

All Resources listed are New!



MARC NEWS

Michigan Area Resource Center • The United Methodist Church

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Simple Living/Recycling/ Overconsumption/

A LIFE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL (DVD0547)

An eloquent, challenging and inspiring six-week introduction to Christian ethics that avoids pat answers and simplistic lists of dos and don'ts. Dr. Wheeler focuses on the formation of Christian character, citing helpful examples both from Scripture and from Church history. She concludes with a test case: the issue of money and consumption. What would Paul, Augustine, Luther and Wesley say to modern Christians about their use of resources?



The six video lessons (each 20 minutes) include:

1. Introduction: A Christian Way of Living?

Four Models for Christian Ethics:

2. Scripture: The Story that Forms Us
3. Augustine: Ordering Our Loves
4. Luther: The Spirit of Christian Life
5. Wesley: Transforming Grace

Conclusion:

6. Learning from Our Traditions – A Test Case

Series contains Leader's/ Teacher's Guide, Participant's Guide/Book, Poster/Promotion Kit. Wesley Ministry Network. For ages college and up!

Biblical Theology/ Doctrine/Grace

OPENING OURSELVES TO GRACE- BASIC CHRISTIAN PRACTICES (DVD 0548)

Opening Ourselves to Grace explores the basic practices of Christian faith and life from a Wesleyan perspective. This resource includes a four-chapter video presentation on Wesley's understanding of spiritual practice, a six-week Bible study based on the video, and a discussion guide to help group leaders.

The four-segment video presents a clear and contemporary understanding of Wesleyan spiritual practices. Early testers of this resource say they now have a better understanding of the language of grace. More than this, the material offers a Methodist or Wesleyan identity, something that helps those in the world Methodist community understand distinctive marks of the church.

This series also contains a CD-ROM with printable resources for leaders and participants. Discipleship Resources. For ages college and up.



Christian Living/Spiritual Growth/Prayer Ministry

PRAYER EXPRESSION PACKAGE- VOLUME 3 (DVD 0549)

Like each "Open Hearts" commercial for The United Methodist Church, The Prayer carries a unique biblical, emotional and strategic expression. Designed to appeal to thoughtful, intentional spiritual "seekers" who are ages 25-54, each theme is also relevant to the local church. It's easy to share a community message

with a compelling emotional theme that's relevant to both seekers and your members. Once you've chosen the "prayer" theme, this Expression Package will help you explore its unique biblical foundation and strategically implement the advertising.

This DVD-ROM includes:

- "Prayer" television spot
 - SpiritFilms video for use in worship and small groups
 - Video clips to help your congregation understand "Prayer" and welcome newcomers with the spirit and theology of this message
 - Video view book of the advertising materials in the package
 - DVD-only Bonus: includes all CD-ROM materials (theological summary, advertising files, etc.)
- Produced and provided by United Methodist Communications

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www.marc-web.org

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There's more on the back

Youth Ministry/Spiritual Growth

E|MERGE VOL. 3 - DEVELOPING YOUTH AS FULLY DEVOTED DISCIPLES (DVD 0540)

e|Merge is combination of dynamic large-group teaching enhanced by digital media and intimate small-group discussion. The purpose of this resource is to make this model of youth ministry programming accessible to all congregations, regardless of facilities or number of youth. Designed for evening youth group program, this study comes in three 13-program volumes. Each of the 13 programs is enhanced by visual media and divided into two segments: a large group gathering and teaching time, followed by dividing youth into small groups for more intimate discussion. Each volume contains a director's

guide with an interactive DVD, and two small group leader's guides—one for younger youth and the other for older youth. Both small group leaders' guides come with an interactive CD. The interactive DVD features video segments, PowerPoint games, printable handouts, and a video showing a working model of the program. The interactive CD's (for computer use) provide leader training and printable handouts.

Vol. 3:

The 13 sessions are grouped into three units:

Unit 1: Trick My Life (4 sessions) uses popular makeover shows as a metaphor for how we experience Christ. On these shows a team of experts im-

proves a car, living room, or wardrobe so dramatically that its owners often respond by jumping around and screaming for joy. Likewise, Jesus changes us in incredible ways and gives us joy unlike anything we have ever experienced.

Unit 2: I'm Third (4 sessions) focuses on priorities. Jesus taught "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37, 39). In this unit we'll discuss how to put God first, others next, and ourselves third.

Unit 3: Arise (5 sessions) focuses on leadership by looking at the second half of I Samuel and how David developed as a leader in the years before he became king.

Abingdon Press

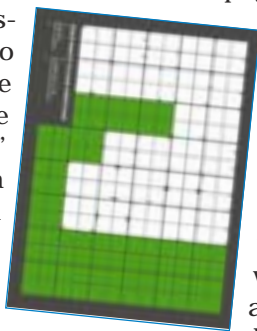
Check out these new BOOKS in MARC.....

Christian Living/Spiritual Growth

VELVET ELVIS - REPAINTING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH (BK 0096)

Bell, pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grand Rapids, MI, offers an innovative and intriguing, if uneven, first book. This introduction to the Christian faith is definitely outside the usual evangelical box. Bell wants to offer "a fresh take on Jesus"—a riff that begins with the assertion that Jesus wanted to "call people to live in tune with reality" and that he "had no use for religion." Bell invites seekers into a Christianity that has room for doubts (his church recently hosted an evening where doubters were invited to ask their hardest, most challenging questions). He mocks literalists whose faith seems to depend on a six-day creation, and one of his favorite people is a woman who turned up repeatedly at his church, only to tell him that she totally disagreed with his teachings. He cites his church as a place of forgiveness, mystery, community and transformation. Bell is well-versed in Jewish teachings and draws from rabbinic wisdom and stories freely. His casual,

hip tone can grate at times, and his footnotes, instructing readers to drop everything and read the books that have influenced him, grow old. Still, this is faithful, creative Christianity, and Gen-Xers especially will find Bell a welcome guide to the Christian faith. Zondervan Publishing, 7 chapters- 194 pages



JESUS WANTS TO SAVE CHRISTIANS - A MANIFESTO FOR THE CHURCH IN EXILE (BK 0097)

Rob Bell, author of Velvet Elvis and Sex God teams up with fellow pastor Golden to write a manifesto that packs as much sociopolitical zing as rhetorical punch. If Americans today miss the central message of the Bible, say the authors, the reason is

that the United States is an empire like those described in Scripture that build powerful armies and seek to protect what they accumulate rather than promote justice and mercy. Chapter titles such as "Swollen-bellied black babies, soccer moms on Prozac, and the mark of the beast" will provoke many readers. Likely to get a bigger rise is the suggestion that when the Bible says enemies will one day worship together, that includes today's enemies, the Taliban and al-Qaeda. The writing is frequently paragraphed into very short chunks of prose. This dramatic book is politically charged but not party-bent, bearing a message evangelicals need: that Jesus didn't come just to save people for heaven someday but to transform his followers and the physical world now.

Zondervan Publishing, 218 pages- 6 chapters

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