus but can't stand his followers ?



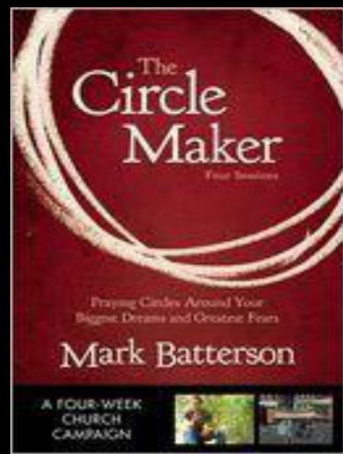
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Published by [Thomas Nelson](#)

“God, how did I get in this mess!” Is that the cry of your heart? You may be in the midst of an emotional hurricane right now and wondering *Can anything good come out of this situation?* Or you may be stumbling through the aftermath of a physical or financial crisis, fearful that you’ll never get back on your feet.

In *How to Let God Solve Your Problems*, Dr. Charles Stanley demonstrates how God allows times of trial for a number of reasons:

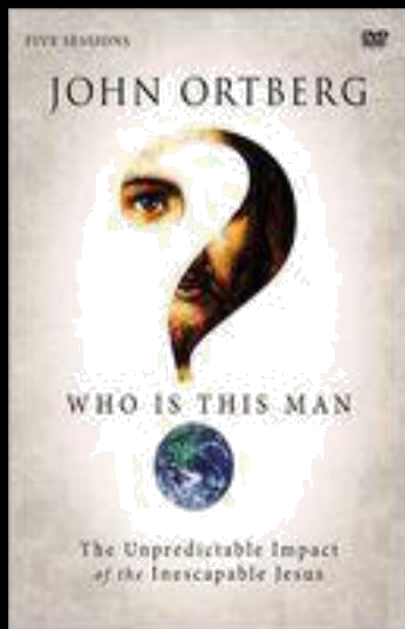
To turn your attention back toward Him. To adjust your priorities. To purify and prepare you for greater service. To better form you into His image. To grant you the experience of His comfort. Whether your hardship is the result of sin, unwise choices, or simply the consequence of living in a fallen world, God *still* has a plan for your life. He is aware of your circumstances, He has not forgotten His promises, and He will guide you through your difficulty to victory!



\$

<http://thecirclemaker.com/free>

In Matthew 21, Jesus tells us, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." However, most of the time we pray, we only ask for the small things. We're afraid to ask for what we really want, or to be passionate in our petitions. In *The Circle Maker*, Mark Batterson introduces you to the possibility of a deeper, more passionate, persistent, and more intimate prayer life. Sharing powerful insights from the true legend of Honi the circle maker, a first-century Jewish sage whose bold prayer ended a drought and saved a generation, you will learn a new way to pray. Discover the power of bold prayer and even bolder faith in God's promises.

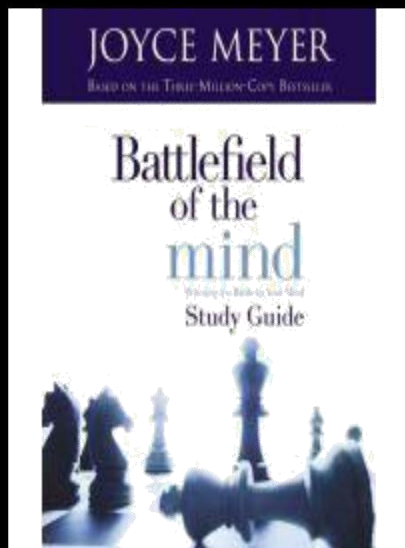


[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_5R7l2j3](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_5R7l2j3)

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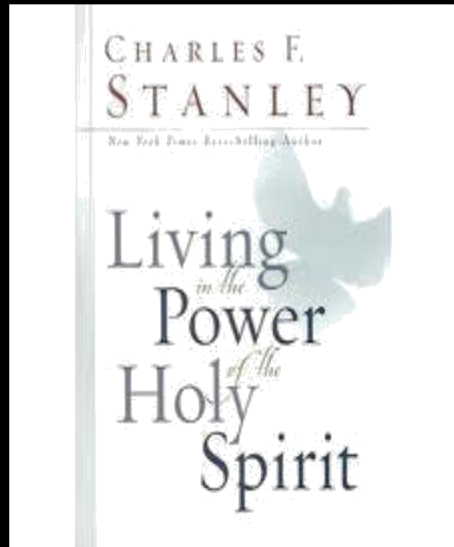
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**Who Is This Man?** is the story of history's most familiar figure, and yet the Man no one knows. He is Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. He did not loudly and demonstrably defend His movement in the spirit of a rising political or military leader. He simply lived and taught in a way that drew people to follow Him. He made history, starting in a humble place and allowing each person the space to respond. In **Who Is This Man?**, **John Ortberg** reveals how Jesus has impacted civilization and individual human hearts.



\$

Worry, doubt, confusion, depression, anger and feelings of condemnation: all these are attacks on the mind. If readers suffer from negative thoughts, they can take heart! Joyce Meyer has helped millions win these all-important battles. In her most popular bestseller ever, the beloved author and minister shows readers how to change their lives by changing their minds. She teaches how to deal with thousands of thoughts that people think every day and how to focus the mind the way God thinks. And she shares the trials, tragedies, and ultimate victories from her own marriage, family, and ministry that led her to wondrous, life-transforming truth--and reveals her thoughts and feelings every step of the way.

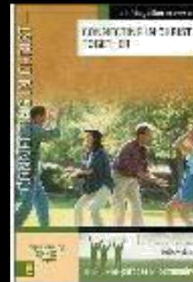
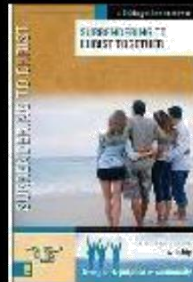
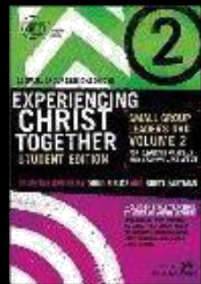


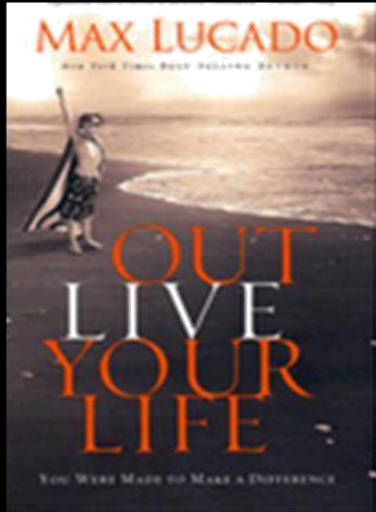
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Charles Stanley reminds us that the Holy Spirit is the promise from the Father for all believers. By illuminating who He is, how we receive Him, and what He can do in our lives, Stanley removes much of the mystery surrounding the Holy Spirit and offers new hope to believers who have long been perplexed by this member of the Trinity.



# New for Youth!

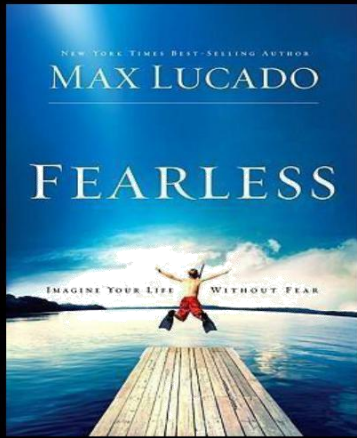




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<http://vimeo.com/13893715>

On Pentecost, the Spirit came down and ignited the hearts and minds of believers to preach the gospel and live out justice for the forgotten. Max Lucado wonders, *Might it happen again?* Does God still free hearts, minds and bodies from the ravages of sin and poverty? The answer is yes! He does it through you, and in *Outlive Your Life* he challenges you to make a difference that will last beyond your time on earth. Take a stand for children, widows, and families who only need an opportunity to live. 100% of author royalties will benefit children and families through World Vision.

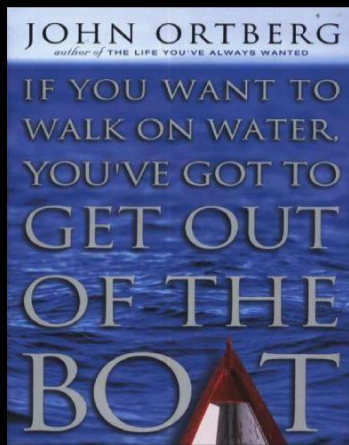


Fear seems to be in the driver's seat these days. People are troubled and anxious. Finances are tumbling, rockets are launching, and seemingly solid institutions are teetering. It's tough for folks to know where to turn.

Two years ago I began writing a new book entitled *Fearless*. Little did I know then what we'd be facing now, but God did. The book examines Jesus' statements about fear and encourages us to take heart in difficult times.

The antidote to the fear epidemic? Trust. If we trust God more, we can fear less. What a comforting promise.

*-Max Lucado*



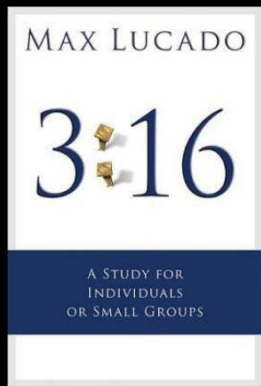
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## **Specifications**

A rewarding in-depth study. Study Guide and Book must be purchased by the member, approximately \$20\* paid in advance.

## **Overview**

Far too many of us have put our faith in a casual Christianity that never compels us to leave our comfort zones. But, deep within our hearts we know that Christ has not called us to comfort, but to an exciting, sacrificial and overwhelmingly fulfilling faith. In *If You're Going to Walk on Water* John Ortberg teaches us how to step out of the "boat" of casual Christianity so that we can faithfully follow the Lord who is calling us out onto the risky, exciting waters of the high seas. Let Pastor Ortberg teach you how to leave your comfort zone for a remarkable life of faith.



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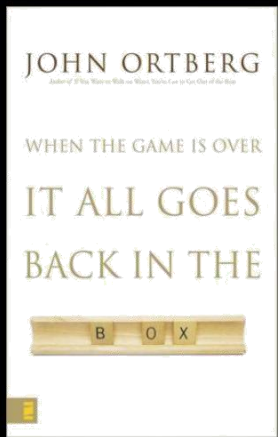
### Specifications

A rewarding study. Though the book may be purchased it is not required. The Study Guide does not parallel the book.

If 9/11 are the numbers of terror and despair, then 3:16 are the numbers of hope. Best-selling author Max Lucado leads readers through a word-by-word study of John 3:16, the passage that he calls the "Hope Diamond" of scripture. The study includes 12 lessons that are designed to work with both the trade book and the Indelible DVD for a multi-media experience.

### Table of Contents

The Most Famous Conversation in the Bible	1
No One Like Him	9
Hope for the Hard Heart	17
When You Get Booted Out	25
The Only One and Only	32
The Heart He Offers	39
Heaven's "Whoever" Policy	46
Believe and Receive	53
God's Gracious Grip	60
Hell's Supreme Surprise	67
What Makes Heaven Heavenly	75
The Last Word on Life	82
Leader's Guide	89



\$

A promotion. A new house. The rewards of winning at life’s game can be thrilling. But eventually everything goes back into the box, and what ultimately matters is whether we’ve played according to God’s rules. John Ortberg uses popular games and his trademark gift of storytelling to help us live our lives for the things that really count.

**Description:**

Remember the thrill of winning at checkers or Parcheesi? You become the Master of the Board—the victor over everyone else. But what happens after that, asks bestselling author John Ortberg. You know the answer: It all goes back in the box. You don’t get to keep one token, one chip, one game card. In the end, the spoils of the game add up to nothing.

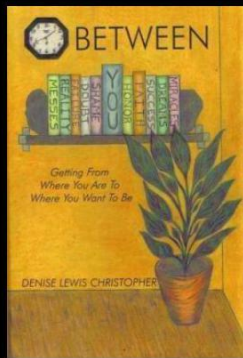
Using popular games as a metaphor for our temporal lives, *When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box* neatly sorts out what’s fleeting and what’s permanent in God’s kingdom. Being Master of the Board is not the point; being rich toward God is. Winning the game of life on Earth is a temporary victory; loving God and other people with all our hearts is an eternal one. Using humor, terrific stories, and a focus on winning “the right trophies,” Ortberg paints a vivid picture of the priorities that all Christians will want to embrace.



A Six Book Series each with 6 lessons. Study Guides and/or DVD Provided. This study may also be presented without the study guide and presented using the DVD only.

## Overview

**The Doing Life Together Series** offers a comprehensive introduction to Life Together through Small Groups. Not only will you have exciting dialogue through the vignettes but you will develop a working knowledge of Group Life. You will learn about commitment as you establish a covenant relationship with your fellow group members. You will view evangelism differently as you explore the “empty chair” concept. You will be challenged as you come to understand your spiritual gifts and empowered as you are given opportunity and encouragement to share your gifts with others. This study is recommended to any group new to Small Groups as well as a refresher to those who have been at it for awhile.



\$

### **ARE YOU PRESSED BETWEEN SOME THINGS?**

Sometimes life can make us feel like we're literally squeezed between some things, like a set of hardbound books pressed tightly between two huge and heavy bookends! And we often feel stuck right in the middle, between where we are and where we want to be.

**This book will inspire you to. . .**

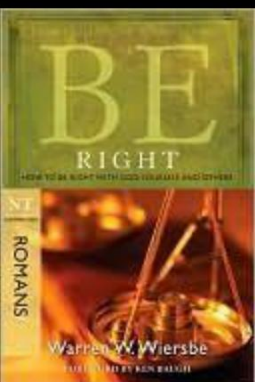
- Take Your Mess, Make it a Miracle!
- Face Your Shame, Embrace Your Honor!
- Receive Healing as You Serve Others!
- Press Through Difficult Realities to Achieve Your Highest Dreams!
- Live with Great Expectation!

Within these pages you're guaranteed to find information that is practical, insightful, and applicable for anyone seeking inspiration and hope!



**Author and Inspirational Speaker  
Denise Lewis Christopher**





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Every Christian desires to "be right" about their faith. How we live out our faith holds eternal significance. But in order to be right, we must know what, why, and how come we believe in Christ. It can be argued that no book of the Bible has had a greater effect on Christianity than the book of Romans. Martin Luther described it as "the most important piece in the New Testament," and wrote; "It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul." In this classic commentary by Dr. Warren Wiersbe, you can refresh your own understanding of this seminal work, Paul's masterpiece letter to the church in Rome. Dr. Wiersbe's careful exposition of the text allows the truth to soak in to your heart and mind as you read and understand these essential truths of Scripture.

# Free Small Group Study Material

## 8 Big Questions of Faith

### Table of Contents

1. Does God always bless believers
2. Has God Played Fair?
3. Who are we to Judge?
4. How does forgiveness bring Freedom
5. Does God know your next move?
6. Where is God in This Mess?
7. Will God Protect Us?
8. What is Heaven Like?

# Free Small Group Study Material

## Use Your Spiritual Gifts

### Table of Contents

1. Know Your Gifts & Discover Your Calling
2. Embrace Your Calling
3. Live a Transformed Life
4. Live Free of Shame
5. Spiritual Gifts Inventory

# Free Small Group Study Material

## I Want To Change...So Help Me God!

### Table of Contents

1. Change What I Say
2. Change What I Think
3. Change What I Do
4. Change Where I Go

# Free Small Group Study Material

## Use Your Spiritual Gifts

### Table of Contents

1. Know Your Gifts & Discover Your Calling
2. Embrace Your Calling
3. Live a Transformed Life
4. Live Free of shame
5. Spiritual Gifts Inventory

# Free Small Group Study Material

## Kingdom Living in Our Culture

### Table of Contents

1. The Kingdom and Our Culture
2. Justice For All, One At a Time
3. Tilting at the Windmills of Culture
4. Living in a Culture of Sexual Immorality
5. Counter-culturally Relevant
6. Answer the skeptics
7. The Church's Highest Calling: Faithfulness
8. Dual Citizenship

Continued

# Free Small Group Study Material

## Kingdom Living in Our Culture

### Table of Contents (Continued)

- 9. Pulling Weeds in the Church Yard
- 10. Christians and Politics
- 11. The Righteous Side of Anger
- 12. The Value of Human Life
- 13. Feeding on Lies

# Free Small Group Study Material

## Becoming a Good Samaritan

### Table of Contents

1. Becoming a Good Samaritan
2. Caring for the Sick
3. Seeking Justice and Reconciliation
4. Honoring the Poor
5. Tending to God's Creation
6. Loving the Forsaken



# Free Small Group Study Material

## Psalm: Managing Our Emotions

### Table of Contents

1. Joy: A Time to Dance
2. Abandonment: When You Feel Alone
3. Fear: When You're Scared Senseless
4. Gratitude: More Than Just An Attitude
5. Anger: When Your Back Is Against The Wall
6. Contentment: When Your Soul Was At Rest
7. Depression: When Darkness Is Your Closest Friend

# Free Small Group Study Material

## Psalms: Managing Our Emotions

### Table of Contents (Continued)

- 8. Disappointment: When Your Dreams Die
- 9. Uncertainty: When You're Not Sure Of Your Next Move
- 10. Restlessness: When You Still Haven't Found What You're Looking For
- 11. Outrage: More Than Just An Attitude
- 12. Praise: Find Joy In The Seasons Of This Soul

# Free Small Group Study Material

## Understanding Self-Esteem

### Table of Contents

1. What is Self-Esteem?
2. The Self and Others
3. The Self and Service

# Free Small Group Study Material

## Four Best Places to Live

### Table of Contents

1. The House Of Worship
2. The House of Prayer
3. The House of Expectancy
4. The House of Love

# Free Small Group Study Material

## Keys to Biblical Relationships

### Table of Contents

1. Cultivate Community
2. Be Full Of Grace
3. Offer Hospitality to Everyone

# Free Small Group Study Material

## **Stewardship: Living a Life That Counts**

### Table of Contents

1. Spending Time
2. Finding Financial Freedom
3. Tithes, Offerings, And Thieves
4. Use Your Talents Wisely
5. Give It All To Jesus

# Free Small Group Study Material

## 1 & 2 Chronicles: Passion and Prayer

### Table of Contents

1. Live Your Potential
2. Encourage The Next Generation
3. Sacrifice Your Ego
4. Pray With Reverence
5. Pray With Expectation
6. Practice Worship

# Free Small Group Study Material

## James: Living the Christian Life 24/7

### Table of Contents

1. Plans and Problems are an Opportunity for Joy
2. Dealing with Temptation
3. True Faith Leads to Change
4. True Faith Leads to Social Action
5. Taming our Tongues
6. Becoming a Praying People