

ED YOUNG

LIFE'S TOO SHORT



LIFE'S
TOO SHORT

**DOING WHAT IT TAKES TO
MAKE OUR LIVES COUNT**

STUDY GUIDE

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Small Groups are a vital part of how we do ministry at Fellowship Church, just as they are in many churches around the world. There are a number of different theories on how small groups should work and they are all great in different ways. The book you are holding is written with our model in mind. So take a minute to read the following explanation, then feel free to adapt as necessary.

Each of our small groups practices a three part agenda in every meeting. That agenda includes a social time, a discussion time, and a prayer time. Each of these elements share equal importance, but not necessarily equal time. To help you get the most out of this book we have included an explanation of each of the parts.

The first element of every small group meeting should be a time of socializing. This phase of the meeting should be about 30% of your time together. Welcome everyone as they arrive at the host home, and make visitors feel welcome by introducing yourself and the other members of your small group. Enjoy some snacks, or if your group prefers, a meal together.

Then move on with second part of the meeting, the lesson. The lesson itself may take as much as 50% of your group's meeting time, but remember, it is not the most important element. You may want to start this phase of your meeting with a short "icebreaker" to get everyone talking. The questions in the "Start it Up" section of each chapter are what we refer to as "level the playing field" questions that everyone should be able to participate in, regardless of their level of spiritual maturity or Bible knowledge. As your group moves through the "Talk it Up" section in each chapter, remember that it is more important to finish on time than to finish each and every question. It is okay to skip some questions to be sure you allow enough time to take care of the third phase of the small group time: "Lift it Up."

The "Lift it Up" section is a vital part of every small group meeting and should be about 20% of the meeting. During this time you will be able to share with the group what God is doing in your life as well as asking the group to support you in specific prayers. To help focus this time, there are one or two questions at the end of each study that will prompt prayers based on the material you have just talked about. There is also a space for you to write down your prayer request(s) so you don't forget them and so you can communicate them clearly when it is your turn. Below that is a place to write down the prayer requests of the people in your group so you can remember and pray for each request throughout the week.

As an additional tool to assist you in your journey of spiritual development, there is a "Step it Up" section at the end of each session. This section consists of five devotional thoughts that reinforce the lesson you've just completed and are designed to help you develop a regular quiet time with God. To get the absolute most from this study, I challenge you to take five or ten minutes a day to read and apply these devotionals to your life. If your group meets twice a month or bi-weekly, choose five of the intervening days to incorporate these thoughts into your devotional life.

In select studies, we have incorporated special notes for youth groups using this material. You will notice a special icon (Y) used several times in each session. This indicates that there is a comment or question especially for youth included in the leader's guide for that part of the study. When you see that icon, simply turn to the leader's guide for that session in the back of the book and find the corresponding (Y) and letter (for instance, (Y-a)). These notes are designed to help each discussion time connect with the unique needs and issues of youth.

LIFE'S TOO SHORT

If you were given the opportunity to know exactly when you were going to die, would you want to know? And if you knew, would it change the way you live? Or would you go through life exactly the same—doing the same things, the same way for the same reasons? It's an interesting thought.



Mortality, though, isn't something we really like to consider. No one wants to acknowledge the fact that we are here for a limited amount of time. But the truth of the matter is that we only have a certain number of days to do something significant, legitimate or meaningful.

Yet so often, our time gets cluttered with worries, habits and distractions that keep us from experiencing everything God has in store for us. No matter how much time you have on earth, the great news is that God has a specific plan for your life. He has something in mind for you to do... to be... to accomplish.

Through this study, you'll discover how to shed the harmful thoughts and things that hinder you and steal away your valuable time. And you'll see how to get the most out of every moment.

God's best,

Ed Young



...NOT TO FISH

START IT UP

As many of you know, I love to fish. One of my favorite things about fishing is tying flies. When I am getting ready to tie a fly, I try to think about what the fish in that area want. I think about their feeding habits, their tendencies and anything else that might help me lure them.

A while back, a friend of mine invited me to his fishing lodge on Andros Island. Andros Island is one of the most remote areas in the Western Hemisphere. It has some fantastic fishing. So, before I went fishing I tied flies that matched what the fish were eating.

Today, I want you to do a little fishing with me. This fishing trip is going to have some powerful stuff in it. The fly is tied. I've got my gear and all my flies...let's go fishing.

1. Describe your first experience going fishing. What stands out the most about that experience and part did you enjoy the most.

TALK IT UP

Let's go fishing. That's what Jesus told a bunch of first century fishermen.

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:18-19

This is a very unique text because Jesus was selecting his inner circle, his management team. Jesus could have chosen anyone. He could have chosen a bunch of farmers. He could have chosen a bunch of soldiers. He could have chosen a bunch of physicians or accountants. He could have chosen anyone, but seven out of the twelve he chose were fishermen.

2. If you were in Jesus' shoes today and needed to assemble 12 disciples, what types of people would you choose?

During this study, I am going to discuss with you some "fisheristics": characteristics that we all need if we are going to get in on the most powerful purpose in life—being a fisher of men. If you are not a follower of Christ, this study should show you how important you are. If you are a Christ-follower and you are already fishing, my hat goes off to you. And if you are a Christ-follower but not fishing, I don't want to bash you. I want you to realize how much God wants you to fish. So let's jump into the first fisheristic.

FISHERMEN HAVE REEL PURPOSE

Let's talk about the first fisheristic. We need to have reel purpose. The reason God does not zap us to heaven the moment we step over the line is because he

wants us to bring as many people as possible into heaven. God has placed us in specific local bodies of water and he wants us to fish. We've got to get the purpose down because it will lead to the second fisheristic.

FISHERMEN HAVE REEL PASSION

When I take someone fishing who has never been fishing before and they feel the tug of the fish on the line, they get passionate. They are like, "Man, I've got to reel this fish in! This is cool! I like this!" They are passionate.

Jesus is passionate about fishing. He's passionate about those of us who know him personally, connecting with other people to communicate the life-changing message of the Gospel. He wants us to share in his passion.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...
Matthew 28:19

What part of "go" don't we get? Go and do what? "Make disciples of all nations." Notice the bookends of Christ's ministry. Jesus knew he only had about 36 months in the public domain, so what did he do? He picked fishermen. Why? Because life is too short not to fish. Then, three years after he invited disciples to go fishing, right before his ascension, he said "Go into all the world. Preach my Gospel. Baptize people."

So, Jesus started his earthly ministry talking about fishing and ended his earthly ministry on the same subject. Once we understand the powerful purpose, then we will have this "reel" passion.

Here's a major mistake that many Christ-followers make. Most of us see the Gospel as "God and me" instead of seeing the Gospel as "God and the world." We think, "It's all about me—what makes me look good, what fills my boat, what helps me, what feeds me. It's all about my growth and my maturity and me, me, me, my, my, my. God and me."

The problem is biblical Christianity is about God and the world. Scripture reads, "For God so loved the ... world," and, "Go into all the ... world." If we are not white hot with passion about reaching those outside of ourselves, then we are missing Christianity.

3. Why do you think so many Christ-followers don't share Jesus' passion for being a fisher of men?

Christianity is unique because Jesus tells me when I get outside of myself and think about others, that's when my needs are met. But when I get selfish and whiny and worry about me and mine, I have missed the good news. I've got to understand my purpose so I will share the passion of Jesus for those around me.

FISHERMEN HAVE *REEL* OPTIMISM

Something you will notice about fishermen is that they are optimistic. They're always saying, "We'll get 'em tomorrow." or, "That next spot, that next cove or that next flat—that's where we'll catch 'em." They take an optimistic approach and go where the fish are.

If we are going to truly go out into the world and reach people, we have to meet them where they are. When we go fishing, we think like the fish. So, when we fish for people we have to know how people away from the Lord are going to feel, what they are going to say, and how they are going to react to the Gospel.

A lot of people, though, when they go fishing, don't want to really get dirty or wet or slimy. They think, "Man, I don't want any part of that. It would be much easier for me to be kicking back at my house right now."

I believe Christians who are real fishers of men are not worried about getting a little slimy and even trying some different things. I'm talking about trying different flies, different lures, whatever it takes to catch the fish. And if one attempt doesn't work, they try something else. Christians should keep it up with an eternal optimism because you never know when the next cast could change someone's eternity.

That's why comfort doesn't cut it in God's economy. We can't just sit around and focus on our own comfort. We have to optimistically brave the elements to fish. We've got to try new stuff, we've got to be creative, and we've got to be innovative. Sometimes we will catch fish, sometimes we won't. But you know what? We don't worry about catching fish. All we are supposed to do is fish and leave the catching up to Jesus.

FISHERMEN HAVE *REEL* PERSISTENCE

Fishermen are persistent. They keep on fishing and because of that have story after story. If we will be persistent, we can tell about people who were cast to, reeled in and caught by the grace and power of God. So if you don't have any recent fish stories, you might be spending too much time in the marina.

Great fishermen keep on casting. You are not going to catch every soul. At Fellowship Church, we have many people that show up. They might connect a little bit, but they never take it. That's between them and God. Just because I lost some fish doesn't mean that I stop fishing. And just because someone doesn't accept doesn't mean we stop fishing.

Speaking of fish stories—there is this saltwater fish that is called a permit. They are brilliant fish which makes them hard to catch. Many people fish for twenty years and never even hook a permit.

I'm kind of obsessed with catching a permit. Well, two years ago my son and I were fishing in the Bahamas with our guide Prescott. While we were out, about a 25-pound permit ate my fly. I was freaking out.

I fought the fish for around an hour trying to reel him in. When the fish got close enough for our guide to grab him, something awful happened. The line popped and the permit swam away. I get teary just thinking about it.

4. If you have been fishing for very long, you have stories of ones that go away. Share some of your stories of people you have fished for that did not accept Christ?

That was one of the worst days of my fishing life, but I didn't stop fishing. Once a year, my son and I go somewhere fishing in saltwater and I'm always thinking about the permit. Do you have fish stories? If you understand your purpose and understand the passion, then you are going to have persistence. You're going to be optimistic and come back with fish stories.

FISHERMEN HAVE A REEL PARTNERSHIP

Jesus never told us to be catchers of men. He says, "Just fish." You fish. You cast. You throw the Gospel out there. He will do the catching.

The apostle Paul described casting the gospel as planting a seed. When the Corinthian church was focused on who was making the seed grow (catching the fish), Paul wrote this.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.
1 Corinthians 3:6

5. How does this verse take the pressure off you when you go fishing?

One thing I have learned over the years fishing with my guide Prescott is that I always do better when I do exactly what he says. The same is true with life. If we do what the ultimate guide, our heavenly Father, says then our life is always going to go better.

But we have that tendency to try to do our own thing, to make our own cast. So often, I think the Lord shows us people to talk to or people to help. He puts them on our heart and sometimes we respond to it, and other times, sadly, we miss it because we are thinking about other things. We may be trying to do this deal, or make this amount of money, or chase this fun fix as opposed to really being sensitive and listening to what the Lord says.

We are partners with the Lord. The Lord is our guide. We've got to listen to him. We can partner with him once we step over the line of faith and receive Christ.

PARTNER WITH THE LOCAL CHURCH

We can also partner with the local church. The local church is the hope of the world. Jesus instituted and anointed one organization—the local church. We should be a part of a church and as we partner with the church, here is what we can do. We can go out and use our sphere of influence in our local body of water that God has given us. And, by God's grace and mercy, we can become fishers of men bringing people into the church.

A healthy church is a healthy body of water. A healthy church does not have just a bunch of big fat marlin swimming around in it. That is not a healthy church. A healthy church has three types of people, three types of fish in it. It's got some people, fish, who are going to hell. The second group of people are baby fish. They have been born again into the family of God and they are little babies. Then you have got the third group, a bunch of big fat marlin. If the big fat marlins are doing their job, then they are going out and inviting their hell bound friends to come to church. In turn, the hell bound friends are becoming Christ-followers and they are growing into what—healthy marlin.

One of the reasons Fellowship Church is so exciting is because we have adopted God's purpose—not mine, not yours, not the staff's - God's purpose. We go fishing and we are very passionate about it. We don't allow mission drift around here.

6. How have you partnered with your church to go fishing?

Everything we do is about fishing. Everything we do has a hook in it. Whether it's a song, a video, an activity, children's church, youth ministry, small groups or missions; they all have a hook. Because of that, we are partnering with the

STEP IT UP

Take a step further over the next few days and spend some time reflecting on the following devotional thoughts that reinforce the previous session. Use these as reminders to take what you've learned and apply it to your everyday life.

DAY 1

Read James 4:13-14

If you know anything about fishing, you know that good fishermen will leave out early in the morning. It is still dark. It is calm and quiet outside. There might even be a fog on the water. If one wants to be successful in the fishing adventure, it pays to have the whole day available. Sincere fishermen don't sleep-in. They don't waste time hitting the snooze button. They don't wait until the sun is setting. Good fisherman make the most of all the time that is available in the day. Because they never know when they will get a strike and when it is time to try a different fishing hole.

Just like that morning fog on the water, time is evaporating on our opportunities to share the good news with others. James challenges us to make the most with what we have. Life is too short not to fish. Think about the time you were 'hooked' for Jesus. It was most likely because someone didn't waste time and went fishing. They casted and you took the bait. When I say 'bait,' I'm not talking about tricking someone into belief. I'm talking about communicating a message that they need to hear; something that will relate to them where they are, when they are there. Because when you do that, they'll be enticed enough to investigate further. And when they see the truth and power of who Jesus is, then he will hook them with his truth and power and life-changing message.

Spend this week reflecting on James' challenge. Pray for God's guidance for your life. Ask him to reveal his plans to you, that you may know his will.

Notes:

Prayer Requests:

DAY 2

Ephesians 6:19; Colossians 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:1

“Pray also for me....”

“And pray for us, too....”

“Finally, brothers, pray for us....”

These passages share something in common: the request for prayer. Most of us are asking others to pray for us, just as those are seeking our prayer for their lives. However, it is a different prayer request than many of us might be used to. These are risky prayers; bold requests. The authors of these passages are seeking opportunities. They desperately want God to open doors for them. Many of us are seeking open doors. We're looking for open doors in our careers, our business dealings, our personal relationships, our marriages and our finances. We're seeking opportunities for wealth, opportunities to close one more deal, opportunities to be healthier and opportunities for knowledge in our lives. How many of us are seeking those open doors to share the great wealth that is found in knowing Jesus Christ? When do we seek for the opportunity to bring life to those around us?

We are interacting with so many lives on a daily basis; it is shocking that we may go weeks, months and years without sharing how Christ has influenced our lives. In the above passages, the disciples were seeking prayer for themselves to share the gospel with others. They obviously had the right purpose identified and were focused on fulfilling that purpose.

Although we didn't walk side-by-side with Christ while he was here on earth, we share that purpose with the authors of Scripture: bring the good news to the world. Let's take our focus and put it on fulfilling God's will today—ask him to open doors for you to share the message of Jesus with someone. And once that door is open, that we “will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.”

Have you had the door opened to a conversation with someone regarding God? Reflect on that situation and how God provided you the opportunity. If you haven't had that chance, continue to pray that the door would open.

Notes:

Prayer Requests:

DAY 3

Matthew 9:35-38

Good fishermen know how to spot circumstances for a potential great catch. Whether fishing in a lake, stream, river or ocean, there are usually areas for good fishing. Sometimes that circumstance is an uprooted tree that has fallen into the lake. Or a good circumstance might be that shady spot on the stream. A fisherman might spot that calm bend in the river, where the water is pooling, just right. Or maybe the tide has come in and that makes for good fishing. Each of these situations presents an opportunity to make a great catch. All the fisherman has to do is be on the lookout for these superior circumstances.

Most of our opportunities to share the good news are likely going to be with those people we know and love or those we spend the most time with each and every day. A colleague or boss at work. A classmate or teacher. A business partner or customer. Perhaps even a child or spouse. Most of us aren't in the occupation of standing on the street corner, preaching. In fact, that is not what Christ is asking us to do. It is not the strangers who we should be seeking—the harvest is right under our nose, resting in those that are around us on a daily basis. And for the most part it is also not very likely that someone will just approach you and ask to be led to Christ. We need to be aware of the opportunities that God is presenting us with to share the gospel with others.

Jesus speaks about God needing more “workers into his harvest field.” If a farmer were going to hire workers for his field, he would seek many different skills, in order to produce a great harvest. Someone needs to plow the field, turning over the dirt and breaking up the rocks in the soil. Another needs to plant the seeds and someone else needs to tend to that seed—caring for it while it takes root. Finally, another harvests the crop at the proper time. Sometimes we will be the rock-breakers. Other times we will act as the planter of the seed. Even other times we will reap the crop.

Ask God today how you can be a worker in his harvest field.

Notes:

Prayer Requests:

DAY 4

Isaiah 6:1-8

A good fisherman has a wide array of methods for catching fish. One method might be to use an artificial lure. There are many lures available to fishermen today. One type of lure might be something that mimics the behavior of something a fish would eat, like a fly or bug used in fly fishing. Another lure will be shiny in the water or make a sound that attracts the fish to it. There are even lures that have a particular smell that attracts fish. However, with all the technology and manufacturing of the artificial lures, there is nothing that beats live bait. Whether it is a worm, or a minnow, or squid, it seems that anyone can be a great fisherman with the right live bait. As fishers of men we have something similar to live bait in our tackle box. It is called "life-bait."

Isaiah shares a moment in his life when he witnessed the full glory of God, firsthand. Isaiah witnessed God, seated on his throne with angels surrounding him, singing praise. Fear gripped Isaiah, because he knew he was a man of sin and he could not stand in God's presence in such a state. In confessing his sin, Isaiah was instantly forgiven. And when God asked "who will be the messenger" Isaiah didn't hesitate to speak up and proclaim that he was ready.

Isaiah had experienced God's forgiveness and he was ready to share it with others. He had some serious "life-bait" in his tackle box to take to the people of Israel. God is putting that same life-bait in our tackle box. As a Christ-follower, we have an intimate relationship with God. We talk to him in prayer, we read of him in Scripture, we worship him through song. Many of us (if not all of us, let's be honest) have had those dark times in our lives and God was the light at the end of the tunnel. He got us through a financial crisis, a job loss or a marriage breakup. Maybe you have experienced humility in Christ. Or perhaps you are a poster-child for grace and forgiveness. Whatever your experience, you need to share these experiences with others—you need to use your life-bait.

Pray for God to reveal how you can use the experiences in your life to share his love with others. Reflect on how others have influenced you by sharing their 'life-bait.'

Notes:

Prayer Requests:

DAY 5

Matthew 10:16-20

A fisherman's dream is making that trophy catch. Many fisherman believe that getting the trophy catch means being in the right place at the right time. Others might believe it has to do with having the best equipment. Imagine, as a fisherman, you have anything and everything available to you to catch the big one—the trophy fish. The line is right, the rod and reel are right, the bait, the location—everything is aligned for you to make that perfect catch. However, there is a simple truth about fishing. Even if you have the best equipment, the best lures, the best bait, all in the best boat, on perfect waters, at the perfect fishing hole... You...still...have...to...CAST. You have to put the line in the water.

Even if we don't know a lot about God's Word, we need to cast. Many of us get very fearful about talking to someone about Jesus Christ. What if they ask me to back it up with Scripture? What if I can't relate to that person? I haven't exactly been perfect around them, how can they take my word about Christ? None of our thoughts matter when we have the Creator of the universe on our side. In this passage in Matthew, Jesus is commanding the disciples about their purpose and what they can expect for following him. And when the time comes to speak—Jesus tells them that God will be their thoughts, that God will provide the words. Thankfully, we don't have to tell the perfect story or back it up with the perfect Scripture. God will do the talking for us. All we have to do is cast.

Do you trust God with your thoughts and voice? As you are "casting," continually ask for God's thoughts and words to penetrate your own.

Notes:

Prayer Requests:



LEADER'S NOTES

- 2. Describe your first experience going fishing. What stands out the most about that experience and what part did you enjoy the most?**

Tip: If someone is an avid fisherman, see if he or she can articulate what hooked them on fishing.

- 3. If you were in Jesus' shoes today and needed to assemble 12 disciples, what types of people would you choose?**

Would they want an inner circle of like-minded people or is diversity a priority? What qualities are important to them? Help your group to push past just sharing who they would want and get them to also dig into why they would want them.

- 4. Why do you think so many Christ-followers don't share Jesus' passion for being a fisher of men?**

The most common answers will probably revolve around feeling awkward, not being confident in their biblical knowledge, or simply lacking the time to reach out. What we have to remember, though, is that God made each of us capable of fishing for men, and that we must make it a priority in our lives.

- 5. If you have been fishing for very long, you have stories of ones that got away. Share some of your stories of people you have fished for that did not accept Christ?**

Help your group to see beyond the disappointment of

losing fish. They followed God's command, they planted seeds, but beyond that, the results were up to God. No matter how many get away, some don't, and that makes it worth the time and effort.

6. How does this verse take the pressure off you when you go fishing?

When we realize that we simply cast the line and that God does the catching, our anxieties can go out the door because we are not responsible for the end result. We just have to do our part by being eager fishermen, and leave the rest up to God.

7. How have you partnered with your church to go fishing?

First, we must invite the people we rub shoulders with to attend services or events. Second, we should serve as volunteers so that when guests come, their experience is as comfortable and exhilarating as possible. And third, we should be diligent with our tithes so that the church can continue to reach out.

CREATIVE NOTES

ICEBREAKERS

Name Your Passion

What do you get passionate about? Share with the group.

BRIDGE — God wants us to be passionate about sharing Christ with others.

Guess That Lure

Divide into two groups. Put out five lures with specific names and have groups write down their guess for the names of the lures. Then, compare answers to see what group got the most right.

BRIDGE — God has called us to be a fisher of men.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Map Quest

Pass out maps of the area and have each person place stickers on every place they usually go in a week (soccer game, work, school, Starbucks, cleaners, restaurant, around the neighborhood, etc). Brainstorm ways to connect with the people you come in contact with to build relationships.

BRIDGE — We have the opportunity to influence a large area when we work together.

Casting Challenge

Get fishing rods and have a casting challenge to try to hit specific targets. Another idea is to use a child's fishing pole or fishing game to have a contest between members.

BRIDGE — God has given us a challenge to fish for men.

Prize Lure

Provide supplies such as pipe cleaners, feathers, ribbon, etc. for members to make a fishing lure. Have a prize for the winner.

BRIDGE — We should spend time in prayer over people God would have us try to lure to him.

VISUAL REINFORCEMENTS

Fishing Equipment

Rod, reel, net or fishing items in a tackle box.

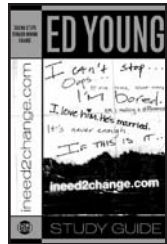
BRIDGE — God has called us to be fishers of men.

TAKE HOME OBJECT

Goldfish

Give each a pack of goldfish crackers with Matthew 28:19-20 attached.

CHECK OUT THESE OTHER STUDIES BY ED YOUNG AVAILABLE ON CREATIVEPASTORS.COM:



INEED2CHANGE.COM

Taking Steps Toward Making Change

Let's face it. We all have things about ourselves we want to change, whether they are big or small. And in this series, Ed Young teaches us that change—real change—comes only from God. And when we learn to partner and cooperate with him, we tap into the power that can radically change everything about our lives, forever.



COMFORTABLE

Expanding Our Comfort Zone

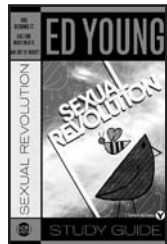
In this study, Ed Young teaches us the importance of stepping out of our comfort zone. And we see that the only way to experience the true comfort found in Jesus Christ is to make sure we get uncomfortable enough to do what he has called us to do.



JUICY FRUIT

A Study Of The Fruit Of The Spirit

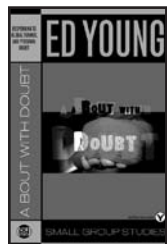
In this in-depth study, you will discover what it means not only to produce spiritual fruit in your own life; you'll also learn how to reveal those characteristics to those around you. And you will discover how a life dedicated to these principles ultimately leads to the kind of satisfying, vibrant life that God has in store for each of us.



SEXUAL REVOLUTION

God Designed It. Culture Redefined It. Who Got It Right?

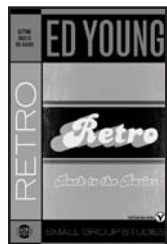
It's time to put the bed back in the church and the church back in the bed. In this study, Ed Young helps you get back to God's incredible design for sex, beginning with the important realization that God created this life-uniting gift.



A BOUT WITH DOUBT

Responding To Global Turmoil And Personal Doubt

Doubt is not a cosmic crime or a blockade to your spiritual growth. When we take our bouts with doubt to God, he will allow them to strengthen our faith and draw us closer to him. This study is designed to teach us the right response to doubt.



RETRO

Getting Back To The Basics

Juggling life's priorities can easily become complicated and complex. In this series, Ed Young takes a closer look at the essentials for a strong Christian life, including building the right friendships, involvement in the local church, developing biblical priorities and taking time to rest.



FORGIVENESS - THE REAL F-WORD

Unleashing The Power Of Forgiveness

Forgiveness feels great—as long as we are the beneficiaries. We like being forgiven, but it's not very fun when you have to ask for forgiveness. Through this study, we will discover God's powerful truths about this highly-charged subject of forgiveness.



SNAPSHOTS OF THE SAVIOR

Jesus—Up Close And Personal

So often when we think of Jesus' life, our photo album is limited and sketchy. In this powerful study of talks, Ed Young shares vivid images from the Bible to help provide a broader, panoramic view of Christ's mission and ministry.



THE CREATIVE MARRIAGE

The Art Of Keeping Your Love Alive

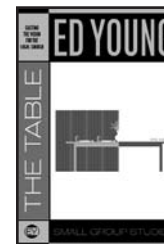
Disposable relationships and throw-away marriages permeate our culture. When the dream fades and the realities of life set in, many just throw in the towel. In this six-week study, Ed speaks openly and honestly about the hard work involved in a creative marriage and the lasting rewards of doing it God's way.



IN THE ZONE

How To Live In The Sweet Spot Of Success

Do you want to live a life in marked contrast to those around you? In this study, Ed Young shares powerful biblical principles about what it means to live a life blessed by God—to live *in the zone*.



THE TABLE

Casting The Vision For The Local Church

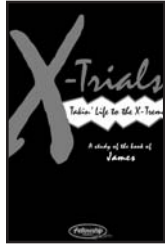
The foundational series for small groups by Ed Young uniquely relates different aspects of eating a special meal to our purpose as Christ followers. As we focus on serving others, it reminds us in a powerful way that there's always room at the table.



MISSION POSSIBLE

Everyday Leadership Principles For Everyday People

Leadership is influence and every one of us influences someone. Mission Possible examines the life of one of the great leaders, Nehemiah, as he accomplished a seemingly impossible task using timeless leadership principles. Improve your influence as you download the principles from the journal of Nehemiah.



X-TRIALS—TAKIN' LIFE TO THE X-TREME

An Extreme Study In The Book Of James

In this book, X-Trials, Ed Young leads you through a verse-by-verse look at one of the most challenging and controversial books of the Bible, the book of James. Living life as a Christ follower in today's world requires extreme faith!



CHARACTER TOUR

A Biblical Tour Of Some Great Characters With Great Character

Certain character qualities stand out in notable characters throughout the Bible. In this creative series, Ed Young uses those great biblical role models to help us crack the character code and become people who live out godly character from the inside out.



VIRTUOUS REALITY

The Relationships Of David

People in your life can pull you up or drag you down. Join this journey into the life of David as we discover how this "man after God's own heart" lived out the daily reality of his relationships. By uncovering the good and bad in your relationships, Ed Young will help you discover how to honor God regardless of who crosses your path.



IGNITE

Refining And Purifying Your Faith

Fire, it is a source of destruction and a source of life. It incinerates and destroys. But it also refines and purifies. In the Bible, God used fire and other trials to turn up the heat and reveal His power through the lives of people. Ed Young explores these trials from Scripture to help fan the flames of our own faith today.



TRI-GOD

Understanding The Trinity

Three in One, One in Three. The Trinity. God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is one of the most misunderstood doctrines in the Christian church. Yet, Ed Young teaches in this exciting new series that our awareness of God's triune nature is pivotal to growing with him.



FIRST AND 10

The Whats, Whys And Hows Of The Ten Commandments

Where do we find our moral foundation in this game of life? In a world of ever-changing culture, circumstances, and philosophies it all goes back to the big ten. Ed Young will take you on a thought-provoking, soul-searching look at the Ten Commandments.



WIRED FOR WORSHIP

Make Worship A Part Of Your Every Day Life

There is great debate and misconception surrounding "worship." One thing holds true, as human beings we are wired for worship. Whether it is career and finances or relationships and family, we instinctively worship something. Join Ed Young as he dives in to discover what it means to truly worship God in your life.



PRAYING FOR KEEPS

A Guide To Prayer

Imagine how awesome it would be to sit down and have a face-to-face conversation with God! In the small group study, you will learn how you can effectively and naturally communicate with God. Ed Young will walk you through the biblical principles that will guide you into a more intimate and rewarding life of prayer.



FATAL DISTRACTIONS

Avoid The Downward Spiral Of Sin

In this in-depth study, Pastor Ed Young makes a frontal assault on the seven deadly sins that threaten to destroy our lives.



RPMS - RECOGNIZING POTENTIAL MATES

Supercharge Your Dating Life

Whether you're a single adult, a student, or a parent, this creatively driven study will provide foundational principles on how to date and select a mate God's way. We're going to cruise past the cultural myths and embark on a supercharged ride to the ultimate relational destination.



MARRIAGE UNVEILED

Components Of A Healthy, Vibrant Marriage

This dynamic study uncovers the essential elements that will keep you growing together for a lifetime. Through this straight-forward, no-holds-barred approach, you will experience help and hope for troubled marriages as well as a challenge to make great marriages greater.