SUGGESTED STUDIES FOR LENT:

**The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus**, by Adam Hamilton - Join Adam Hamilton in the Holy Land as he explores the life and ministry of Jesus in this DVD study of six sessions plus epilogue. Using videos shot on location, Hamilton takes you to the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized and the wilderness where he was tempted. Leader's guide is included.

1 - Baptism and Temptation
2 - The Healing Ministry
3 - Proclaiming the Kingdom
4 - Calming the Storm
5 - Sinners, Outcasts, and the Poor
6 - The Final Week

This study has a separate children’s and youth study component.

**What Wondrous Love Is –** Six DVD sessions each approximately 7 minutes long. Every chapter features the reading of a passage of scripture, commentary by the scholars, and a Swanson work of art based on that passage. The folk hymn "What Wondrous Love Is This?" which serves as the accompanying musical theme, is sung by award-winning Celtic vocalist Connie Dover.

**Partnering With the King** by John L. Hiigel – Book with video providing 7 discussions in 6-weeks about being Jesus’ Disciples.

**Forgiveness: A Lenten Study** by Marjorie Thompson, author of the best-selling book *Soul Feast*, takes a close look at our understanding of forgiveness in this encouraging study. In six brief chapters, Thompson addresses such questions as the following:

- Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Or are there situations when Christians do not need to forgive?
- Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?
- Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?
• How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

Using biblical examples and real-life situations, Thompson illustrates each chapter's theme in an informative and engaging way. A study guide is also included that is appropriate for either individual reflection or group discussion. With clarity, insight, and sensitivity, this book is the perfect resource for examining both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness.

**Enough: God’s Blessings in Abundance** - As part of the Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding series this six-session study through the parables and other biblical materials participants explore dimensions of what it means to have enough.

- Session 1 - We Don't Have Enough
- Session 2 - Becoming Unbound from Fears of Not Enough
- Session 3 - Enough to Make a Difference
- Session 4 - Enough for Transformational Giving
- Session 5 - Enough is Good for the Body
- Session 6 - How Much is Enough to Leave Our Children?

**Living into Lent – by Donald K. McKim, 2013** – This book provides devotions to be used during the period of Lent. Each devotion features a Scripture passage, a devotion title, a biblical text for the devotion drawn from the Scripture passage, an essay, an Action Step, and a prayer. Each of the seven weekly sessions has a theme: following Jesus, meditating, praying, loving, thanking, enacting, and gathering at the cross. The seven study sessions are designed for groups who wish to do further reflections on the devotions they read individually.

**Blessings of the Cross** – 7 session study invites you to explore God’s hope and presence presented in the Lectionary scripture readings for Lent and Easter. Key Bible readings call us to praise God as we contemplate God’s redemption and new creation through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through the readings, we hear the call to celebrate the blessings of new life offered through Jesus Christ.

**On Ma Journey – a Lenten study based on African American Spirituals**

**Lenten Journey: Beyond Questions** – by Eric Burtness. Book. This book is a guide to exploring questions Jesus asks throughout the Gospels. They are transformative questions that challenge us. It is designed for a 40-day journey on your own or with a friend, small group or congregation.

- What are you looking for?
- Where is your faith?
- Who do you say that I am?
- What do you want me to do for you?
- Do you love me?
- How will you believe what I say?
- Whom are you looking for?
- **Knowing God's Triune Story** by Michael Lindvall – Book. This study unlocks the Trinity from the church's abstractions by interpreting it as a shorthand symbol for the long narrative of God. Lindvall examines how the three persons of the Trinity form the unity of God's embrace of humanity. This is a 40 daily readings with small group guide - 2010 Moderator's Lenten Bible Study

- **Alive to God in Jesus Christ: 40 Daily Readings with small-group guide** by Joseph Small – This book in the *iBelieve series* provides a disciplined study of Christian doctrine of the incarnation. Five session plans for small-group Lenten study are provided in the back of the book.

- **Bread & Broth: A Lenten Bible Study**, by Cynthia E. Cowan. Serve a different kind of soup and bread each week as you study the lives of Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Elisha, John the Baptist and Jesus in this six-part study.


- **The Jesus Creed Challenge** by Scot McKnight – This spiritual formation package includes the book *The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others* with companion guide; *40 Days Living the Jesus Creed* extends what is explored in the book; seven DVD-based lessons on loving God and loving others.

- [www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com) – The Thoughtful Christian is an online resource for adult and youth studies. They will have a Lent study package you can purchase and download to use with Sunday school, small group study or individual study.

- **Countering Pharaoh’s Production-Consumption Society Today**, one of the new DVD-based adult studies from Living the Questions. Described as a study for progressive Christians, this program has five sessions, 10 to 20 minutes each, and can be conducted over four to five sessions. Included is over an hour of video on DVD and a CD with printable written materials. Hosted by Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggeman, each session begins with warm-up question video clip like “Can you be a born again Christian and a progressive Christian at the same time?” or “How are we to understand the role violence plays in the Scriptures?” Session themes are: The Way Out; The Decalogue; Countering Caesar; An Act of Imagination; and On Not Doing God Any Favors.
• **Milk and Honey Cooking School: Learning the History of God’s People Through Cooking and Eating** – by Daphna Flegal & Lee Dell Stickler. This resource walks participants through the history of God’s people from Adam’s first bite to the breaking of the bread at the Last Supper. While learning about the events that impacted the Hebrew people, you will sample such foods as Abraham’s Goat Cheese Dip, Unleavened Bread, Esau’s Pottage, Grecian Honey Cheesecake and Roman Bread Pudding. Detailed instructions are provided for set up.

• **KERYGMA STUDIES:** All studies have a leader's guide and participant's book.

  **Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life** – Six sessions that invite the learner to pause and reflect on the Beatitudes and where the learner is going.

  **The Commandments: for a Blessed Life** – Patricia Dutcher-Walls. This 7-session study is designed to provide you with a fresh perspective, a deeper understanding and new appreciation for the commandments.

• **In the Dust of the Rabbi: Becoming a Disciple** - by Ray Vander Lann - this 5 session study has a book and accompanying DVD that will investigate the world of the disciples in its cultural context and attempt to apply the message of the Bible in today's world. Sessions: 1. When the Rabbi Says "Come" 2. When the Rabbi says "Go" 3. The Presence of God: A Counter-Cultural Community 4. Living Stones 5. The Very Words of God

• **God is Closer Than You Think** - Six-session DVD study with book by John Ortberg. The package has book, study guide, PowerPoint, & video presentations. Find God where you least expect to; listen to God’s voice; Identify which pathway of relationship you’re uniquely designed to travel; align yourself with the flow of the Holy Spirit; Draw closer to God even when God seems absent.

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• **Living the Mind of Christ** by James a. Harnish is a 7-session Lenten study for adults that calls for examination of what Christian discipleship requires and provides opportunities to wrestle with the deep issue of our lives and discover new ways we can begin to live with the mind-set of Christ. Each lesson includes a Scripture reference, a brief reflection, questions for discussion, prayer, and a focus for the next week.

• **Savior of the Cross** by David Kalas is a 7-session adult, Lenten study based on the Revised Common Lectionary for Year A. Through the study of the lectionary passages the participants will discover how the cross shows Jesus’ love for us

• **Seven Words to the Cross** by J. Ellsworth Kalas is a 7-session Lenten study for adults which focuses on our response to the cross. Each lesson includes a scripture reference, a brief reflection, questions for discussion, prayer and focus for next week.

• **The Common People Heard Him Gadly** by James W. Moore is a 7-session Lenten study for adults. In this study, the focus is on what it was about Jesus that attracted the masses to him? Just what was it about Jesus that touched people so deeply and so dramatically? Each lesson has scripture reference, brief reflection, questions for discussion, prayer, and focus for next session.

• **A Trail of Tears: Bible study for Lent**, Bob Bankhead. Seven lessons (with texts from the three Synoptic Gospels) that trace the events of Jesus' final journey into Jerusalem and toward crucifixion.

• **Journey To Jerusalem: Celebrating and Teaching the Life of Jesus**, Boyd Lien. Book. This can be an intergenerational study using the learning center concept that can be adapted to each church's needs. It can be done as Sunday school for six weeks, Vacation Bible School or mid-week programs.

• **Living Micah's Call** - Through Bible studies and group reflection, congregations are taken on a journey that strengthens their commitment to social and economic justice.
The Micah 6 program has three basic goals:
- to encourage congregations to seek to be rooted in the Bible and theological tradition.
- to work to transform social relationships inside and outside the church; and
- move their faith into action for systematic social change

In this program, congregations are urged to understand, cry out, and work for justice in this society; to serve others with a loving heart and to deepen their personal and corporate relationship with God.

- **We Are An Easter People, Adrienne and John Carr.** Book. A five-week Lenten study designed to help discover what it means to be “Easter People” – those who have discovered anew the power of God in their lives. Leader’s guide & participants book.

- **Meet the Risen Lord: Scriptures for the Church Season** by, Kurt R. Schuermann Adult Study for Lent, ’99

- **VIDEO - Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People.** Six 26-minute programs on one video with discussion guide. 1) The Spiritual Life 2) Spiritual Disciplines 3) Quiet Time With God 4) Meditating on Scripture 5) Living the Spiritual Life 6) Developing a Rule for Life. VHS tape

- **VIDEO - He Chose the Nails** - A 12-session study for adults that is an in-depth study by Max Lucado of the significance of the cross. The study includes a comprehensive Leader's guide, an interactive participant's workbook with daily assignments and weekly group meeting activities, a video featuring Max Lucado with discussion starters.

- **VIDEO - Significance of Suffering: Where is God When We Suffer** - (65 min.) Diogenes Allen provides a thought-provoking examination of ways that suffering can transform us while drawing us closer to God. This 4-part video series (20-min. each) is designed for moderate to advanced adult study and can be used is small groups or for retreats. VHS tape

- If you are looking for a Lenten study, we would like to suggest **Experiencing the Heart of Christianity** by Tim Scorer. A companion to the best-selling book by Marcus J. Borg, this 12-session experiential program will enable you to engage the issues that lie at the heart of Christianity today. Experiencing the Heart of Christianity will guide you through these complicated issues using ritual and activities that honor a variety of learning styles. Test piloted by groups and congregations, this complete program guide for leaders includes detailed session outlines. DVD is included with video segments by Tim Scorer and Marcus Borg, beautiful fine art images and reproducible resource sheets.
  ISBN 1-55145-511-0 -
  $34.95 (US and CAN) includes DVD
  Check your local resource center or bookstore; call 1-800-663-2775 or visit our website at [www.woodlakebooks.com](http://www.woodlakebooks.com).

**Walking in His Footsteps: a multimedia journey through Jesus' last week** - Participants will journey through the final days of Jesus' life, his crucifixion, his resurrection, and his post-resurrection appearances on the road to Emmaus and to the disciples. They'll spend approximately one hour traveling through twelve stations where they'll listen to a thought-provoking narrative (on CD) and experience ways to connect the narrative to their own lives. Youth ministry resource.