



**1517 Media**

Augsburg Fortress  
Beaming Books  
Fortress Press  
Sparkhouse

# Small Group Ministry Resources

FALL 2018



Dear Partner in Ministry,

Greetings from 1517 Media! With a new program year starting this fall, we know that your small group ministry planning is underway. We invite you to review this catalog highlighting small group resources available from our four publishing units—Augsburg Fortress, Beaming Books, Fortress Press, and Sparkhouse.

You'll find resources that fit a range of small group structures, schedules, and subjects, including:

- Topical books addressing specific issues, many accompanied by free downloadable discussion guides.
- Small group curriculum designed just for youth, as well as others that may appeal to teens *and* adults.
- Trusted resources used by Lutheran churches to study the Bible and Lutheran theology.
- Familiar favorites and new releases (or just new to you!).

We hope you enjoy browsing through these options to find a great fit for your small groups. Pass the catalog along to church staff and lay leaders. We invite you to also explore additional information on these titles and others online at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org).

Blessings to you in your ministry!



Dawn Rundman, Ph.D.  
Director of Faith Formation Resource Development  
Assistant Director of ELCA Relations  
Augsburg Fortress

Visit [augsburgfortress.org/smallgroup](http://augsburgfortress.org/smallgroup) for more details.



## See What's Inside for Your Small Groups!

### Topical Books for Flexible Planning

pages 4–7

Perfect for groups that want to read and discuss one title at a time. Books cover a variety of global, spiritual, discipleship, biblical, women's, and parenting topics. Flexible for single- or multiple-session conversations—your choice! Discussion guides available within book or as free downloads for many titles.

### Books for Youth

pages 8-9

Help students experience faith-based learning and real-life conversations. Use as Sunday school, Wednesday programming, youth group, or confirmation resources. Parents, youth leaders, and adults enjoy reading and learning from them too! Downloadable leader resources available.

### Video-Based Courses for Youth & Adults

pages 10–11

Multi-session curriculum choices with little/no homework required! Videos help set up each session's topic to engage youth or adults in conversation. Include easy-to-use Facilitator Guides and participant books for note-taking and self-reflection.

### Lutheran Studies for Adults

pages 12-13

Connect participants at any stage of their faith journey to our Lutheran faith, theology, and doctrine. Great for small groups and all-church participation. These can also be used as the foundation for topical sermon series.

### Bible Studies for Adults

pages 14-15

Open the Bible in every session together, as well as during preparation or reflection at home. Focus on a single scripture or on a biblical theme. Ideal for new or established Bible study groups.

Need help exploring and choosing the best resources for your small group? Contact our Sales and Service team at **800-328-4648**. We love to serve you!

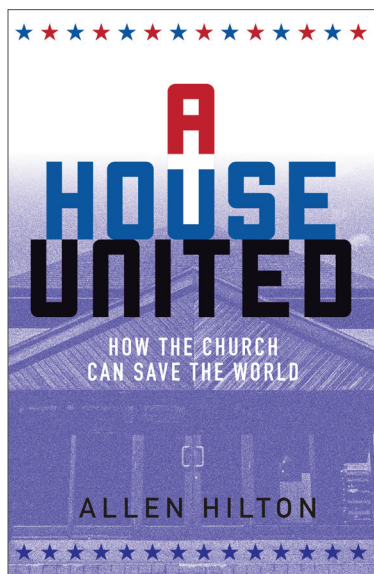
## Special Offer for Small Group Orders

**Extra 10% off** when you purchase 10 or more items from this catalog, mix and match! Use promo code: **SGFALL18\***

Order online at **[augsburghfortress.org](http://augsburghfortress.org)** or call **1-800-328-4648**.

*\*Promo code cannot be combined with any other 1517 Media offer or applied to previous orders, digital items, or print subscriptions. Discount valid through 11/30/2018. Prices subject to change.*

## Topical Books for Flexible Planning



Fortress Press

ISBN 9781506401911

Price per book

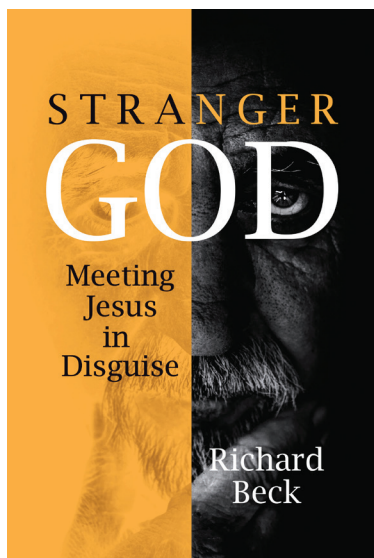
QTY	1-5	6-10	11+
	\$16.99	\$12.75	\$8.50

### A House United

How the Church Can Save the World

Allen Hilton

Rather than ask your congregants to leave their political and theological beliefs at the church door, launch into a healthy conversation about the role of the church in our politically-divisive culture today. Battles over moral issues like abortion rights and homosexuality have now widened to include taxation and size of government, so that specific church affiliation has become an accurate predictor of political party affiliation. Allen Hilton believes that religion isn't inherently divisive, and in *A House United*, he suggests a new role for Christianity. Jesus prayed that his disciples might all be one, and this book imagines a proper answer to that prayer in the context of American polarization.



Fortress Press

ISBN 9781506433752

Price per book

QTY	1-5	6-10	11+
	\$18.99	\$14.25	\$9.50

### Stranger God

Meeting Jesus in Disguise

Richard Beck

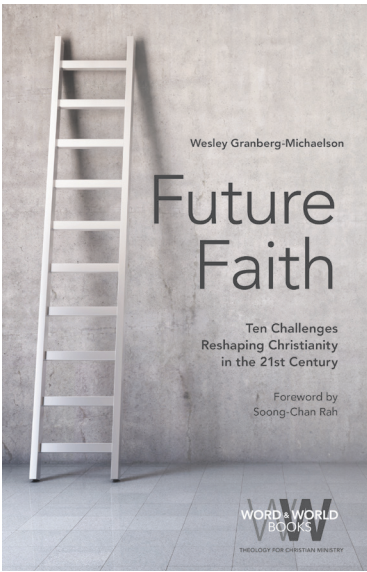
When Richard Beck first led a Bible study at a maximum-security prison, he went to meet God. His own faith was flagging, but Beck still believed the promise of Matthew 25, that when we visit the prisoner, we visit Jesus. With his signature combination of biblical reflection, theological reasoning, and psychological insight, Beck shows how God always meets us in the marginalized, the oppressed, and the refugee.

Along with the help of a free discussion guide, this book will facilitate storytelling, listening, sharing, and thinking about hospitality, not just as hosting a dinner party or volunteering, but as a 24/7 experience—as something that begins in our hearts and can be practiced every second of every day, even with those closest to us at home and at work.

FREE downloadable Discussion Guide:

[augsburgfortress.org/Stranger-God-DG](http://augsburgfortress.org/Stranger-God-DG)

# Topical Books for Flexible Planning



## Future Faith

Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson

Perfect for leaders and practitioners in church growth, renewal, and planting, *Future Faith* provides a lucid view of how the top ten winds of change blowing through global Christian faith are reshaping the practice of Christianity today. Drawing on the stories, examples, and personalities of pastors and congregations from throughout the United States, as well as those from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, who are the faces of Christianity's future, *Future Faith* is designed to inform and empower followers of Jesus to seek new ways of becoming the face of Christ to a rapidly changing world.

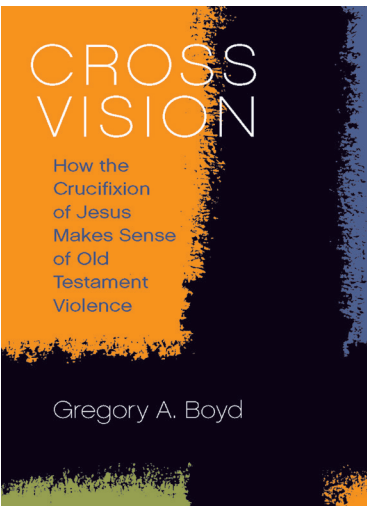
A discussion guide is featured at the end of the book, with 5–7 questions on each of the ten challenges to facilitate conversation in your small group.

Fortress Press

ISBN 9781506433448

Price per book

QTY	1–5	6–10	11+
	\$18.99	\$14.24	\$9.49



## Cross Vision

How the Crucifixion of Jesus Makes Sense of Old Testament Violence

Gregory A. Boyd

Renowned pastor-theologian Gregory A. Boyd tackles the Bible's biggest dilemma.

The Old Testament God of wrath and violence versus the New Testament God of love and peace—it's a difference that has troubled Christians since the first century. Now, with the sensitivity of a pastor and the intellect of a theologian, Gregory A. Boyd proposes a way to read the Old Testament portraits of God through the lens of Jesus' crucifixion.

Perfect for adult group study, *Cross Vision* seeks to help people develop a more life-giving, God-honoring, Spirit-directed reading of Scripture that truly places the revelation of God in Jesus Christ at the center of all biblical interpretation and application.

Fortress Press

ISBN 9781506420738

Price per book

QTY	1–5	6–10	11+
	\$24.99	\$18.75	\$12.50

## Topical Books for Flexible Planning



Fortress Press

ISBN 9781506425221

Price per book

QTY	1-5	6-10	11+
	\$18.99	\$14.25	\$9.50

### Fat and Faithful

Learning to Love Our Bodies, Our Neighbors, and Ourselves

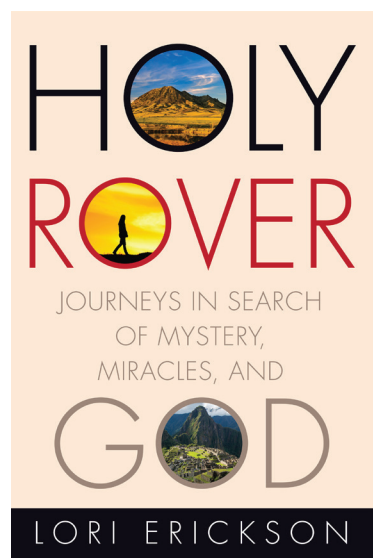
J. Nicole Morgan

Interested in thinking theologically about the intersections of community, body image, privilege, and food? This is the book for you. In *Fat and Faithful*, J. Nicole Morgan shares her journey from body shame to fat acceptance and shows us how to care for the image of God found in every body—including our own.

Accompanied by a free discussion guide, answer the questions provided on your own, in a group, with a friend, or share some thoughts on social media (#fatandfaithful).

May your journey through this book draw you deeper into a life in which you love God, your neighbors, and even yourself.

FREE downloadable Discussion Guide written by Jennifer Carpenter, MDiv:  
[augsbουργfortress.org/fat-faithful-DG](http://augsbουργfortress.org/fat-faithful-DG)



Fortress Press

ISBN 9781506420714

Price per book

QTY	1-5	6-10	11+
	\$24.99	\$18.75	\$12.50

### Holy Rover

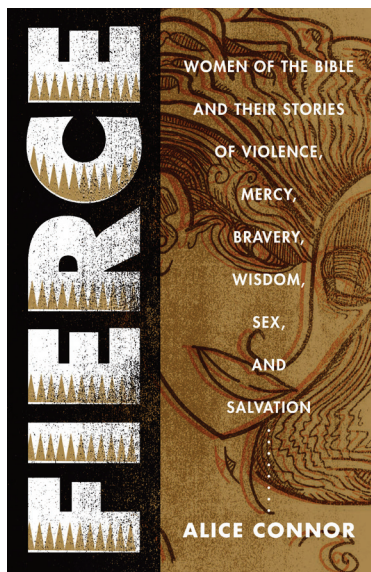
Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God

Lori Erickson

*Holy Rover* is about the transformative power of travel. If you've ever been curious about the ancient spiritual practice of pilgrimage, invite your reading group along with Lori Erickson as she explores a dozen holy sites around the world. Travel writer, Episcopal deacon, and author of the Holy Rover blog at Patheos, Erickson is an engaging guide for pilgrims eager to take a spiritual journey. Both irreverent and devout, *Holy Rover* describes travels that changed her life and can change yours, too.

FREE downloadable Discussion Guide:  
[augsbουργfortress.org/holy-rover-DG](http://augsbουργfortress.org/holy-rover-DG)

## Topical Books for Flexible Planning



Fortress Press

ISBN 9781506410708

Price per book

QTY	1-5	6-10	11+
	\$18.99	\$14.25	\$9.50

### Fierce

Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex, and Salvation

Alice Connor

Women in the Bible aren't shy or retiring; they're fierce and funny and demanding and relevant to twenty-first century people.

Pastor and provocateur Alice Connor introduces these women and invites us to see them not as players in a man's story—as victims or tempters—nor as morality archetypes, teaching us to be better wives and mothers, but as fierce foremothers of the faith.

These women's stories are messy, challenging, and beautiful. When we read their stories together, we can see not only their particular, fearsome lives but also our own.

FREE downloadable Discussion Guide:  
[augsborgfortress.org/fierce-DG](http://augsborgfortress.org/fierce-DG)



Beaming Books

ISBN 9781506446851

Price per book

QTY	1-9	10-24	25-49	50+
	\$15.99	\$14.99	\$13.99	\$12.99

### Little Steps, Big Faith

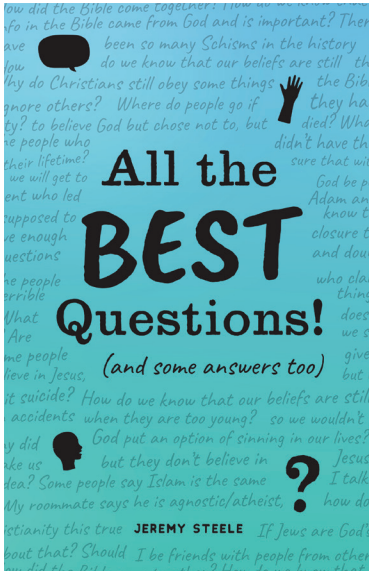
How the Science of Early Childhood Development Can Help You Grow Your Child's Faith

Dawn Rundman

From brain science to language development and social skills, we've never known more about how children's minds develop in the first five years of life. Yet with all the information available, Christian parents may find themselves confused about how to apply these learnings to daily life with their children. In *Little Steps, Big Faith*, early childhood expert Dr. Dawn Rundman navigates the research to arrive at surprising insights about how very young children experience God, and how parents can use science to teach faith. Each chapter ends with practical suggestions for ways parents can apply these principles at home.

FREE downloadable Discussion Guide:  
[augsborgfortress.org/little-steps-big-faith-DG](http://augsborgfortress.org/little-steps-big-faith-DG)

## Books for Youth



### Beaming Books

ISBN 9781506438085

### Price per book

QTY	1-9	10-24	25-49	50+
	\$14.99	\$13.99	\$12.99	\$11.99

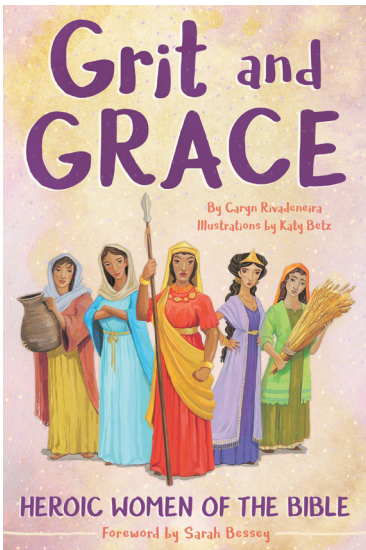
## All the Best Questions!

And Some Answers, Too

Jeremy Steele

How can I be certain I'll go to heaven? Why are there so many kinds of Christianity? What does the Bible say about drugs and alcohol? What's the deal with evolution?

Youth pastor Jeremy Steele has spent his career answering teens' questions about faith, life, and the world—and *All the Best Questions!* brings all the toughest questions he's gotten together in one book... with some answers, too. From theology to evolution, *All the Best Questions!* will help young people get answers to the questions they're afraid to ask—and give them the tools they need to wrestle with their own answers. A discussion guide is included at the end of the book.



### Beaming Books

ISBN 9781506424958

### Price per book

QTY	1-9	10-24	25-49	50+
	\$9.99	\$8.99	\$7.99	\$6.99

## Grit and Grace

Heroic Women of the Bible

Caryn Rivadeneira, Author

Katy Betz, Illustrator

Experience the grit and grace of seventeen women of the Bible through creative first-person retellings of each person's story. Empowering and thought-provoking, *Grit and Grace* invites readers to explore how God worked through women and girls in Bible times and how God continues to work through all people today.

FREE downloadable Discussion Guide:  
[augsburgfortress.org/grit-grace-study-guide](http://augsburgfortress.org/grit-grace-study-guide)





Fortress Press

ISBN 9781506446745

Price per book

QTY	1-5	6-10	11+
	\$19.99	\$15.00	\$10.00

## Exploding Stars, Dead Dinosaurs, and Zombies

Youth Ministry in the Age of Science

Andrew Root

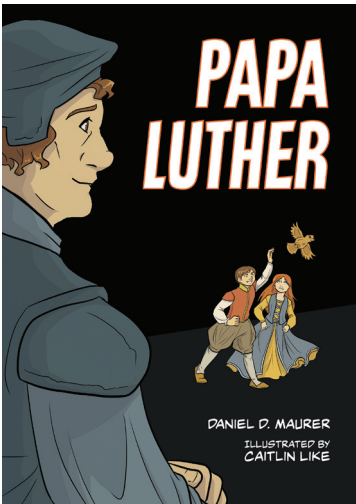
Many things threaten the faith of youth today, but none more than science. The commitments of science and Christianity seem to be at odds—science makes truth claims based on experiments and proofs, while religion asks for belief and trust. But Andrew Root demonstrates that, in fact, the two are not incompatible.

Root, a renowned expert on adolescent spirituality, shows how science overstates its claims on truth, while faith often understates its own claims.

Ideal for discussing in a youth group, this book draws on a fictional account of a youth pastor and the various students he encounters. Root paints a compelling picture of how faith can flourish, even in our scientific age.

FREE online video lecture available to help youth ministers understand the book and prepare to teach youth about faith and science:

[augsborgfortress.org/exploding-stars-video](http://augsborgfortress.org/exploding-stars-video)



## Papa Luther

A Graphic Novel

Daniel D. Maurer, Author

Caitlin Like, Illustrator

The exciting story of Martin Luther, told through the eyes of his children Hans and Magda. This color 88-page graphic novel is geared toward children and youth, but many adults have found their interest in the story of Martin Luther rekindled through this retelling. The “comic book” format makes the story accessible to those who may be resistant to traditional study formats. While this is useful as a self-study resource, confirmation classes have found this a helpful resource as they explore the person of Martin Luther.

FREE downloadable Leader Guide:

[augsborgfortress.org/papa-luther-leader-guide](http://augsborgfortress.org/papa-luther-leader-guide)

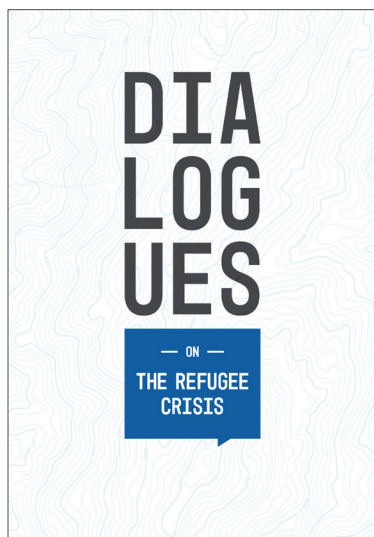
Augsburg Fortress

ISBN 9781506406398

Price per book

QTY	1-5	6-20	21-99	100+
	\$7.99	\$6.99	\$5.99	\$4.99

# Video-Based Courses for Youth & Adults



## Dialogues On:

The Refugee Crisis

Jenny Yang, Author; Carla Barnhill, Editor;  
Aaron Christopher, Director

Turn conflict into community by creating a small group environment where people can have authentic conversations around difficult topics. *Dialogues On* resources and methodology are built to help leaders create an engaging experience that includes discussing a global issue, learning key communication strategies, and relating it back to their local faith community. The first unit of *Dialogues On* focuses on The Refugee Crisis.

During each session, learn new communication skills and help participants engage in a thought-provoking discussion about a challenging topic.

Eight sessions per unit.

One unit is currently available.

Learn more at:

[augsbουργfortress.org/Dialogues-On](http://augsbουργfortress.org/Dialogues-On)

### Sparkhouse

#### Dialogues On: The Refugee Crisis

Facilitator Guide 9781506448619 \$24.99

DVD 9781506448626 \$29.99

Learner Book 9781506448602 \$9.99



## T.B.D.: Think. Believe. Do.

Equip teenagers to unpack, understand, and live out their faith.

Students today are growing up in a world defined by pluralism, and it is imperative that they be empowered by the church to explore what they believe, understand what their beliefs mean, and how to act on them.

*T.B.D.: Think. Believe. Do.* is a small group resource for churches that trust youth to actively participate in their own faith development and want to embark on this journey with them.

Four sessions per unit.

Two units are currently available.

### PRAYER

Students explore what prayer really means and dig deeper into their theological toolkit.

**SIN** (pre-order now; releases on August 21)

Equip your youth to uncover the true meaning of sin and what it means to their everyday lives.

Learn more at:

[augsbουργfortress.org/t-b-d](http://augsbουργfortress.org/t-b-d)

### Sparkhouse

#### T.B.D.: Prayer

Facilitator Guide 9781506448695 \$16.99

DVD 9781506448718 \$19.99

Student Journal 9781506448701

Qty 1-4 (\$6.99); 5-9 (\$5.99); 10+ (\$5.50)

#### T.B.D.: Sin

Facilitator Guide 9781506452944 \$16.99

DVD 9781506452968 \$19.99

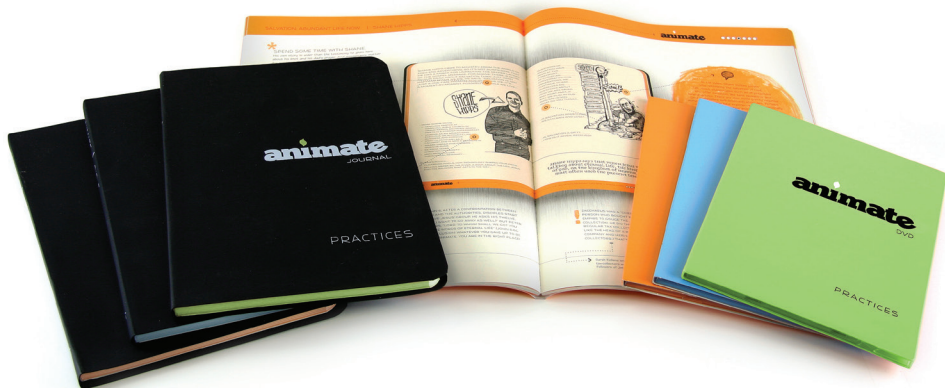
Student Journal 9781506452951

Qty 1-4 (\$6.99); 5-9 (\$5.99); 10+ (\$5.50)

# Video-Based Courses for Youth & Adults

## Animate

Encounter faith, the Bible, and Christian practices through spirited conversation.



Animate offers three different units focused on faith, the Bible, and faith practices. Throughout each unit, participants gain a unique perspective from Christian thought leaders, sparking conversation full of enthusiasm and inviting participants to ask questions and interact with each other on deep and meaningful topics that will have lasting impact.

Facilitator Guides offer detailed information about each session and tips on how to engage the entire small group during the topic discussion. Each session features a video with a thought leader discussing the topic at hand in even more depth, which is designed to trigger more thought and conversations around each topic to truly explore all corners of a particular Bible topic or theme.

Using their illustrated, interactive journals, participants reflect on the topic by jotting down their thoughts, opinions, and feelings during the session and at home.

Seven sessions per unit.  
Three units are available.

Learn more at:  
[augsborgfortress.org/Animate](http://augsborgfortress.org/Animate)

### ANIMATE: FAITH

focuses on essential Christian topics, including God, religion, Jesus, salvation, the cross, the Bible, and the church. Participants explore central topics of Christianity as a group and focus on learning through discussion and prayer.

#### Facilitator Guide

9781451430837 \$24.99

#### DVD

9781451430851 \$69.99

#### Journal

9781451430844  
QTY 1-9 (\$14.99); 10+ (\$12.99)

#### Starter Pack

9781506421759 \$84.99

### ANIMATE: BIBLE

focuses on the Bible for small groups that work to deepen conversations about the Bible and key themes. This unit features perspectives on the canon, biblical history, testaments, the gospels, genre, interpretation, and grace from Christian thought leaders.

#### Facilitator Guide

9781451472875 \$24.99

#### DVD

9781451472868 \$69.99

#### Journal

9781451472882  
QTY 1-9 (\$14.99); 10+ (\$12.99)

#### Starter Pack

9781506421766 \$84.99

### ANIMATE: PRACTICES

focuses on key topics related to Christianity, including prayer, food, worship, sacraments, money, service, and community. The Animate: Practices Journal guides participants through six different ways that they can practice the discipline during the following week.

#### Facilitator Guide

9781451490046 \$24.99

#### DVD

9781451490053 \$69.99

#### Journal

9781451490060  
QTY 1-9 (\$14.99); 10+ (\$12.99)

#### Starter Pack

9781506421773 \$84.99

# Lutheran Studies for Adults



## By Heart

Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism

R. Guy Erwin, Mary Jane Haemig,  
Ken Sundet Jones, Martin J. Lohrmann,  
Derek R. Nelson, Kirsi I. Stjerna,  
Timothy J. Wengert, and Hans H. Wiersma

*By Heart* is a richly illustrated, in-depth exploration of the Small Catechism. This guide will generate meaningful conversations about the biblical and historical context of the Small Catechism, its link to the church's faith, and its connection to Luther's life and to your life today.

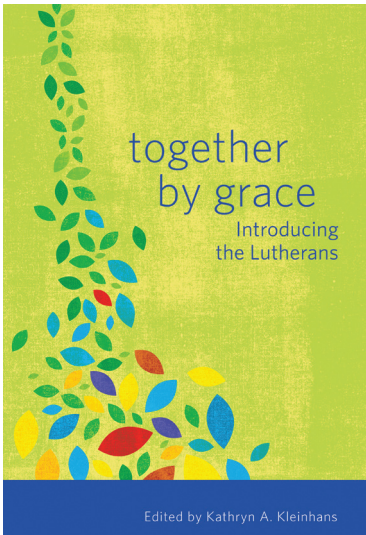
The Facilitator Guide provides guidance to lay volunteers, clergy members, or adult education specialists as they explore the rich material in a discussion group or class setting. The DVD offers a short, lively, animated video for each session.

Learn more at:

[augspurgfortress.org/byheart](http://augspurgfortress.org/byheart)

### Augsburg Fortress

Facilitator Guide	9781506431499	\$19.99
DVD	9781506431505	\$24.99
Book	9781506431482	
QTY	1-5      6-20      21-50      51+	
	\$14.99    \$12.99    \$10.99    \$8.99	
Starter Pack	9781506438016	\$49.99



## Together by Grace

Introducing the Lutherans

Kathryn A. Kleinhans, Editor

Lutherans offer liberating insights into Christian faith, encompass a worldwide reach, and tell a story that goes back 500 years while pointing to the future. This volume takes us on a journey across a broad landscape of faith and time. Newcomers will find interesting entry points, and lifelong Lutherans will discover new dimensions. Whether it's a passion for a grace-filled theology, worship and music that lift spirits, or sincere concern for wholeness and justice, Lutherans are engaged in the world, alongside other Christians and those of various faiths. Suitable for individual study and exploration, this resource also makes an excellent small group study or class for new members.

FREE downloadable Discussion Guide:

[augspurgfortress.org/TBG-Study-Guide](http://augspurgfortress.org/TBG-Study-Guide)

### Augsburg Fortress

ISBN 9781506406381

#### Price per book

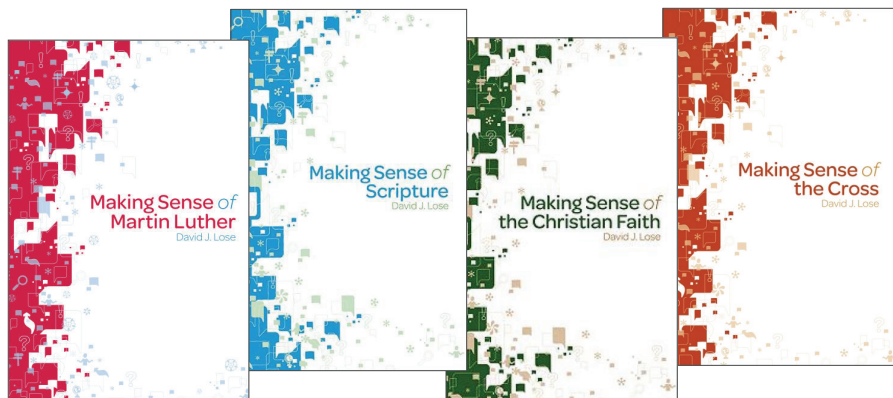
QTY	1-5	6-20	21+
	\$12.00	\$10.00	\$8.00

# Lutheran Studies for Adults

## Making Sense Series

Big Questions. Great Conversations.

David J. Lose



Studies in the *Making Sense* Series give people a framework to discuss questions like: Is the Bible true? How do Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection make a difference in our lives? How do we understand the cross of Christ? Who was Martin Luther, and why is he a big deal for Lutherans? Each session in a *Making Sense* course features a chapter to read and a video presentation by David Lose, as well as leader guide suggestions and activities that help you grapple with these questions, in a group setting.

Seven or eight sessions per course.

Four courses are available.

### Augsburg Fortress

#### MAKING SENSE OF MARTIN LUTHER

<b>Leader Guide</b>	<b>DVD</b>
9781451425567	9781451425574
\$19.99	\$16.99

<b>Participant Book</b>					
9781451425550					
QTY	1-5	6-10	11-25	26-50	51-100
	\$12.99	\$12.34	\$11.69	\$11.04	\$10.39

<b>eBook</b>	<b>Course Kit</b>
9781451425574	9781506446936
\$16.99	\$39.99

#### MAKING SENSE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

<b>Leader Guide</b>	<b>DVD</b>
9780806698496	9780806698502
\$19.99	\$16.99

<b>Participant Book</b>					
9780806698489					
QTY	1-5	6-10	11-25	26-50	51-100
	\$12.99	\$12.34	\$11.69	\$11.04	\$10.39

#### MAKING SENSE OF SCRIPTURE

<b>Leader Guide</b>	<b>DVD</b>
9780806696195	9780806696201
\$19.99	\$16.99

<b>Participant Book</b>					
9780806699530					
QTY	1-5	6-10	11-25	26-50	51-100
	\$12.99	\$12.34	\$11.69	\$11.04	\$10.39

#### MAKING SENSE OF THE CROSS

<b>Leader Guide</b>	<b>DVD</b>
9780806698526	9780806698533
\$19.99	\$16.99

<b>Participant Book</b>					
9780806698519					
QTY	1-5	6-10	11-25	26-50	51-100
	\$12.99	\$12.34	\$11.69	\$11.04	\$10.39

Learn more at:

[augsburgfortress.org/makingsense](http://augsburgfortress.org/makingsense)

# Bible Studies for Adults

## Book of Faith Series



Open scripture and join the conversation with Bible studies and devotional resources supporting the ELCA's Book of Faith initiative. These studies explore individual books of the Bible and Revised Common Lectionary texts through historical, literary, Lutheran, and devotional lenses.

Four to eight sessions per study/course.

*Augsburg Fortress*

### What do Book of Faith Resources offer?

#### Tools that empower learners

Book of Faith resources give learners the tools to dig into the Bible on their own, bringing their own questions and life experiences into the mix.

#### Adaptable and flexible approaches

Flexible resources accommodate individuals or groups, short or longer commitments, and daily, seasonal, or topical reading.

#### Promoting biblical fluency

Learners get better acquainted with key biblical characters and events, and the overarching story of God's redeeming love.

#### Being the church together

Your congregation joins thousands of others in the ongoing Book of Faith initiative.

### Book of Faith resources relevant to Fall, Year B Lectionary readings:

#### MARK: BOOKS OF FAITH

Eight session study

##### Leader Guide

9780806697796 \$22.99

##### Learner Guide

9780806697789

QTY	1-5	6-10	11-25	26-50	51-100
	\$11.49	\$10.92	\$10.34	\$9.77	\$9.19

#### QUESTIONS FOR JESUS: MARK

Six session study

##### Leader Guide

9780806696010 \$17.49

##### Learner Guide

9780806696027

QTY	1-5	6-10	11-25	26-50	51-100
	\$8.49	\$8.07	\$7.64	\$7.22	\$6.79

#### JAMES: BOOKS OF FAITH

Four session study

##### Leader Guide

9781451400816 \$11.99

##### Learner Guide

9781451400809

QTY	1-5	6-10	11-25	26-50	51-100
	\$5.79	\$5.50	\$5.21	\$4.92	\$4.63

#### HEBREWS: BOOKS OF FAITH

Six session study

##### Leader Guide

9780806697826 \$17.49

##### Learner Guide

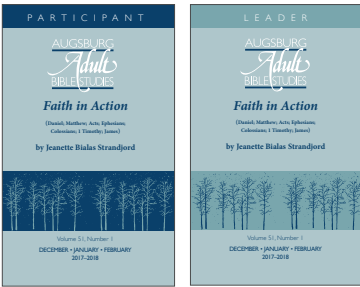
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