

Discipleship Resources

A series of ideas and resource reviews to help make dynamic disciples of Jesus

Recommendations



The Salvation Army New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory

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INTRODUCTION

In October 2010, The Salvation Army in New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga launched an extension to the Territorial Strategic Mission Plan (TSMP) referred to as TSMP: The Next Chapter, containing four updated goals.

A deliberate strategy in achieving these goals is to provide a range of resources to help people understand the goals, obtain the required skills and feel supported in living them out. Some resources have had to be developed in house. For example, there's not much chance of buying a study that explains our four very specific goals. On the other hand, there's no point developing resources when there are arguably better ones already available. But what?

To get started, we asked a range of people 'what is the one resource that you really wish every leader within The Salvation Army knew about and why'? This document summarises the results, with information about how to obtain each resource and likely cost.

Our question was intentionally generic. We didn't ask some people for a resource around sharing your faith, and others about children. The results therefore do not yet cover all topics (for example, there are no recommended resources for youth – instead please head to www.firezone.co.nz).

Over time, it is hoped many more people will contribute new reviews and provide comments on existing ones. The main forum for this is our intranet. To keep informed of new recommendations or to make a comment, head to the intranet (www.sarmy.net.nz), choose Strategic Mission Plan then Discipleship Resources (or send an email to tsmp@nzf.salvationarmy.org).

The resource recommendations have been grouped as follows:

1. **Planning / strategic thinking:** where do we start? How about with a plan.
2. **Pre-Christian connections:** connecting with people in our community (e.g. marriage enrichment, parenting)?
3. **Exposure to gospel:** how do we help someone interested learn more about God (e.g. raising spiritual awareness, Christianity explained)
4. **Sharing your faith:** training for people in how to share their faith
5. **Discipleship training:** split between personal spiritual practices, specific resources for new believers, and more general resources for all disciples.
6. **Others:** a range of topics with only a few reviews, including engaging with our post modern culture; justice, children and welcomer's training.

1. PLANNING

You're considering your priorities. Our key message is – **be intentional**. It's easy to fall into a trap of being reactive, particularly reading a booklet like this. 'That sounds like a great resource – let's use it'. However, is it really what you need, or at least, what you need most? How does it fit into your overall strategy? If you use it and it goes well, do you have something to follow it with, or will it end up losing all effectiveness due to no overall plan?

Our first recommendation is before using anything, make sure you have an overall plan for bringing people to faith and growing them as disciples. If you don't have such a plan (or it needs a boost), you could work through the TSMP Evangelism and Discipleship Pathway workbooks with your leadership team.

TSMP Evangelism Pathway

What is it?	A workbook to help you develop a plan for bringing people to faith in Jesus
Audience:	Leadership teams
Format:	Workbook with series of questions to follow
Topics:	Evangelism, strategic planning
Description:	Let's assume that over the next year, a whole lot of people will come to faith through your corps. Can you tell me the steps that they most likely will follow? Ignoring the vital part God plays for a moment, did they follow these steps because you had a plan, or was it a fluke? This workbook helps you develop such a plan, so that everything you do is intentional.
Strengths:	<input type="checkbox"/> It guides you through the process step by step (so it's easy) <input type="checkbox"/> You develop your plan, not a prescribed 'model answer'
Weaknesses:	<input type="checkbox"/> It's an unpopular topic!
Tips:	Combine this with the Discipleship Pathway for a retreat. Once finished, consider the recommended resources for <i>Pre-Christian Connections</i> and <i>Exposure to the Gospel</i> below.
Cost:	None
Contact:	www.sarmy.net.nz >> Strategic Mission Plan >> Goal One Resources (by Alastair Kendrew)

TSMP Discipleship Pathway

What is it?	A workbook to help you develop a plan for growing dynamic disciples (once people have decided to follow Jesus)
Audience:	Leadership teams
Format:	Workbook with series of questions to follow
Topics:	Discipleship, strategic planning
Description:	Some people have recently decided to follow Jesus. Over the next year, how will you ensure these people grow in their faith? What about the year after that? Do you have a plan? What do you want them to know and do? This workbook helps you develop such a plan, so that everything you do is intentional.
Strengths:	<input type="checkbox"/> It guides you through the process step by step (so it's easy) <input type="checkbox"/> You develop your plan, not a prescribed 'model answer'
Weaknesses:	<input type="checkbox"/> It's hard to convince people that it's worth it (but it is!)
Tips:	Combine this with the Evangelism Pathway for a leadership team retreat. Once finished, consider the recommended resources for <i>Sharing your Faith</i> and <i>Discipleship training</i> below.
Cost:	None
Contact:	www.sarmy.net.nz >> Strategic Mission Plan >> Goal One Resources (by Alastair Kendrew)

OTHER IDEAS:

- Read the book *Follow Me – What's Next For You* (the second book in the Reveal series from Willow Creek) for some great insights into what catalyses spiritual growth, and especially for tips on how to help people who are stalled in their faith or dissatisfied with the church. (\$25 from Willow Creek resources)

2. PRE-CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS

One of the best ways to grow authentic relationships with non-believers is to meet their needs. What do the people in your community (or friends of your congregation) need? Here are some ideas:

- ❑ Are they lonely or struggling financially – a community meal or budgeting?
- ❑ Family struggles – marriage enrichment or parenting skills?
- ❑ New families – playgroup, music & movement, a dedication service?

Here are a couple of very effective tools for helping marriages. We'll look to recommend a few other types of resources in the future.

The Marriage Course (Alpha)

Rating:	★★★★★
What is it?	An eight week course for helping couples enrich their marriage.
Audience:	Married (or co-habiting) couples – regardless of whether their relationship is strong or struggling. A Marriage Preparation Course is also available.
Format:	At each session, couples enjoy a nice meal, watch a DVD and discuss the topic together. There is no group discussion!
Topics:	Marriage enrichment
Description:	<p>The Marriage Course is a DVD based series of teaching sessions, covering building strong foundations, the art of communication, conflict resolution, forgiveness, the impact of family past and present, good sex and keeping love alive. The DVD is paused throughout each evening so that the couples can privately discuss topics with the help of an exercise. The last session is in the form of a party, where guests are asked to invite their friends to provide them a taster (so that they attend the next course).</p> <p>Course leaders simply host the evening and provide hospitality (a meal and dessert/coffee). The venue is set up to create a romantic atmosphere and privacy for couples, with individual tables, candles, low lighting and background music. Each guest has a manual with notes on the talks and all of the exercises.</p> <p>There is an optional ninth session for couples who spend large periods of time apart (e.g. for those in the armed forces).</p>

	<p>A comment from a guest: “It is such a fantastic format. It gave us the platform to build and strengthen our marriage. We didn’t feel like we were doing a course – just having a great evening together. We loved it and are recommending it to our friends.”</p>
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Teaches practical skills for relating to one another. Couples discuss how various topics are relevant to them and have the time to practice the new skills that they learn. The exercises enable couples to identify and work through issues as well as laugh and have fun ❑ It is relevant for any couple, from those who are struggling to those who simply want to invest in their relationship. ❑ Relevant for Christian and non-Christian couples, it raises issues of spirituality in a sensitive and non-threatening way.
Weaknesses:	<p>It can be very tempting to cut corners with the way in which you present the course (e.g. skipping the meal or failing to create a romantic and private atmosphere); however it is these elements that create a powerful experience for guests.</p>
Tips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Before running the course, leaders should go on the course themselves (so they experience the difference it can make) ❑ Attend a training day (Alpha New Zealand run training days annually) and/or watch the Leaders Toolkit DVD ❑ As the course raises issues of spirituality, it is useful to run an evangelistic programme (e.g. the Alpha course) so that guests can explore the Christian faith afterwards. ❑ Plan a minimum of two courses a year, so that you know the dates for your next course before the current one finishes. Then use the party to attract guests for your next course and you’ll find the course reaching into your community as people invite their friends.
Cost:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Starter kit: \$405 (includes the Marriage Book, DVDs, Leaders toolkit, 20 brochures, A3 posters and 10 guest manuals). All of these resources can also be purchased separately. ❑ Each guest requires a manual: \$10
Contact:	<p>http://www.themarriagecourse.org.nz/ Johnsonville corps (by Lisa and Peter Holden)</p>

Fireproof

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	Movie and book about marriage enrichment
Audience:	Married Couples / Partners – it is based around a couple who are struggling but it is just as useful for couples with a great relationship
Format:	Movie and dessert couples night
Topics:	Marriage, commitment, salvation, pre-evangelism
Description:	<p>The movie is based on a couple who are struggling in their marriage and wanting to give up. The guy is asked privately to commit to a 40 day challenge, after which he is welcome to walk away if it doesn't work. Through this, he discovers that fixing his marriage requires God in his life as well as to change himself.</p> <p>The gospel component is sensitive and not over the top, and has lead to first time decisions to follow Jesus and recommitments from it.</p> <p>There are two main ways to use this. The first is to organise a couples night where you watch the <i>Fireproof</i> movie, then hand out the <i>Love Dare - a 40 day journey</i> book to each couple. Doing it this way, you need to ensure you pre-arrange some form of follow-up.</p> <p>Alternatively, there is a Love Dare Bible Study for use in a small group, but you would want to ensure that you were sensitive about asking couples to share private issues in public.</p>
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Non-threatening event/presentation. Easy event to invite friends to <input type="checkbox"/> Great topic – all marriages benefit from investment like this <input type="checkbox"/> Gospel presented in a non-threatening but intentional manner
Weaknesses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Self follow-up required unless you can organise a study or support group.

Tips:	<p>Couples should feel like they are out on a date so put some effort into the ambiance. Sit them at individual tables, provide fancy dessert (perhaps even some couches from the family store to sit on so couples can snuggle during the movie).</p> <p>Hand out a relationship resources card, counselling, other resources and references to websites like love languages.</p>
Cost:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> DVD: \$30-\$40 <input type="checkbox"/> Book: \$25-\$30
Contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> www.fireproofthemovie.com <input type="checkbox"/> www.LoveDareBook.com <p>Foxton corps (by Lieutenant Stephen Campkin)</p>

OTHER IDEAS:

- Start a Community Meal (there are many corps already doing this, including Hamilton, Palmerston North, Johnsonville and Upper Hutt)
- Involve your local community ministry centre in running a community budgeting course (i.e. to a group, not one on one)
- Run a parenting course or invite a guest speaker on parenting:
 - Diane Levy (email parentinghassles@xtra.co.nz) is a well-known speaker and author on parenting skills (e.g. *Of course I love you, now go to your room* and *They look so lovely when they're asleep*). She spoke at Johnsonville corps once and was absolutely brilliant.
 - Similarly, contact ParentsInc (<http://www.parentsinc.org.nz>) for one off parenting hot tip events or to run the Parenting Toolbox courses.

3. EXPOSURE TO GOSPEL

There's probably two parts to this – raising spiritual awareness so that people become open to God, and then once people are showing an interest in God, what's the next step you provide for them?

Some of the events mentioned under Pre-Christian Connections will raise spiritual awareness. Otherwise, have you considered having Nooma or Journeys DVDs playing in your family store and community ministry centre. These could be supplemented by handouts, advertisements for things happening in the corps or even books to borrow such as Lee Strobel's *A Case for Christ?*

For the people interested in finding out more about God, you'll probably need some sort of small group or course that explores Christianity and invites your guests to ask difficult questions.

You could start a seeker small group by showing a popular movie with spiritual undertones (e.g. Bruce Almighty, Evan Almighty, Amazing Grace, Narnia, and Fireproof) and then discussing the movie. Anyone interested could then be invited to carry on the discussions over coffee next week.

If you're looking for a Christianity Explained type course, the most popular ones used over recent years have probably been Alpha, Journeys and Scripture Union's Christianity Explained. We'll look to add reviews of these in time, but here's another one if you're looking to try something else.

Rainbow introduction to Christianity (5 Loaves 2 Fishes)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	A five week course covering the basics of faith (who is Christ, why did he die, how do I become a Christian?)
Audience:	Adult, young adult – seeking or new Christians.
Format:	We have used it as a small group but could be used one-on-one as well. Five weeks, deep but not too onerous.
Topics:	First steps in faith – for those very close to make a faith commitment or having just made a new commitment. Also great for those coming from other churches.
Description:	The course is self explanatory but requires a leader who can guide people through questions.

Strengths:	<input type="checkbox"/> Simple and concise but covers the basics well <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't have an American 'flavour' – NZ resource. <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of scriptural references
Weaknesses:	<input type="checkbox"/> Is book based – not overly accessible for people who struggle with reading
Tips:	<input type="checkbox"/> We use this as a key part of our discipleship pathway – the junction between pre-evangelism and discipleship
Cost:	Participants book: \$10
Contact:	www.5loaves2fishes.net Papakura Corps (by Captain Timothy Malton)

OTHER IDEAS:

For those who live in the Auckland area, Greg Laurie is running a Harvest Campaign throughout 2011. Apart from a great event to bring friends to, in the months leading up to the event, the Harvest team provides excellent training and fantastic resources. Sign up as a corps and make use of the opportunity (and grab lots of copies of the various resources such as tips for a quiet time with God, Bibles and tracts for new believers and the training on how to share your faith.) (<http://www.harvest.org/crusades/2011/auckland/event-information/home.html>)

4. TRAINING IN HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

One of the keys to effective evangelism is ensuring that your people feel equipped to talk to others about their faith. There are lots of courses or sermon series to help with that. Here are a few recommendations.

Evangelism Discipleship DVD Series (Evangelism Strategies International)

Rating:	★★★★★
What is it?	In depth study on evangelism – what is biblical evangelism, why should we be doing it, what stops Christians evangelising and most importantly, a tool – how we can do it!
Audience:	Adult, young adult
Format:	DVD series with study guides. Designed for small groups but can also be used by individuals or in Sunday meetings for the whole church.
Topics:	Evangelism
Description:	<p>There are 19 studies in all. Each participant is encouraged to purchase a study guide and a separate leader’s guide is available.</p> <p>This is a very in depth course that explores many of the barriers to evangelism and deconstructs some of the myths and unbiblical teachings that have abounded in the church.</p> <p>The DVD does most of the teaching, with discussion occurring very naturally after viewing. The leader just needs to keep the conversation moving.</p> <p>In addition, there is an eleven minute gospel presentation available for free download which is an awesome tool for doing personal and group evangelism after completing the training.</p>
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Great biblical information <input type="checkbox"/> It’s New Zealand made and the author is directly available via phone and email. <input type="checkbox"/> By the end of the study, participants are equipped to DO evangelism.

Weaknesses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Some people are offended by this material – it leaves no room for a ‘Christian club’ mentality. This is stuff for serious disciples.
Tips:	<p>The 19 studies are spread over six DVDs. Buy one pack and rotate the DVD’s through your small groups. Similarly, only buy one leaders guide groups only need it when they are getting started.</p> <p>The study guide books seem expensive but it is worth each participant having their own as this is their resource for when study is finished. Anyone who takes the great commission seriously will use this book which makes it good value. Also, most workbooks cover only six sessions – this is 19 sessions so it is like you are buying three books, each under \$10.</p>
Cost:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ DVDs: \$199 for first set and \$80 thereafter ❑ Leaders Guide: \$35 ❑ Participant Study Guides: \$28
Contact:	<p>www.esisite.com Blenheim Corps (by Lieutenants Julie and Lachlan Marshall)</p>

Just Walk Across the Room (Willow Creek)

Rating:	★★★★★
What is it?	A four week small group resource equipping people to share their faith. Can also be used as a sermon series.
Audience:	Adult, young adult
Format:	Small group DVD with leaders guide and participants guides
Topics:	Evangelism, Discipleship
Description:	This four week series explores how to build relationships then share your faith by leaving your circles of comfort, extending hands of care, compassion, and inclusiveness, and being ready to 'tell your personal faith story' in a clear and succinct manner.
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Simplifies 'evangelism'. Helps people realise they have a personal story to tell and equips them to tell it. <input type="checkbox"/> Sessions are Bible based, practical, and interactive.
Weaknesses:	<input type="checkbox"/> None identified
Tips:	<input type="checkbox"/> Run this as a Sunday sermon series, with small groups using the studies during the week to practice the learning
Cost:	<input type="checkbox"/> Just Walk Across the Room Kit: \$170 (includes 1 small group DVD with 32-page Leader's Guide; 1 Small Group Participant's Guide, 1 resource CD-ROM with sermons, implementation guide, and promotional materials; 1 hardcover book Just Walk Across the Room; and 1 Quick Start brochure)
Contact:	www.willowcreek.org.nz Gore, Nelson, Christchurch City corps (by Majors Darrell and Lorraine LePine)

CLASS 401 (Sharing Your Faith) (Saddleback)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	<p>The last in the four part series of courses from Saddleback, this one is specifically focussed at sharing your faith (see review of all four in the Discipleship Training section).</p> <p>Note: this material has been adapted for use within The Salvation Army in New Zealand (contact Hutt City corps) and there are plans for the Programme Department to further update this early in 2011.</p>
Audience:	Adult, young adult - keen to learn about sharing their faith
Format:	Four sessions, either in a lecture/discussion format or used within a small group. Participants work through a workbook.
Topics:	Sharing your faith
Description:	Discovering your life mission and how you can be a part of God's plan to reach out to the world. This class will help you develop a personal perspective of the Gospel message, develop your personal story of how God has worked in your life and build confidence in sharing your story.
Strengths:	Excellent material. Well thought out and very practical. For example, you get to develop and practice your personal story, understand the stages people typically progress through when coming to faith and how you approach people (and don't approach people) at each stage.
Weaknesses:	The course is content intensive and the workbooks follow a fill in the blanks style. This style relies on a skilled facilitator to ensure plenty of discussion.
Tips:	Each session takes around three hours. This works well on a Sunday afternoon, including an afternoon break.
Cost:	You are able to print copies of the course materials for each participant at no cost (other than printing).
Contact:	Hutt City, Waitakere and Hamilton corps (by Major Malcolm Herring)

5. PERSONAL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

There is growing evidence that spending time reading your Bible and talking with God on a regular basis is essential to dynamic discipleship (not surprising!). For example, Reveal is the name used for a series of research in North America which has surveyed more than 250,000 Christians around spiritual growth. They found regular reflection on scripture is a critical catalyst for spiritual growth at all levels, and that re-starting personal spiritual practices was the most significant factor in helping people struggling in their faith to reengage.

Yet, according to Bible Society in New Zealand research, less than 25% of Christians in New Zealand read their Bibles even once a week! What can we do to address this critical issue? The Bible Society started by developing a resource called E100 – a 100 day Bible reading challenge. This is a fantastic place to start.

E100 (Essential 100) (and Essential Jesus available 2011)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	A 100 day Bible reading challenge – 50 days on each of the Old and New Testaments. Each reading is carefully chosen with supplementary notes to help you gain a better understanding of the Bible.
Audience:	Adult, young adult, children, new believers, mature believers
Format:	Daily reading with supplementary notes
Topics:	Personal spiritual practices, Biblical literacy
Description:	<p>According to Bible Society research, less than one quarter of NZ Christians read their Bibles even once a week! Yet Bible reading is essential to spiritual growth. One of the main reasons cited is that people don't understand the Bible. Enter the E100 challenge – 100 essential readings with commentary to help you set in place a habit of regular Bible reading and improve your Bible understanding.</p> <p>The readings are split into 20 sections – each with five readings. The aim is to complete five readings a week (but if you get behind – keep going!)</p> <p>The E100 book is brilliant – I could not recommend it high enough, even for mature Christians. However, I found the separate small group and family packs disappointing. In</p>

	<p>particular, the readings in the family pack were too long to maintain the kid's interest and there was not enough to discuss.</p> <p>Look out for Essential Jesus early in 2011 - a follow up 100 day challenge with readings that focus on Jesus. Interestingly, this is being released with a different style children's pack and DVD resources for small groups, so here's hoping.</p>
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Encourages regular Bible reading <input type="checkbox"/> Provides an excellent overview of the Bible
Weaknesses:	<p>The small group resources and family pack rely on a similar amount of reading to the individual study. Small groups will struggle if they thrive on discussion, and families will struggle if they are sitting around the table reading 2-3 chapters at one sitting. See note on Essential Jesus above</p>
Tips:	<p>If you have a friend showing an interest in God, buy them an E100 book – what better way for them to find out what the Bible is all about!</p> <p>Team up with others and keep encouraging each other.</p> <p>Do the challenge as a corps. Offer a chocolate (or similar) in your service each week for anyone who managed five readings that week (note: not for people up to date – you want to encourage anyone who has got behind to keep going)</p>
Cost:	E100 book - \$13, Family pack - \$8, Discussion guide - \$6
Contact:	http://e100nz.org.nz (by Alastair Kendrew)

CLASS 201 (Discovering Spiritual Maturity) (Saddleback)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	<p>The second in the four part series of courses from Saddleback, this one is about discovering spiritual maturity through the habits of reading your Bible, having a daily time with God, prayer, tithing and fellowship.</p> <p>Note: this material has been adapted for use within The Salvation Army in New Zealand (contact Hutt City corps) and there are plans for the Programme Department to further update this early in 2011.</p>
Audience:	New believers (or believers who haven't established good habits)
Format:	Four sessions, either in a lecture/discussion format or used within a small group. Participants work through a workbook.
Topics:	Personal devotions, giving, reading your Bible, disciplines
Description:	Helps you develop the habits you need to jump-start your spiritual growth: daily time with God (prayer and Bible study), giving and fellowship.
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent material. Well thought out and very practical. <input type="checkbox"/> Includes a Bible reading plan and record; memorising scripture plan; tips on how to spend time with God, etc.
Weaknesses:	Some of the sessions are content intensive and the workbooks follow a fill in the blanks style. This style relies on a skilled facilitator to ensure plenty of discussion.
Tips:	Each session takes around three hours (depending on discussion). This works well on a Sunday afternoon, including an afternoon break.
Cost:	You are able to print copies of the course materials for each participant at no cost (other than printing).
Contact:	<p>http://www.saddleback.com/aboutsaddleback/christianlifeandseminars/</p> <p>Hutt City, Waitakere and Hamilton corps (by Major Malcolm Herring)</p>

OTHER IDEAS:

- ❑ Various TSMP resources are designed to help encourage people to spend time with God and reflecting on the Bible – in particular the third and seventh studies in the *Dynamic Discipleship* series, and the *Knowing God* small group resource
- ❑ *Too busy not to pray* is a classic book by Bill Hybels with practical ideas for slowing down and spending time with God.

6. DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING (NEW BELIEVERS)

By far, we have received the most recommendations on resources to help believers grow in their faith. To try to make this a little more manageable, we have split these into resources specific for new believers, and more general resources applicable to everyone.

The more 'holistic' discipleship programmes are covered in the main discipleship section below but clearly also contain material for new believers.

For an introduction to what we believe –use our new soldiership material.

Foundational Studies (Napier Corps)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	Foundational studies for new believers developed at Napier corps.
Audience:	Adults, Youth – new Christians
Format:	Eight studies with discussion points and homework for small groups or one-on-one.
Topics:	The word of God, prayer, evangelism, destiny, identity.
Description:	The studies are written in a way that means you only need to walk through the study with the new Christian. There are questions to ask that create discussion and the person doing the study has daily questions to answer (homework) that help establish that routine of daily times with God.
Strengths:	Simplicity and clear lay out. Deals with the basic questions that new Christians have. Helps them start their relationship with God and what has happened to them. Has clear teaching on what has happened to them now they have received salvation.
Weaknesses:	None
Tips for using:	Ideal for discipling a new Christian on a one-on-one basis
Cost:	None
Contact:	Janet Green, Napier Corps Majors Ivan & Glenda Bezzant, THQ Programme Department (by Janet Green)

Class Studies (Napier Corps)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	Twelve studies on how to live daily life as a disciple of Jesus developed at Napier corps. A follow on from <i>Foundational Studies</i> .
Audience:	Adults, youth - new believers
Format:	Twelve studies for small groups, one-on-one or personal use
Topics:	Destiny, lifestyle of a disciple
Description:	The studies covers subjects like loving each other and yourself, finances, giving, general behaviour, community, seeking God, what it means to live in community, Gods Plan & Purpose, serving and relating to the world.
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Simple and clear for new Christians. <input type="checkbox"/> Easy for people leading as it is all laid out and you just need to walk through it. <input type="checkbox"/> Great for getting people to look into their own bible.
Weaknesses:	None
Tips for using:	People could use this as a personal study and then discuss it when they meet one-on-one. Can also be used by a leader to disciple a small group of new Christians after they have worked through the Foundational Studies.
Cost:	None
Contact:	Janet Green, Napier Corps Majors Ivan & Glenda Bezzant, THQ Programme Department (by Janet Green)

River introduction to Christianity (5 Loaves 2 Fishes)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	A 14 study course covering the basics of faith (who is Christ, why did he die, how do I become a Christian?)
Audience:	Adult, young adult - new Christians who have made a commitment of faith or those new to our fellowship.
Format:	We have used it as a small group of weekly sessions but could be used one-on-one as well.
Topics:	In depth teaching of basic doctrines such as assurance, nature of God, trinity, sin, the Word of God, person of Christ, salvation by grace through faith, eternity...
Description:	The course is self explanatory but requires a leader who can guide people through some deeper theological questions.
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Covers most key theological concepts. <input type="checkbox"/> Good orthodox teaching. <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't have a strong American 'flavour' – NZ resource. <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of scriptural references. <input type="checkbox"/> Relatively easy to apply to 'real life' issues.
Weaknesses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Is book based – not overly accessible for people who struggle with reading <input type="checkbox"/> Has some potential confusion with sacramental teachings.
Tips:	<p>We use this with lots of reference to Salvation Army doctrine. We use this prior to exploring soldiership or adherent membership. This means that new Christians or members moving from other churches have a solid foundation in the faith, and an understanding of how our doctrines and practice relate. It is important to present the Salvationist stance on sacraments. Rather than dodge the questions, this provides a good opportunity to discuss Salvation Army distinctives.</p>
Cost:	Participants book: \$10
Contact:	www.5loaves2fishes.net Papakura Corps (by Captain Timothy Malton)

7. DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING (GENERAL)

By far, we have received the most recommendations on resources to help believers grow in their faith. To try to make this a little more manageable, we have split these into resources specific for new believers, and more general resources applicable to everyone.

Omega Discipleship

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	<p>An intentional discipleship training programme. The basic premise is that you can't teach discipleship in six weeks (or six years) - discipleship is about life-long transformation.</p> <p>This programme follows a repeating cycle, from seeking, through new Christians, growing disciples and making new disciples. You join at any relevant point then keep repeating the cycle. One cycle normally takes around two and a half years.</p>
Audience:	Adult, young adult (also applicable to youth) - wherever they are on the discipleship journey (new or mature).
Format:	Combination of small group and personal study
Topics:	Evangelism, discipleship, spiritual gifts, service
Description:	<p>This series of training manuals take a person on a journey in discipleship starting with a manual for 'seekers' showing the steps to Christ, then establishing new Christians in the foundations, helping them to grow into strong disciples and training them to become disciple-makers. Other materials supplement and build on this core training (e.g. 'Revival' and 'Worship' studies).</p> <p>The materials are based on the belief that discipleship is not linear, but cyclical. Each book is not an end in itself – it is taking people somewhere, helping 'seekers' to become believers, believers (of all ages) to become disciples, and disciples to become disciple-makers, thereby becoming a part of an ongoing multiplying life cycle.</p>

Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Each step of the discipleship journey is covered in depth. This can be used for personal or group study, as well as a guide for sermon preparation. ❑ We spend years studying and learning for our vocations. Omega Discipleship is about investing similar effort into our discipleship, and provides the resources to achieve this life-long.
Weaknesses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ If used for a group study it can take a while to get through the studies as it is comprehensive.
Tips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Use the broad concepts, as a discussion starter. ❑ The longer you run the whole cycle and take believers through the various stages, the more momentum it will generate as more disciples and disciple-makers are being produced. ❑ Use the questionnaire to determine where people should start in the cycle (mature believers may not be as 'mature' as you think, and 'new' believers may be further along – don't guess) ❑ Use the available certificates to celebrate progress.
Cost:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Each participant needs workbooks for each stage (2 for each of the four steps). A full set consists of eight books plus a leader's manual (\$130), or they can be purchased one at a time (\$14.50-\$17.60). ❑ Individual leader's manuals: \$17.50 ❑ DVDs are available for steps 1-3. Step 1: \$16 ; Step 2: \$32 (2 DVDs); Step 3 : \$80 (5 DVDs) ❑ Introductory kit - leader's manual, first book and DVD: \$40
Contact:	<p>http://www.omega-discipleship.com Masterton, Hutt City corps (by Lieutenant Stuart Tong)</p>

Experiencing God (Henry Blackaby)

Rating:	★★★★★
What is it?	A 12 week daily journey with God available for personal study, group study or as a training course.
Audience:	Adult, young adult
Format:	Can be done in a small group, as a training course or as personal study. A DVD series has been added, as have variations for youth, pre-teens and couples.
Topics:	Biblically Experiencing God – 7 principals
Description:	<p>A modern classic that has sold more than seven million copies worldwide, <i>Experiencing God</i> is an interactive Bible study that teaches a radically God-centred way of life. Initially written by Henry Blackaby and Claude King, the material was revised and expanded in 2007 by Richard Blackaby, Henry Blackaby's son.</p> <p>If you want your people to be impacted, this is a great study. It has even been used to transform prisons.</p> <p>Based on seven scriptural realities that teach us how to develop a true relationship with the Creator, the basic idea is that God is always at work around you. As you gain understanding about how God is working through you, you begin to clearly know and do His will and discover your life greatly and gracefully changed.</p>
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> All of it - it gives a good Biblical foundation <input type="checkbox"/> This teaching has helped our people grow. It is great discipleship training.
Weaknesses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> It was hard getting people to buy in because it does take time to do this study.
Tips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduce it though Sunday Service and Bible Studies. <input type="checkbox"/> Invite people, promote it and get buy in before starting as this is a serious journey that takes commitment.
Cost:	Approximate prices from Koorong - DVD: \$60; workbook: \$30; leaders guide: \$15; reading book: \$20 (plus \$10 shipping)
Contact:	www.henryblackaby.com Manukau corps (by Major Rafael Aspeitia)

Cleansing Stream

Rating:	★★★★★
What is it?	Originating from Pastor Jack Hayford, this course is designed to change old behaviours and thought patterns that so often keep us from our new life in Jesus. You will be part of a network of churches all running the course simultaneously.
Audience:	New and older Christians all benefit greatly. For many, this course will be life transforming.
Format:	There are five fortnightly teaching sessions, with a local weekend retreat after session four. In between each session there is additional 'homework' to be completed.
Topics:	Discipleship – changing thought patterns to become all God wants you to be. It is particularly useful for people who have experienced issues with depression, addiction, rejection, abuse, confidence, etc.
Description:	<p>A feature of the course is that local churches complete the course simultaneously. The teaching sessions each take around one hour and are completed in the local church, with all the churches joining together for the weekend retreat.</p> <p>Apart from the obvious connections formed, this also enables the retreat to utilise experienced intercessors and prayer ministers who pray individually for the attendees to assist them into the healing, deliverance and wholeness.</p> <p>The sessions cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Session 1: Walking in the Spirit <input type="checkbox"/> Session 2: Committing everything to Jesus <input type="checkbox"/> Session 3: Speaking words of life <input type="checkbox"/> Session 4: Entering the cleansing stream <input type="checkbox"/> Regional retreat: Walking to freedom (overcoming rejection, guilt, shame and condemnation) <input type="checkbox"/> Session 5: Pressing towards the goal (how to keep your freedom)

Strengths:	<p>The Benefits of doing the course include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Get a better understanding of who you are in Jesus <input type="checkbox"/> Experience the power to live in His abundant life <input type="checkbox"/> Understand the principle of ongoing personal freedom <input type="checkbox"/> You will feel empowered and encouraged to be all that you can be for the Lord <input type="checkbox"/> During the retreat you will gain freedom from generation issues and experience healing and wholeness.
Weaknesses:	<input type="checkbox"/> None
Tips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> There are churches all over New Zealand running the course. Check the Cleansing Stream website (http://www.cleansingstream.org.nz) and attend a course as a participant. Then sign up to become a partner church.
Cost:	<p>There are a number of options, though each person will need to pay a minimum of a workbook \$55 and the weekend retreat \$65. In addition, there are optional but highly recommended CDs and three reading books for \$90 (can be shared by couples).</p>
Contact:	<p>http://www.cleansingstream.org.nz Hutt City corps (by Major Malcolm Herring)</p>

Planned Giving Lifestyle

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	Programme to teach the biblical principles of financial giving as an integral part of discipleship. It includes an invitation to make financial pledges.
Audience:	Adult, young adult (resources for children are planned)
Format:	After an initial decision to proceed, the main part of the programme is teaching through sermons, small group studies, sharing of testimonies and one-on-one meetings. An invitation is offered to give and pledges are celebrated, before on-going monitoring and reporting.
Topics:	Discipleship, Spirituality and financial giving.
Description:	<p>The programme runs over four phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Analysis survey (3 days): the Planned Giving Director visits and meets with each leadership team member about their hopes and expectations. A summary is presented to the leadership team and a decision made about proceeding. ❑ Communication (8-10 weeks): the idea of this phase is to ensure people understand the programme, the biblical principles of financial giving, and have their questions answered (e.g. newsletter articles, promotions on Sundays, small group studies, one-on-one discussions, sermons, etc.). ❑ Pledge (3 weeks): this consists of three events – launch, pledge and celebration, typically one week apart. At the launch, people are challenged about pledging and given a week to prayerfully consider this. At the pledge, members make their financial commitments. The last week consists of celebrating the money pledged, and inviting people to tell their stories as to how God has blessed them through the process. ❑ Monitoring (3 years): the planned giving department assists the corps in tracking progress with quarterly reporting against pledges. <p>Numerous resources are provided throughout the process.</p>

Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ A spiritual programme with a financial outcome. It benefits the corps both in the spiritual growth of its members (discipleship) and enabling the long term mission planning for the corps (financial) ❑ The process is based on biblical principles ❑ Is corps owned and driven with department support. Follows a structured process with local creativity ❑ Excellent resources are supplied by the planned giving team
Weaknesses:	If the process is followed, weaknesses are minimal.
Tips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Put plenty of effort into the lead up. For a start, you will want strong ownership from your local leaders. Include them in the discussions to use the programme, and encourage them to take on roles ❑ Once you've decided to get started, provide plenty of information to corps members and encourage small group and one-to-one discussions ❑ Maximise personal stories
Cost:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Analysis Survey: hosting of Director (travel costs paid by department). Possible admin fee if you do not proceed ❑ Lifestyle launch: one off levy of \$10.00 per potential giving unit plus hosting of director. Any local costs (e.g. printing, stationery, providing food for launch event, etc.)
Contact:	The Territorial Planned Giving Director (04 384 5649) (by Major Wayne Jellyman)

The Purpose Driven Life (Rick Warren)

Rating:	★★★★★
What is it?	40 day journey to help you understand God's purpose for your life. Two newer series are also available - <i>40 Days of Love</i> and <i>40 Days of Community</i> .
Audience:	Adult, young adult
Format:	It is designed for church-wide use, with matching weekly sermon, small group study, supporting DVD material and daily personal readings. Some people choose to just read the book but this misses much of the benefit.
Topics:	Evangelism, discipleship, serving, justice, spiritual gifts.
Description:	It is a 40 day journey, split across six weeks. Each week covers a major topic: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What on earth am I here for? 2. Purpose #1: You were planned for God's pleasure 3. Purpose #2: You were formed for God's family 4. Purpose #3: You were created to become like Christ 5. Purpose #4: You were shaped for serving God 6. Purpose #5: You were made for a mission
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> People receive a good biblical foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Provides lots of resource material for preaching and teaching <input type="checkbox"/> A great way to give your small group ministries a boost. Ask people to commit to a group for just six weeks and see what happens
Weaknesses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rick is not an energetic speaker <input type="checkbox"/> There are a lot of bible translations used
Tips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Promote it in the corps <input type="checkbox"/> If you are using this to kick start your small groups, make sure you have a plan for when the six weeks finish (e.g. offering training to new leaders and having follow-up study resources available to carry on with).

Cost:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ 40 Days of Purpose book for personal study: \$25❑ Small group DVD: approx \$40❑ Small group participants book: approx \$20
Contact:	<p>www.purposedrivenlife.com Manukau corps (by Major Rafael Aspeitia)</p>

Saddleback Christian Life and Service Seminars (CLASS) 101-401

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	<p>An excellent series of courses providing practical training for believers, ranging from people new to the church (101) through to mature believers (401). As for University courses, you are encouraged to complete all four courses in order, but the topics are self-contained so could also be used as one-offs.</p> <p>Note: the Saddleback material has been adapted for use within The Salvation Army in New Zealand (contact Hutt City corps) and there are plans for the Programme Department to further update this early in 2011.</p>
Audience:	<p>Adult, young adult</p> <p>Class 101 is for new believers or transfers.</p> <p>Classes 201 to 401 are for growing and mature believers.</p>
Format:	<p>Each course includes four sessions. These can be either in a lecture/discussion format or used within a small group.</p> <p>Participants work through a workbook.</p>
Topics:	<p>Membership, personal devotions, giving, spiritual gifts, service, sharing your faith</p>
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ CLASS 101 - introduction to the church, our beliefs, strategy and structure. In our context, we would expect this class to be replaced by our new Soldiership Preparation class. ❑ CLASS 201 - helps you develop the habits you need to jump-start your spiritual growth: daily time with God (prayer and Bible study), giving and fellowship ❑ CLASS 301 – how God can use your Spiritual Gifts, your Heart, your Abilities, your Personality, and your Experiences (SHAPE) to minister to the needs of others ❑ CLASS 401 – discovering your life mission and how you can be a part of God’s plan to reach out to the world. This class will help you develop a personal perspective of the Gospel message, develop your personal story of how God has worked in your life and build confidence in sharing your story.

Strengths:	<p>Excellent material. Well thought out and very practical. For example, in CLASS 401, you get to develop and practice your personal story, understand the stages people typically progress through when coming to faith and how you approach people (and don't approach people) at each stage.</p> <p>The SHAPE model is excellent for understanding how God has wired you for service.</p>
Weaknesses:	<p>Some of the sessions are content intensive and the workbooks follow a fill in the blanks style. This style relies on a skilled facilitator to ensure plenty of discussion.</p>
Tips:	<p>Each session takes around three hours (depending on discussion). This works well on a Sunday afternoon, including an afternoon break.</p>
Cost:	<p>You are able to print copies of the course materials for each participant at no cost (other than printing).</p>
Contact:	<p>http://www.saddleback.com/aboutsaddleback/christianlifeandseminars/</p> <p>Hutt City, Waitakere and Hamilton corps (by Major Malcolm Herring)</p>

If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat (John Ortberg)

Rating :	★★★★☆
What is it?	Six week bible study about growing your faith
Audience:	Adult, young adult
Format:	DVD teaching with discussion and study components.
Topics:	Discipleship. Growing your faith by stepping out in faith, hearing from and trusting God
Description:	<p>Each week includes an introduction, teaching, discussion, bible study and personal homework. Topics covered are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What's water walking – stepping out in faith 2. The tragedy of the unopened gift – spiritual gifts & faith 3. Finding your calling and getting your feet wet – taking a first step of faith and hearing direction from God 4. Facing our challenges, conquering our fears – God is trustworthy & overcoming our fears 5. Good news for cave dwellers – God's presence in the darkest places 6. Learning to wait on our big God – learning how big God is
Strengths:	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent teaching – ‘visual based’ <input type="checkbox"/> Good leads for discussion & study each week
Weaknesses:	<input type="checkbox"/> Each session takes longer than the guide recommends
Tips:	<input type="checkbox"/> Allow about two hours per session
Cost:	<input type="checkbox"/> DVD: \$40 <input type="checkbox"/> Participants guide: \$15-\$20
Contact:	www.zondervan.com Foxton corps (by Lieutenant Stephen Campkin)

Leadership Jesus Way (Napier Corps)

Rating:	★★★★★
What is it?	Conference on leadership and discipleship
Audience:	Adults, youth
Format:	Conference but is also on CD & DVD.
Topics:	Discipleship
Description:	A weekend conference led by Major Ivan Bezzant
Strengths:	Clear simple biblical teaching on the Kingdom of God and what it means to live life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Describes what a dynamic disciple of Jesus should look like.
Weaknesses:	None
Tips for using:	Request a conference through the Programme Department and then follow up with Majors Ivan & Glenda Bezzant.
Cost:	Check with Major Ivan Bezzant
Contact:	Majors Ivan & Glenda Bezzant, THQ Programme Department (by Janet Green).

Leadership Jesus Way - Discipleship Training School

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	A two-year curriculum using CD messages and study notes that unpack the Leadership Jesus Way (LJW) conference.
Audience:	Adults, youth - new Christians
Format:	CD messages recorded by the Leadership Jesus Way presentation team.
Topics:	Kingdom of God, identity, destiny, authority, power of God, evangelism, power of god, prayer etc.
Description:	Once you sign up (any time), you are sent two CDs and study notes monthly to help unpack the sound of the LJW Conference and how we can apply this to our everyday life.
Strengths:	It is locally developed by people who are living and applying what they are teaching in a local Corps. Can be done at your own pace as there are not assignments to be completed. It is a great way of getting into God's word.
Weaknesses:	If you don't have someone to journey with and discuss what you are hearing, it may just be a nice sound you hear.
Tips for using:	This can be used for group study, one-on-one or for an individual on their own. Works best when people work together. Ask people to commit to 12 months then choose if they wish to enrol for the second year.
Cost:	\$120 for 12 months. You receive 2 CDs and study notes each month plus CD covers and folders to keep it all in.
Contact:	This can be purchased through Napier Corps Janet.Green@nzf.salvationarmy.org (by Janet Green)

Living Life God's Way / God's Training Ground (Dennis Peacocke)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	As disciples, sometimes we can feel defeated and that life has knocked us about. This study series provides seven daily commitments to focus on to stay close to God and overcome these challenges.
Audience:	New Christians – Adults, Youth.
Format:	A set of 8 CD's + manual by Dennis Peacocke
Topics:	Seven spiritual truths that disciples should be practising daily to live life as a victorious disciple of Jesus.
Description:	<p>Eight CDs plus manual that can be used for individual study or group study that teach on what it looks like to walk through life dealing with storms, testing times and life in general as a disciple who is being trained by the Holy Spirit to rule here on earth.</p> <p>A comprehensive, proven plan that gives you steps to follow everyday that will energise and motivate you to 'stay awake' to the possibilities that God brings your way, while avoiding the potential pitfalls. It will put you on the path to personal transformation.</p> <p>A series of seven talks by Major Ivan Bezzant covering each spiritual truth is also available.</p>
Strengths:	Great discussion points for one-on-one discipleship and group study.
Weaknesses:	If you do not have a coach in your life that will hold you accountable to what you are hearing you could miss the training that the Holy Spirit would want to give you.
Tips for using:	<p>When discipling someone this tool can be handed out one CD at a time. Then when you meet one-on-one, you can discuss what you have heard and how you will apply that spiritual truth to your life.</p> <p>A series of seven talks by Major Ivan Bezzant covering these seven spiritual truths is also available.</p>

Cost:	\$80
Contact:	http://www.gostrategic.org/index.cfm?pageID=49 Available from Strategic Christian Services, Lower Hutt. Talks by Major Ivan Bezzant available from Napier corps or directly from Majors Ivan & Glenda Bezzant at the THQ Programme Department (by Janet Green)

Passions and Giftings (Napier Corps)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	A two hour module that leads people through a process to identify their God given dream, their passions and their motivational gifts
Audience:	Adults, youth
Format:	Two hour module suitable for small group, one-on-one or large group.
Topics:	Passions & motivational gifts
Description:	This is a two hour module that leads people through a process to identify their God given dream, what they are passionate about and helps them identify their motivational gifts.
Strengths:	Simple process relying on the leading of the Holy Spirit.
Weaknesses:	None
Tips for using:	Best used in a small group or one-on-one with someone who can help unpack their thoughts. Can be done in a large group as well.
Cost:	None
Contact:	Janet Green, Napier Corps; Robert Adams, BCM Majors Ivan & Glenda Bezzant THQ Programme Department (by Janet Green)

The Steps to Freedom in Christ (Neil Anderson)

Rating:	★★★★★
What is it?	A book (with notes) to help Christians experience victory over sin and doubt.
Audience:	New Christians – Adults, Youth.
Format:	Seven steps with prayers & notes. A DVD is also now available
Topics:	Deals with past non-Christian teaching, pride, rebellion, sexual sin, generational curses and deception.
Description:	<p>This is a series of steps that help Christians deal with baggage that we carry due to life's experiences prior to finding Christ. Without addressing this baggage, they will deceive us and hinder us from seeing ourselves as Christ see us and stop us from walking in the freedom & victory that Christ died to give us.</p> <p>A great tool for one-on-one discipleship that can also be done on a group basis.</p>
Strengths:	You don't need to think about what to do or say. These steps are written with prayers and check lists already prepared so all you need to do is walk through it trusting in the leading of the Holy Spirit.
Weaknesses:	It has been written by a counsellor so there are some things that you may not use.
Tips for using:	Ideal for discipling a new Christian on a one-on-one basis
Cost:	Book - \$10, DVD - \$30.
Contact:	<p>Purchase from Christian bookshops (from Freedom in Christ Ministries - written by Neil Anderson)</p> <p>Janet Green at Napier Corps</p> <p>Majors Ivan & Glenda Bezzant THQ Programme Department (by Janet Green)</p>

8. CHILDREN

How much time do your leaders spend working out what they are going to teach each week? Are they following an intentional plan, or just ‘how the spirit leads them’? Here’s a fantastic resource for use in your Kids Church (or mid week equivalent).

252 Basics

Rating :	★★★★☆
What is it?	A highly strategic curriculum for use in Children’s Ministries (e.g. Kids Church, Friday Night children’s programme).
Audience:	Children aged 5-12 (primary and intermediate school) (There is also First Look for pre-schoolers and XP3 Students for high school students available in the series.)
Format:	Three-year repeating.
Topics:	Children’s ministry
Description:	<p>Based on Luke 2:52 (hence the name) – ‘And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man’, the curriculum focuses on three basic principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I need to make the wise choice (Jesus grew in wisdom) <input type="checkbox"/> I can trust God no matter what (favour with God) <input type="checkbox"/> I need to treat others the way I want to be treated (favour with man). <p>To achieve this, it follows a three-year cycle, looking at a virtue per month such as service, compassion and wisdom (36 in total).</p> <p>Each virtue is presented with a tag line to make it memorable (e.g. Wisdom – knowing what to do and doing it; Compassion – seeing a need in others and doing something about it). These are unpacked each week with a different Bible story and message. For example, Wisdom started with the story of Solomon and how when offered anything, he chose wisdom. It continued with the notion that wisdom is so important, the Queen of Sheba went looking for it; wise people have wise friends (based on a proverb) and wisdom is not just knowing what you should do, but it is also doing (another proverb).</p>

<p>Strengths:</p>	<p>It's relevant, applicable and memorable!</p> <p>You buy a licence then have unlimited access to all resources (i.e. you download, print & photocopy whatever you like).</p> <p>It includes weekly take home sheets for the kids to keep the message alive throughout the week (included in the price - most other curricula charge as much as \$5 per term per child for this!)</p> <p>The format is flexible – it can be used in a large group / small group format (i.e. where the lesson is taught once to all kids, then you split for discussion) or in a more traditional format where you remain in the one group for the entire lesson.</p> <p>It's American, but not American. You rarely need to 'kiwify' it.</p> <p>Each month includes reference to the Salvation message.</p>
<p>Weaknesses:</p>	<p>Let's be honest, some of the virtues are better than others, but even the worst ones are still useful.</p> <p>There's not much focus on craft activities, so if this is more your style, you will need to do a little extra preparation.</p>
<p>Tips:</p>	<p>The curriculum covers one virtue each calendar month and is designed to be used all 52 weeks in a year (12 virtues per year). If your Kids programme stops for holidays, you need four 10 week programmes instead. Choose only two virtues each term, then fill your last two days with special events (e.g. Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.), service projects or an included skill day (e.g. teaching how to read the Bible or how to pray).</p> <p>If you use two virtues a term, choose virtues to support what you're doing (for example, use the Service virtue as the four-week lead in to self-denial; start the December Christmas virtue early to finish in time for your end of year party).</p>
<p>Cost:</p>	<p>Approx \$700 per year (depending on number of children).</p> <p>Note: we are entitled to a 40% discount on the advertised pricing. Contact your Divisional Children's Ministry Officer for more information.</p>
<p>Contact:</p>	<p>www.252basics.com</p> <p>Johnsonville or Porirua corps (by Alastair Kendrew)</p>

9. YOUTH

Recommended resources for youth will be added in the future. In the mean time, if you are looking for youth specific resources, you are encouraged to look in the 'stuff' section of The Salvation Army's youth website (www.firezone.co.nz) which contains a range of articles and reviews of resources.

10. SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our third TSMP goal is to take significant steps to eradicate poverty and injustice. What's this social justice stuff all about and what can we actually do? Here's a fantastic book to get you started?

Just Imagine (Roberts and Strickland)

Rating:	★★★★★
What is it?	A book that unpacks social justice – what is it, why we should be concerned about it and what we can do about it.
Audience:	Adults, young adults
Format:	Book (it does include discussion questions and activities)
Topics:	Social justice
Description:	<p>If you want to gain an understanding of social justice, this is the book for you.</p> <p>I have to be honest and say that I find some social justice advocates extreme. Their teaching leaves me cold and I tend to write them off as unrealistic (or out of touch). Not this book. It doesn't try to make you feel guilty or blame you for all the world's problems. Instead, it provides a balanced view of real issues, some of the causes that I may not have considered and practical ideas for helping.</p> <p>Starting with an understanding of justice, the book presents the biblical bias towards justice, the Salvation Army's bias towards justice, and what we each can do to help.</p>
Strengths:	❑ Instead of trying to condemn you into action, it simply presents a better way and encourages you to participate
Weaknesses:	None (just convincing people to read it!)
Tips:	Read it
Cost:	\$10
Contact:	<p>Salvationist Resources (aka Trade)</p> <p>Major Campbell Roberts (he helped write it!) (by Alastair Kendrew)</p>

11. CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Whereas once the church was central to western society, it's pretty obvious that this is changing. As young adults have children, the prospect of them seeking a Christian church is diminishing. Instead, these people form their view of faith largely through the lens of post modern culture. So what do we understand about this culture, and how do we engage with the people who adhere to it (whether they are conscious of it or not)?

Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire

By Brian J. Walsh and Sylvia C. Keesmaat

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	A book which looks at Paul's letter to the Colossian church in light of today's western empire.
Audience:	Adult, young adult
Format:	Book
Topics:	Discipleship, cultural critique/engagement, biblical studies
Description:	What would Colossians look like if Paul wrote it to today's Western church? Walsh and Keesmaat critique popular Western culture through a rereading of this Biblical text. It's challenging, controversial, and disturbing. References Leonard Cohen, Rage Against the Machine, Coca-Cola and more, discussed in relation to the context of the early church amidst the Roman Empire.
Strengths:	Easy to read, very adventurous and inspiring. Excellent Biblical exegesis, and actually applies it by not leaving Paul's letter in the remote past.
Weaknesses:	A little bit long. It's so loaded in terms of ideas that it will take a while to get through. But good things take time!
Tips:	Read it with a Bible study group, to discuss the material and to hold each other accountable to acting on it.
Cost:	\$26 from bookdepository.co.uk
Contact:	http://www.ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code=2738 (by Jacob Sawyer)

Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?: Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church (James K.A. Smith)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	A book which discusses the philosophy of three of the most influential postmodern thinkers from a Christian perspective
Audience:	Adult, young adult
Format:	Small, accessible book
Topics:	Discipleship, post-modernism, philosophy
Description:	<p>The philosophies of French thinkers Derrida, Lyotard and Foucault form the basis for postmodern thought and are seemingly at odds with the Christian faith. However, the author claims that their ideas have been misinterpreted and actually have a deep affinity with central Christian claims.</p> <p>For those tired of demonising postmodern thought but who don't understand how the Gospel fits with this movement, this book is a relatively light but insightful introduction.</p> <p>Each chapter opens with an illustration from a recent movie and concludes with a case study considering recent developments in the church that have attempted to respond to the postmodern condition, such as the 'emerging church'. These cases provide a concrete picture of how postmodern ideas can influence the way Christians think and worship.</p>
Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Succinct, engaging, effective references to popular movies ❑ Winner of a Christianity Today 2007 Book Award ❑ Very helpful for university students, particularly those studying the humanities.
Weaknesses:	Might be more difficult for those new to the concepts
Tips:	Read it with a pencil to write in the margins
Cost:	\$22 from bookdepository.co.uk
Contact:	http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/book/9780801029189/Whos-Afraid-of-Postmodernism (by Jacob Sawyer)

12. OTHERS

We'll be adding sections for things like leadership development in due course. For now, how welcoming is your corps? Perhaps you should consider this.

Welcomer's Training Course (Evangelism Ministries)

Rating:	★★★★☆
What is it?	A training course to help a church think through what it means to be a truly welcoming community. It helps people think about what it is like to be a newcomer, from the eyes of the newcomer!
Audience:	Essential for a Welcome Team, but useful for all members of a congregation
Format:	Four sessions using DVD clips, discussion groups and practical activities
Topics:	The four sessions are entitled Preparing to welcome; When a newcomer walks through our door; When the meeting is over; Our church
Description:	<p>Wouldn't it be good if everyone who came into your church felt like this is a really good place to be? Being truly welcoming starts well before the person gets inside the door.</p> <p>The DVD and manuals will help your church establish a welcoming ministry to transform your church culture and become a place where people will want to stay and ultimately learn about Jesus. The course provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Strategies for developing welcoming hearts ❑ Training for church members based on God's Word ❑ Practical tips before, during and after the Sunday meeting ❑ Checklist of to ensure your church is welcoming - inside & out ❑ Example materials - including Welcome cards and follow-up letters <p>A very practical course, the DVD will guide you through step by step.</p>

Strengths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Produced in Australia in 2007 so material (e.g. DVDs) is current ❑ Allows for individual churches to apply it to their own setting.
Weaknesses:	None
Tips:	Can be used in a small group, for training a Welcome Team, or with the whole congregation as a basis for Sunday teaching.
Cost:	Kit containing a Team Leader's Manual, Training DVD and 5x Team Member's Manuals: \$135.
Contact:	http://www.evangelismministries.org.au and http://vimeo.com/2467590 Timaru corps (by Majors Darrell and Lorraine LePine)