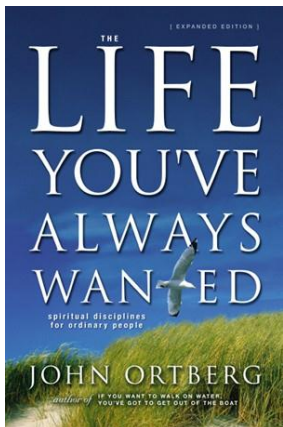


The Life You've Always Wanted

Introduction

We are once again following a pre-written course through to Easter.



As before, this will mean a bit more preparation for those leading growth group sessions! There is also far more material than you will need, so you will need to choose which bits you want to cover in your group and also the format. I've given a few guidelines below to help you.

The book we are using is 'The Life You've Always Wanted' by John Ortberg. The aim is that through following it together, we will grow stronger as disciples of Jesus. It is a practical book which encourages us to seek

transformation in different areas of our lives, such that we live increasingly as God intended.

Before You Start

1. **IMPORTANT!** Ideally, each Growth Group member will need a copy of the book itself. They are available in the porch for £5 (slightly cheaper than Amazon). They may prefer the audio or Kindle versions. BUT don't get the Participant's or Leaders Guides which are different & have a lot less content for a similar price!
2. **Choose your format.** In the back of the book there is a study guide with readings and questions for each chapter (too many –so be selective!) I suggest you use these as the core of your meetings.

There is also a DVD with 6 sessions that you might decide to use. (£13 from Eden.co.uk) Each session is 15 mins and covers 2 or 3 of the chapters. I suggest ignoring references to participants guides & use the book's study guide & leaders notes that come with the DVD.



3. **Choose your sessions.** There are 13 sessions in the book. We will cover all 13 on Sundays, but you will need to pick which ones to do in your Growth Group. The chapters can be grouped as follows: 1-3, 4+5, 6+8, 9+11, 7+10, 12+13. So, you could decide to do one from each set or you could do the one from that Sunday's sermon, or just the ones that look most interesting/challenging for your group.
4. **Include Everyone - this will be difficult!** Some will have read the book, some won't. I suggest you **assume that people haven't**, but draw on the learning of those who have. In particular, choose questions that focus on the Bible passages & general questions, rather than referring to the text of the book.

What to Do Each Week

Whichever format you use for the 'Word' part of the series, please stick to the basic Growth Group Pattern for meetings as follows...

1. **Welcome:** I haven't provided suggestions this term –so be creative! *Spend time relaxing & sharing together.*
2. **Worship:** Again, no suggestions, so share round leading & encourage people to be creative! *Music, silence, prayer, meditation, reflection, songs, hymns, etc. or be creative with drawing, writing, symbols, poetry etc to help people to draw near to God.*
3. **Word:** Use the Study Guide in the back of the book for the Bible Readings & Questions. Try to use questions that don't refer to specific parts of the book –unless you read those parts out. You may also decide to buy & use the DVD.
4. **What Next?** There are quite a few suggestions in the Study Guide. **Always finish by praying for one another and for others.**

I hope these notes are helpful. See how you get on and do let me know! We will return to the usual format after Easter.

Toby