

54 TRIAL DBS SERIES

9 Major Categories

MEN, WOMEN, SINGLES, MARRIAGE, PARENTING, YOUTH,
MARKETPLACE, SPECIAL NEEDS, RECOVERY

6 Felt Need Issues per Category

6 Studies per Felt Need

PURPOSE

[Read This First!]

Because people do not always want to commit to a 24-week study of Creation to Christ, we have designed Trial Discovery Bible Studies that ask people to only commit to 6 weeks (or 6 sessions) and are designed with the felt-needs of the group in mind. Among the 9 Major Categories you will certainly find one that fits your target audience. The point is **not to do all** of these studies like a curriculum. The point is to find **just one** that fits your target group of people and do it for six sessions in order to find who the Person of Peace actually is. Then you can move into a longer series introducing them to who Jesus is. Nearly all of the Scriptures used in these DBS's are narrative in nature which makes it easier for not-yet believers to enter into discussion and makes it conducive to 'story-telling'. Our desire is to get people quickly into Scripture that's relevant to their lives in order to see who is responding to God.

9 CATEGORIES WITH FELT NEED TOPICS

(each topic has a 6-session DBS series)

MEN

- 1- Masculinity
- 2- Accountability
- 3- Discipleship
- 4- Attitude Adjustment
- 5- Performance Anxiety
- 6- Issues Men Face

WOMEN

- 1- Real Beauty
- 2- When Life is Not a Party
- 3- Being a Godly Woman
- 4- Coping with Change
- 5- Holding Your Own
- 6- Issues Women Face

SINGLES

- 1- Love and Loneliness
- 2- Pressures
- 3- Being a Complete Person
- 4- How to Find a Partner
- 5- Sexuality
- 6- Issues Singles Face

MARRIAGE

- 1- Getting Along at Home
- 2- Balancing Work and Home
- 3- Communication Conflict
- 4- Intimacy
- 5- Spiritually Single
- 6- Miscarriage

PARENTING

- 1- How It's Done
- 2- Family Time
- 3- Strong-willed Children
- 4- Adolescents
- 5- Challenging Issues/Special Needs
- 6- Parents in Pain

YOUTH

- 1- Discovering My Real Identity
- 2- Finding Friends and Fitting In
- 3- What Do I Believe?
- 4- Surviving Day to Day
- 5- Getting Along with My Parents
- 6- Hot Issues for Youth

MARKETPLACE

- 1- Relationships at Work
- 2- Too Much Stress!
- 3- Business Ethics
- 4- Finding the Right Job
- 5- Bored and Burned Out
- 6- Entrepreneurs

SPECIAL NEEDS

- 1- Self-Esteem
- 2- Financial Stress
- 3- Living with Pain
- 4- Caregivers
- 5- Empty Nesters/When the Kids Are Gone
- 6- Growing Older

RECOVERY

- 1- Healthy Habits
- 2- Healing Broken Relationships
- 3- Picking Up After Divorce
- 4- Grief and Loss
- 5- Abuse
- 6- 12 Steps

MEN - MASCULINITY - "I get mixed messages about what a man should be – somewhere between macho and passive. I know Jesus is God, but is he also someone I can look to as the ultimate man?"

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| 1 – The Divine Jesus | "God with us" | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| 2 – The Human Jesus | "Isn't this Joseph's son?" | Luke 4:14-30 |
| 3 – The Initiated Jesus | Baptized and tempted | Matthew 3:13-4:11 |
| 4 – The Tough Jesus | Temple cleansing time | Mark 11:12-19 |
| 5 – The Tender Jesus | "Jesus wept" | John 11:1-44 |
| 6 – The Triumphant Jesus | Jesus' death | Luke 23:44-49 |

MEN - ACCOUNTABILITY - "It's about time men got together and got real. I know what's right and what I need to do. I don't need advice, but I do need a group of guys to listen, keep what I say to themselves, and hold me accountable."

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| 1 – Our Need for Others | Raising the roof for a friend | Mark 2:1-12 |
| 2 – Our Need for Accountability | Gehazi caught red-handed | 2 Kings 5:1-27 |
| 3 – Our Need for Support | David's mighty men | 2 Samuel 23:8-23 |
| 4 – Our Need for Counsel | Rehoboam needs advice | 1 Kings 12:1-24 |
| 5 – Our Need for Correction | Nathan rebukes David | 2 Samuel 12:1-14 |
| 6 – Our Need for Mentoring | Moses commissions Joshua | Numbers 27:12-23 |

MEN - DISCIPLESHIP - "Could anyone tell me what it means to be a man of God? I'm tired of pious Jesus talk and Sunday Christians. If I'm going to commit to this, I'm going all the way."

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| 1 – Fighting Spirit | David and Goliath | 1 Samuel 17:12-50 |
| 2 – Total Commitment | The rich young man | Mark 10:17-31 |
| 3 – Obedience | Abraham's greatest test | Genesis 22:1-19 |
| 4 – Teachable Spirit | Peter's stretching vision | Acts 10:1-23 |
| 5 – Spreading the Word | Don't just stand there | Acts 1:1-11 |
| 6 – God's Man at Home | "As for me and my house" | Joshua 24:1-27 |

MEN – ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT – “Pressure is closing in on me. Too many demands. Not enough time. Money. My job. My kids. My marriage. Things are out of control and getting worse. I can’t take this rat race anymore.”

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| 1 – Pressures | Three men and a furnace | Daniel 3:1-30 |
| 2 – Demands | Moses and spoiled Israel | Numbers 11:4-34 |
| 3 – Chaos | Paul and Silas in prison | Acts 16:16-40 |
| 4 – Blowing It | Peter denies Jesus | Luke 22:54-62 |
| 5 – Family Stress | Fractured family | Luke 15:11-32 |
| 6 – Moving On | Peter steps out of the boat | Matthew 14:22-33 |

MEN – PERFORMANCE ANXIETY – “I constantly feel like my job is on the line. I’m always afraid I’m not measuring up. Even when I’m home I worry about work.”

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| 1 – Who Is The Boss? | Workers in the vineyard | Matthew 20:1-16 |
| 2 – What’s My Responsibility? | Parable of the talents | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 3 – What’s God’s Responsibility? | God fights Gideon’s battle | Judges 7:1-25 |
| 4 – Working for Tyrants | Bricks and straw | Exodus 5:1-21 |
| 5 – Worry is Overwhelming | Moses under stress | Exodus 5:22-6:12 |
| 6 – Being Content | Abram gives Lot a choice | Genesis 13:1-18 |

MEN – ISSUES MEN FACE – “There are some things I need to talk about, although it won’t be easy. I’m sure other guys fight the same battles. We just don’t tell each other. I think I’m ready to talk.”

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| 1 – Opening Up | A Pharisee and a tax collector | Luke 18:9-14 |
| 2 – Fatal Attraction | David and Bathsheba | 2 Samuel 11:1-27 |
| 3 – My Dark Side | Dirty dancing | Mark 6:14-29 |
| 4 – My Doubts | I believe, help my unbelief | Mark 9:14-29 |
| 5 – Authority Figures | King Saul fails badly | I Samuel 13:1-15 |
| 6 – Spiritual Responsibility | Eli: A failure at home | I Samuel 2:12-26 |

WOMEN – REAL BEAUTY – “It’s a constant battle! My hair, my shape and my clothes are never quite right. I know I don’t need to measure up to the glamorous stereotype, but where can I find a role model for real beauty?”

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| 1 – I Don’t Measure Up | Amazing affirmation | John 7:53-8:11 |
| 2 – Struggle to Stay in Shape | Leah and Rachel | Genesis 29:31-30:24 |
| 3 – Keeping Up My Image | Queen of Sheba | I Kings 10:1-13 |
| 4 – Finding My Own Style | Stylish love | Luke 7:36-50 |
| 5 – Staying Focused | Wealthy woman focused | 2 Kings 4:8-37 |
| 6 – Achieving Real Beauty | Mary’s song | Luke 1:39-56 |

WOMEN – WHEN LIFE IS NOT A PARTY – “I never thought my life would be like this. I’ve had so many disappointments and unfulfilled expectations. I try so hard, but things just don’t go the way I’ve hoped. What am I doing wrong?”

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| 1 – Where’s The Romance? | Rachel and Leah | Genesis 29:1-30 |
| 2 – Grown Up, and Doing This? | Swallowing pride | Jonah 1:1-17 |
| 3 – Where’s My Dream House? | The house built on rock | Matthew 7:24-29 |
| 4 – Where’s My Dream Family? | Rebekah tricks Isaac | Genesis 27:1-40 |
| 5 – Weren’t We Best Friends? | Hagar’s favor turns sour | Genesis 16:1-16 |
| 6 – No More Goodbyes! | Mary must say goodbye | John 20:1-18 |

WOMEN – BEING A GODLY WOMAN – “What does God want me to be like? How can I apply what the Bible says about women to real life today?”

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| 1 – Seeking God’s Truth | Queen of Sheba | I Kings 10:1-13 |
| 2 – Using My Gifts | Priscilla | Acts 18:1-4,18-28 |
| 3 – Caring for Others | Shunammite woman | 2 Kings 4:8-37 |
| 4 – Being Bold, Yet Wise | Esther | Esther 4:6-17; 7:1-10 |
| 5 – Trusting God in the Unknown | Ruth | Ruth 1:1-22 |
| 6 – Giving God the Glory | Mary, mother of Jesus | Luke 1:39-56 |

WOMEN – COPING WITH CHANGE – “My head is spinning. Last year we moved. I went back to work. My youngest child is starting school. Can somebody throw me a life jacket to survive all the emotions that go along with change?”

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| 1 – My Changing Relationships | Ruth chooses a new family | Ruth 1:1-22 |
| 2 – My Changing Home | Abram and Sarai on the move | Genesis 11:27-12:9 |
| 3 – My Changing Career | First disciples called | Luke 5:1-11 |
| 4 – My Changing Children | Mary’s changing child | Luke 2:41-52 |
| 5 – My Changing Age | Sarah receives a promise | Genesis 18:1-15 |
| 6 – My Changing Spiritual Life | Woman gets “living water” | John 4:7-30 |

WOMEN – HOLDING YOUR OWN – “I feel like I’m giving and always giving in. I want to be a giving person, but I have needs too. How and when do I speak up for myself?”

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| 1 – Empathy vs. Obsession | Jesus mourns with friends | John 11:1-44 |
| 2 – Servanthood vs. Setting Limits | Mary chooses not to serve | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 3 – Caring for Myself | Accepting help from others | Exodus 18:1-27 |
| 4 – Speaking Up | Esther speaks for her people | Esther 4:6-17; 7:1-10 |
| 5 – A Strong Woman | Deborah guides Israel | Judges 4:1-24 |
| 6 – At Peace with Myself | Jesus at peace in the temple | Luke 2:41-52 |

WOMEN – ISSUES WOMEN FACE – “I wish I could talk to other women about some things I can’t escape. Like questions and feelings about career vs. family. About roles at home and in the community. And issues that require trust to even bring up.”

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| 1 – To Work..or Not to Work | Lydia the businesswoman | Acts 16:11-15 |
| 2 – What About Submission? | One flesh | Genesis 2:4-25 |
| 3 – My Role in the Community | Priscilla’s gift | Acts 18:1-4, 18-28 |
| 4 – Can I Love Too Much? | Learning not to do it all | Exodus 18:1-27 |
| 5 – Why Didn’t God Help? | Amnon rapes Tamar | 2 Samuel 13:1-22 |
| 6 – Recovering From Abuse | Jesus heals a bleeding woman | Mark 5:24-34 |

SINGLES – LOVE AND LONELINESS – “I often go for days without a hug or meaningful conversation. Sometimes singleness is like being a social leper. How can I deal with this isolation?”

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| 1 – I Don't Fit Anywhere | Elijah in the wilderness | I Kings 19:1-18 |
| 2 – My Need for a Loving Touch | A touching act | Luke 7:36-50 |
| 3 – My Need for Communication | Early connections | Acts 2:42-47 |
| 4 – My Need for Companionship | God provides a companion | Genesis 2:4-25 |
| 5 – Busyness vs. Loneliness | Jesus' life of balance | Mark 1:29-39 |
| 6 – Making the Most of My Life | Lydia: a servant open to God | Acts 16:11-15 |

SINGLES – PRESSURES – “Panic attack . . . Dirty laundry. Leaking plumbing. Broken car. Checkbook a disaster. Health problems. I'm a capable person, but how can I survive on my own?”

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| 1 – Making My Own Living | Widow become salesperson | 2 Kings 4:1-7 |
| 2 – Coping With Crisis | Joseph stands under pressure | Genesis 39:1-23 |
| 3 – Dealing With My Health | Jesus heals a long sickness | John 5:1-15 |
| 4 – Managing My Finances | Making the most of what I have | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 5 – Dealing With Family Issues | God supports Hagar | Genesis 21:1-21 |
| 6 – Handling My Emotions | Paul's vision brings comfort | Acts 18:5-17 |

SINGLES – BEING A COMPLETE PERSON – “Jesus was single. Is it possible God wants me to remain single for life? How can he call singleness a 'gift'? Couldn't I serve him better with a partner? How can I be 'whole' for him now as a single?”

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| 1 – Did Jesus Ever Feel Lonely? | Alone in the wilderness | Matthew 3:13-4:11 |
| 2 – The 'Gift' of Singleness | A high calling | I Corinthians 7:25-35 |
| 3 – Am I called to be Single? | Each has his own gift | I Corinthians 7:36-40 |
| 4 – How Can I Best Serve? | The Greatest servant | Mark 10:35-45 |
| 5 – How Should I Pray? | Jesus prays for God's will | Mark 14:32-42 |
| 6 – A Whole in One | “I can do everything” | Philippians 4:10-23 |

SINGLES – HOW TO FIND A PARTNER – “The singles bar is a drag . . . but the church scene isn’t much better. I’m about ready to give up on a real relationship and forget the whole dating game.”

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| 1 – Where Should I Look? | Isaac looks for love | Genesis 24:1-29,50-67 |
| 2 – Staying Disciplined | Samson loses control | Judges 14:1-20 |
| 3 – Finding the Right Fit | Priscilla and Aquila | Acts 18:1-4,18-28 |
| 4 – Making Myself “Right” | Solomon desires God’s best | I Kings 3:1-28 |
| 5 – What About My Fears? | Gideon overcomes his fears | Judges 6:1-40 |
| 6 – When God Says “Wait” | Jacob and Rachel wait | Genesis 29:1-30 |

SINGLES – SEXUALITY – “The whole world tells me to do it. God gave me these desires. What does he expect me to do with them? Is there anyone out there who struggles with the stuff I struggle with?”

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| 1 – Are My Desires Normal? | David is tempted | 2 Samuel 11:1-27 |
| 2 – What Are God’s Standards? | Nathan rebukes David | 2 Samuel 12:1-14 |
| 3 – Isn’t Sex an Act of Love? | “Love” takes over Samson | Judges 16:1-22 |
| 4 – How Long Can I Wait? | Jacob puts in his time | Genesis 29:1-30 |
| 5 – What If I’ve Made Mistakes? | Jesus forgives a prostitute | Luke 7:36-50 |
| 6 – Dealing With My Frustrations | A greater power for Elisha | 2 Kings 6:8-23 |

SINGLES – ISSUES SINGLES FACE – “What kinds of friends do I look for? How do I keep from being burned again? Should I live in community or alone? Should I go back to school or volunteer overseas? What does God want me to do?”

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| 1 – Whom to Pick for Friends | David’s friendship of character | I Samuel 20:1-42 |
| 2 – When to Risk With Others | Seventy-seven times | Matthew 18:21-35 |
| 3 – Where to Live | Israel’s cloud of guidance | Numbers 9:15-10:36 |
| 4 – How to Spend My Life | The Good Samaritan | Luke 10:25-37 |
| 5 – Where to Use My Talents | David in Saul’s service | I Samuel 16:14-23 |
| 6 – What About the Future? | Noah waits on God | Genesis 8:1-22 |

MARRIAGE – GETTING ALONG AT HOME – “We don’t have a bad relationship, but why isn’t marriage more fun? I want to be my spouse’s best friend – as well as lover. How can I do a better job of living with the one I married?”

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| 1 – In Good Times and Bad | Isaac and Rebekah; 1 st love | Genesis 24:1-29,50-67 |
| 2 – Love, Honor and Cherish | Ruth and Boaz; mutual respect | Ruth 2:1-23 |
| 3 – ‘Til Death Do Us Part | Jacob and Rachel; worth the wait | Genesis 29:1-30 |
| 4 – Serving One Another | Footwashing; whose job is it? | John 13:1-17 |
| 5 – Friends | Adam and Eve; one flesh | Genesis 2:4-25 |
| 6 – And Lovers | Celebrate difference! | Song of Songs 6:13-8:4 |

MARRIAGE – BALANCING WORK AND HOME – “We both have so many demands for our time and energy. How can we give our best to our work without it coming at the expense of our family? I don’t want to lose what we’re supposed to be working for!”

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| 1 – Teammates | Adam and Eve; one flesh | Genesis 2:4-25 |
| 2 – Roommates | Martha in the kitchen | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 3 – Work and Stress | Workers in the vineyard | Matthew 20:1-16 |
| 4 – Stress management | Jesus deals with demands | Mark 1:29-39 |
| 5 – Serving Each Other | Footwashing | John 13:1-17 |
| 6 – Faithful and Fulfilled | Priscilla and Aquila work together | Acts 18:1-4,18-28 |

MARRIAGE – COMMUNICATION CONFLICT – “Whether it’s how to guard an evening or how to spend our income – we have a different point of view. How can we relate to each other in a way that pulls us together instead of apart?”

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| 1 – Power of Commitment | Joseph marries Mary | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| 2 – Power of Words | David and Michal: cutting words | 2 Samuel 6:1-23 |
| 3 – Acting on Impulse | Abram, Sarai and Hagar | Genesis 16:1-16 |
| 4 – Dealing with Conflict | Abraham and Sarah disagree | Genesis 21:1-21 |
| 5 – Pulling Apart | Adam and Eve blame each other | Genesis 3:1-24 |
| 6 – Pulling Together | Mutual respect | Ephesians 5:22-6:9 |

MARRIAGE – INTIMACY – “The world exalts sex as the ultimate high. But we both have different needs. We’d like more romance and sizzle in our love life. How does God want us to enjoy this gift?”

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| 1 – God’s Gift | Delighting in love | Song of Songs 1:1-14 |
| 2 – Sharing Yourself | Wooing words | Song of Songs 1:15-2:15 |
| 3 – The Rhythm of Romance | Absence grows love | Song of Songs 2:16-3:11 |
| 4 – Only You | Can’t keep my eyes off you | Song of Songs 5:9-6:9 |
| 5 – Sensitive Sex | Celebrate difference! | Song of Songs 6:13-8:4 |
| 6 – Committed Love | The power of love | Song of Songs 8:5-14 |

MARRIAGE – SPIRITUALLY SINGLE – “Since we’ve been married, my husband won’t come to church with me. I want our children to grow up with Christian teaching, but he doesn’t back me up. How can I please God and my husband?”

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| 1 – Don’t Give Up | A household conversion | Acts 16:16-40 |
| 2 – God’s Love and Ours | Abraham pleads for Sodom | Genesis 18:16-33 |
| 3 – Putting Things in God’s Hands | Abraham’s greatest test | Genesis 22:1-19 |
| 4 – Who’s Number 1? | Take a warning from Solomon | I Kings 10:23-11:13 |
| 5 – God is at Work | Praying for Peter in prison | Acts 12:1-19 |
| 6 – Your Spiritual Family | Mary and John at the cross | John 19:16-27 |

MARRIAGE – MISCARRIAGE – “It tears me up to walk past the baby’s room. Now I wish we hadn’t gotten so excited and made so many plans. I’m dying inside, and I’ve got to talk to someone who has gone through this.”

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| 1 – When Life Falls Apart | Job’s life collapses | Job 1:1-22 |
| 2 – Shattered Dreams | Elisha and a grieving woman | 2 Kings 4:8-37 |
| 3 – Marital Stress | Jacob and Rachel under stress | Genesis 29:31-30:24 |
| 4 – Releasing the Pain | Hannah pours out her soul | I Samuel 1:1-28 |
| 5 – God Cares | Jesus weeps over death | John 11:1-44 |
| 6 – Life Goes On | David pleads, then accepts | 2 Samuel 12:15-25 |

PARENTING – HOW IT’S DONE – “I got into parenting before I was ready. Other people make it sound so easy. My mother just laughs. My grandmother says everything will be okay. But I’m trying to raise my kids without a map. Please help.”

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| 1 – Preparation | Mary and Joseph become parents | Luke 2:1-20 |
| 2 – Dedication | Jesus presented in the temple | Luke 2:21-40 |
| 3 – Expectations | A mother’s high hopes | Matthew 20:20-28 |
| 4 – Confrontation | Eli’s failure to restore his sons | I Samuel 3:1-21 |
| 5 – Consecration | Abraham’s greatest test | Genesis 22:1-19 |
| 6 – Celebration | Homecoming party | Luke 15:11-32 |

PARENTING – FAMILY TIME – “We want to create memories as a family. Will our kids remember their childhood in a way that feels good to them and honors God?”

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| 1 – Proper Priorities | God commands a day off | Exodus 16:1-35 |
| 2 – Time Together | Supper time | John 13:1-17 |
| 3 – Family Traditions | Passover: a family ritual | Exodus 12:1-30 |
| 4 – Family Vacations | A “vacation” with 5000 surprises | Mark 6:30-44 |
| 5 – Worshiping Together | The fellowship of believers | Acts 2:42-47 |
| 6 – Lasting Values | Stones of memorial | Joshua 3:14-4:24 |

PARENTING – STRONG-WILLED CHILDREN – “My daughter always wants to paint outside the lines. She is really a good kid, and I love her a lot, but I don’t know what to do. How do you raise a child who was born with a strong will?”

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| 1 – Where Are My Instructions? | Jesus was a strong-willed child | Luke 2:41-52 |
| 2 – Born to Be Wild | The devil made me do it | Genesis 3:1-24 |
| 3 – Necessary Discipline | Eli: a parent who failed | I Samuel 3:1-21 |
| 4 – Dealing with Anger | Moses faces his critics | Numbers 11:4-34 |
| 5 – When the Kids Drive You Crazy | Little Jocab grabs for power | Genesis 25:19-34 |
| 6 – Happy Endings | Jacob’s strength comes through | Genesis 32:22-32 |

PARENTING – ADOLESCENTS – “My teenager is about to drive me crazy. The music. Posters. Clothes. It’s outrageous! We can’t even talk about it without shouting. How can we make it through adolescence?!”

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| 1 – Stressful Times | Trouble in the family | Luke 15:11-32 |
| 2 – Confusing Times | When Jesus didn’t come home | Luke 2:41-52 |
| 3 – Angry Times | The golden calf | Exodus 32:1-35 |
| 4 – Decisions, Decisions! | Samson’s dating dilemma | Judges 14:1-20 |
| 5 – A Parent’s Responsibility | Eli’s failure to restrain his sons | I Samuel 3:1-21 |
| 6 – Getting Along | Joseph: a kid with an ‘attitude’ | Genesis 37:1-11 |

PARENTING – CHALLENGING ISSUES, SPECIAL NEEDS – “God have me a very special child. Now, I need the wisdom to raise this child. I feel somewhat alone and nobody understands.”

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| 1 – Adopted Children | Moses: an adopted child | Exodus 1:22-2:25 |
| 2 – Children of Divorce | Ishmael: Rejected and dejected | Genesis 21:1-21 |
| 3 – Single-Parent Children | Double blessing for a single parent | I Kings 17:1-24 |
| 4 – Children With Disabilities | Why was he born blind? | John 9:1-34 |
| 5 – Gifted Children | Jesus perplexes his parents | Luke 2:41-52 |
| 6 – Substitute Parents | Esther: raised by a relative | Esther 2:1-18 |

PARENTING – PARENTS IN PAIN – “Where did we go wrong? I never dreamed our son would make the choices he has. Didn’t our values sink in at all? And how do we relate to him now? What should or shouldn’t we say to him?”

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| 1 – Sharing Your Story | Prodigal: a parable of pain | Luke 15:11-32 |
| 2 – Coping With Grief | Eli and his wayward sons | I Samuel 2:12-26 |
| 3 – Dealing With Disappointment | Chaos in David’s family | 2 Samuel 13:23-39 |
| 4 – Knowing How to Relate | David longs for Absalom | 2 Samuel 14:1-33 |
| 5 – Feeling Their Pain | Peter disowns Jesus | Luke 22:54-62 |
| 6 – Believing in Miracles | Jesus forgives Peter | John 21:1-25 |

YOUTH – DISCOVERING MY REAL IDENTITY – “I know I’m good at some things and no so good at others. I don’t want to be weird, but I do want to be myself. What makes me unique? How can I be all that I was meant to be?”

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| 1 – Being Real | A Pharisee and a tax collector | Luke 18:9-14 |
| 2 – My Uniqueness | Zacchaeus | Luke 19:1-10 |
| 3 – My Personality | Mary and Martha | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 4 – My Abilities | Using your ‘talents’ | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 5 – Strengths and Weaknesses | Gideon’s fears | Judges 6:1-40 |
| 6 – God’s Call | Following Jesus | Luke 5:1-11 |

YOUTH – FINDING FRIENDS AND FITTING IN – “I always feel out of place. It’s so hard to fit in. I don’t want to come off like I’m either shy or obnoxious. Can I be myself and still have friends?”

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| 1 – Acceptance | Paul’s struggle for acceptance | Acts 9:20-31 |
| 2 – Fitting In | “The Lord looks at the heart” | I Samuel 16:1-13 |
| 3 – Being Myself | David can’t use Saul’s armor | I Samuel 17:12-50 |
| 4 – Feeling Secure | David and Jonathan – Part 1 | I Samuel 18:1-30 |
| 5 – Getting Close | David and Jonathan – Part 2 | I Samuel 20:1-42 |
| 6 – True Friends | Four friends who cared | Mark 2:1-12 |

YOUTH – WHAT DO I BELIEVE? – “I’ve done the church thing. It’s easy to let all that teaching go in one ear and out the other. I think it’s time to know what I really believe, and really believe what I already know.”

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| 1 – God the Father Almighty | Maker of heaven and earth | Genesis 1:1-2:3 |
| 2 – Jesus Christ | An angel visits Mary | Luke 1:26-38 |
| 3 – Holy Spirit | The Spirit shakes things up | Acts 4:1-31 |
| 4 – Christian Church | The cost in “being there” | Acts 4:32-37 |
| 5 – Forgiveness of Sins | Jesus: my substitute | Mark 15:1-15 |
| 6 – Resurrection and Life | A new day dawns | Matthew 28:1-20 |

YOUTH – SURVIVING DAY TO DAY – “I have to buy my own clothes. Beg people for a ride. Make a C average in school just to stay on the team. Everybody’s on my back. And my best friend didn’t call tonight. Life stinks.”

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| 1 – Stressed Out | Facing storms | Mark 4:35-41 |
| 2 – Daily Grind | Slaving away in Egypt | Exodus 5:1-21 |
| 3 – Making the Grade | Parable of the talents | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 4 – Feeling Alone | Jesus in Gethsemane | Mark 14:32-42 |
| 5 – Dealing with Disappointment | Jesus is betrayed and arrested | Matthew 26:47-56 |
| 6 – Facing Failure | Peter disowns Jesus | Luke 22:54-62 |

YOUTH – GETTING ALONG WITH PARENTS – “In my parents’ eyes, I can’t do anything right. I don’t look right, act right, study right, spend money right or pick friends right. As long as I’m still at home, will I always be wrong?”

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| 1 – Parental Requests | Jesus and his mom at a wedding | John 2:1-11 |
| 2 – Parental Expectations | A mother’s dream | Matthew 20:20-28 |
| 3 – Family Tension | When Jesus didn’t come home | Luke 2:41-52 |
| 4 – Dealing with Frustrations | Jesus and his family | Mark 3:20-35 |
| 5 – Arguing Over Relationships | Samson and his women | Judges 14:1-20 |
| 6 – Making Things Right | A son returns home | Luke 15:11-32 |

YOUTH – HOT ISSUES FOR YOUTH – “My friend is pregnant. Another is talking about suicide. What do I do? School is a jungle. People get beat up. Drugs are everywhere. If my parents knew what I have to face every day, they would freak out!”

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| 1 – Life in the Jungle | Jesus is tempted | Matthew 3:13-4:11 |
| 2 – Loose Morals | David and Bathsheba | 2 Samuel 11:1-27 |
| 3 – Hidden Secrets | David – you are the man! | 2 Samuel 12:1-14 |
| 4 – Don’t Get Used | Dirty Dancing | Mark 6:14-29 |
| 5 – Just Say No | Daniel stays ‘clean’ | Daniel 1:1-21 |
| 6 – Take a Stand | Daniel in the lion’s den | Daniel 6:1-24 |

MARKETPLACE – RELATIONSHIPS AT WORK – “I don’t know which is worse – working under someone or supervising others. I’ve done both and either way I’ve been frustrated. How can I get along with the people I work with?”

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 – Life with My Co-workers | Who is greatest? | Mark 10:35-45 |
| 2 – Life with My Boss | David spares Saul | I Samuel 24:1-22 |
| 3 – Life as a Supervisor | Boaz lets Ruth glean | Ruth 2:1-23 |
| 4 – Life with my Competitors | Elisha deals in strength & grace | 2 Kings 6:8-23 |
| 5 – Letting God Be The Boss | Gideon takes orders from God | Judges 7:1-25 |
| 6 – Letting the Spirit Guide Me | Paul follows the Lord’s lead | Acts 18:5-17 |

MARKETPLACE – TOO MUCH STRESS! – “The stress I’m under every day is incredible. Deadlines, projects, personnel – plus home and family. If I don’t find a way to release some of this pressure, I’m gonna crack!”

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 – Stress From My Work | Calm for the storm | Mark 4:35-41 |
| 2 – Stress on the Job | Sexual harassment | Genesis 39:1-23 |
| 3 – Stress in a Secular World | Abraham pleads for Sodom | Genesis 18:16-33 |
| 4 – Stress From a Changing World | Tower of Babel | Genesis 11:1-9 |
| 5 – Balancing Work and Rest | Jesus feeds 5000 | Mark 6:30-44 |
| 6 – Keeping Stress Under Control | Moses gets a grip | Exodus 17:1-16 |

MARKETPLACE – BUSINESS ETHICS – “It sounds easy to succeed in the business world, but how many ‘shortcuts’ am I prepared to make? Is it really possible to do the right thing in regards to other people and still get ahead?”

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| 1 – Life of Integrity | Job loses it all | Job 1:1-22 |
| 2 – Lack of Integrity | Ananias and Sapphira | Acts 5:1-11 |
| 3 – Values of Integrity | Rich fool faces regret | Luke 12:13-21 |
| 4 – Integrity and Conscience | Parable of the shrewd manager | Luke 16:1-15 |
| 5 – Integrity and Authority | Paying taxes to Ceasar | Mark 12:13-17 |
| 6 – Rewards of Integrity | Job receives just reward | Job 42:7-17 |

MARKETPLACE – FINDING THE RIGHT JOB – “For years I felt like I was in over my head. Then I didn’t even have a job for a while. And now I’m overqualified and unfulfilled! Will I ever be content?”

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|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 – Overqualified | Jesus takes a job beneath him | John 13:1-17 |
| 2 – Over My Head | Moses asked to do too much | Exodus 18:1-27 |
| 3 – Laid Off | Joseph loses his job | Genesis 37:12-36 |
| 4 – Unemployed | Moses called in the desert | Exodus 3:1-22 |
| 5 – Unfulfilled | Bored as a brickmaker | Exodus 5:1-21 |
| 6 – Finding My Passion | Paul’s passion revealed | Acts 16:1-32 |

MARKETPLACE – BORED AND BURNED OUT – “My job is like a broken record. The same thing over and over. By 10 a.m. I’m already tired. By noon, I’m ready to go home. Is it me . . . or my work? Maybe I need an attitude adjustment.”

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 – Why Work? | A bedridden paralytic | John 5:1-15 |
| 2 – Why Am I Here? | Philip does productive networking | Acts 8:26-40 |
| 3 – Where Am I Heading? | Abram’s call to move out | Genesis 11:27-12:9 |
| 4 – How Can God Use Me? | Peter’s windfall | Luke 5:1-11 |
| 5 – How’s My Attitude | Trouble on the horizon | Jonah 1:1-17 |
| 6 – To Stay or to Go? | Gideon seeks God’s guidance | Judges 6:1-40 |

MARKETPLACE – ENTREPRENEURS – “I was excited to start my own business, but now I’m not sure. Rather than working when I want to, I’m working all the time. It’s a huge investment. Will my dream become a nightmare?”

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| 1 – Following My Dream | Jacob leaves Laban | Genesis 31:1-21 |
| 2 – Risking My Reputation | Laban pursues Jacob | Genesis 31:22-55 |
| 3 – Paying the Price | Jacob’s financial & emotional toll | Genesis 32:1-21 |
| 4 – Forfeiting My Stability | Jacob wrestles with God | Genesis 32:22-32 |
| 5 – Putting in My Time | Jacob’s slow going | Genesis 33:1-20 |
| 6 – Measuring My Success | Jacob returns to Bethel | Genesis 35:1-15 |

SPECIAL NEEDS – SELF-ESTEEM – “No matter what others do to show their love for me, I just can’t seem to accept it. People say that since God created me I’m special. I want to believe that, but I’m having a hard time feeling it.”

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 – By Design | Created in his image | Genesis 1:1-2:3 |
| 2 – Accepted by God | Jesus and Zacchaeus | Luke 19:1-10 |
| 3 – Chosen by God | David chosen for his ‘heart’ | I Samuel 16:1-13 |
| 4 – Healthy Humility | A Pharisee and a tax collector | Luke 18:9-14 |
| 5 – Gifted and Endowed | God empowers Moses | Exodus 4:1-17 |
| 6 – Making a Contribution | The widow’s offering | Mark 12:41-44 |

SPECIAL NEEDS – FINANCIAL STRESS – “My house isn’t paid for. And I’ve got all these other loans to pay off. And now these credit card bills. How did I get myself into this mess? I could ask a relative for a loan, but I would rather die than admit I’ve blown it. What do I do?”

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 – Hard Times | Hitting bottom | Luke 15:11-32 |
| 2 – Facing the Stress | Jesus faces pressure | Luke 4:14-30 |
| 3 – Taking Responsibility | Parable of the talents | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 4 – Tough Decisions | Parable of the shrewd manager | Luke 16:1-15 |
| 5 – Mutual Aid | Believers share their possessions | Acts 4:32-37 |
| 6 – In God We Trust | The widow’s oil | 2 Kings 4:1-7 |

SPECIAL NEEDS – LIVING WITH PAIN – “I feel like I’m dragging a ball and chain around with me. How can I deal each day with the pain I’m in, plus the guilt I feel for being such a burden to others?”

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| 1 – Where is God When I Hurt? | The pool paralytic | John 5:1-15 |
| 2 – Pain and Blame | Why was he born blind? | John 9:1-34 |
| 3 – Pain and Shame | Jesus heals an ‘unclean’ woman | Mark 5:24-34 |
| 4 – Pain and Comfort | Four friends who cared | Mark 2:1-12 |
| 5 – Pain and Perspective | The suffering of Job | Job 2:1-10 |
| 6 – Pain and Persistence | Parable of the persistent widow | Luke 18:1-8 |

SPECIAL NEEDS – **CAREGIVERS** – “I want to help any way I can, but their constant demands are so draining on me. How can I care for others without burning out myself?”

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| 1 – Taking a Break | Manna and the Sabbath | Exodus 16:1-35 |
| 2 – Dealing with Demands | Moses gets weary | Exodus 17:1-16 |
| 3 – Sharing the Load | Moses decides to delegate | Exodus 18:1-27 |
| 4 – Setting Limits | Mary chooses what’s better | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 5 – Surviving the Stress | Jesus withdraws to pray | Mark 1:29-39 |
| 6 – Heeding the Call | The sheep and the goats | Matthew 25:31-46 |

SPECIAL NEEDS – **EMPTY NESTERS-WHEN THE KIDS ARE GONE** – “I guess I wasn’t prepared for the kids being gone. It’s like part of my identity went with them. I feel like it’s halftime and a whole new strategy needs to be made for the second half of life.”

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|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 – Tough Times | Naomi: a bitter empty nester | Ruth 1:1-22 |
| 2 – New Perspective | Naomi gets a grandson | Ruth 4:1-22 |
| 3 – Looking Ahead | Parable of the rich fool | Luke 12:13-21 |
| 4 – Hearing God | The call of Abram | Genesis 11:27-12:9 |
| 5 – Investing Yourself | Moses and the burning bush | Exodus 3:1-22 |
| 6 – Taking Risks | Peter steps out of the boat | Matthew 14:22-33 |

SPECIAL NEEDS – **GROWING OLDER** – “Others may say I’m too old, but I want to feel like the best is yet to come! How can I look back with gratitude, and look ahead by passing on to someone else what I’ve learned?”

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 – Faith Journey | The call of Abram | Genesis 11:27-12:9 |
| 2 – Never Too Old | Noah builds a boat | Genesis 6:5-7:12 |
| 3 – The Power of Blessing | Simeon and Anna bless Jesus | Luke 2:21-40 |
| 4 – Leaving a Legacy | Moses commissions Joshua | Numbers 27:12-23 |
| 5 – Looking Back | Remembering God’s faithfulness | Joshua 23:1-16 |
| 6 – Looking Ahead | Jesus raises Lazarus | John 11:1-44 |

RECOVERY – HEALTHY HABITS – “I’ve read so many books. I’ve tried so many diets and exercise plans. They either don’t work or I don’t stick with them. I hate what I’ve become and I can’t stand to look at myself in the mirror. What do I do? I feel like giving up.”

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 – Frustrations | The disciples in Gethsemane | Mark 14:32-42 |
| 2 – Healthy Habits | Daniel’s discipline | Daniel 1:1-21 |
| 3 – Living in Balance | Enough manna for each day | Exodus 16:1-35 |
| 4 – A Matter of Control | Israelites crave other food | Numbers 11:4-34 |
| 5 – Don’t Give Up | Children of Israel turn back | Numbers 13:26-14:45 |
| 6 – Consistent and Persistent | The walls of Jericho | Joshua 5:13-6:21 |

RECOVERY – HEALING BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS – “My family and I have hurt each other in the past. That’s why I turned my back on them. But time is running out and in my heart I want to try to make things right. But I’m afraid and need some help.”

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 – I Have a Dream | Parable of the Prodigal Son | Luke 15:11-32 |
| 2 – Heart’s Desire | Longing for reconciliation | 2 Samuel 14:1-33 |
| 3 – Called to Reconcile | The unmerciful servant | Matthew 18:21-35 |
| 4 – Taking the Initiative | Joseph reaches out | Genesis 45:1-28 |
| 5 – Anxious Anticipation | Jacob prepares to meet Esau | Genesis 32:1-21 |
| 6 – Homecoming | Jacob and Esau reunited | Genesis 33:1-20 |

RECOVERY – PICKING UP AFTER DIVORCE – “The divorce is final, but I still feel numb. On the outside, things haven’t changed that much. But on the inside, it’s another matter. I feel lost. Alone with my anger. How can I ever start to heal?”

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 – The Death of a Dream | Naomi: empty and bitter | Ruth 1:1-22 |
| 2 – Dealing with Anger | Cain and Abel | Genesis 4:1-26 |
| 3 – Taking the High Road | The unmerciful servant | Matthew 18:21-35 |
| 4 – Lost Identity | Jesus heals an ‘unclean’ woman | Mark 5:24-34 |
| 5 – God Cares | Elijah and a single mother | I Kings 17:1-24 |
| 6 – Hope for Healing | On the road to Emmaus | Luke 24:13-35 |

RECOVERY – **GRIEF AND LOSS** – “Since he died, I’ve felt like half of me died too. Why did he die and leave me so alone? I keep waking up in the night, thinking he’s there. What stages do I have to go through to get some relief?”

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|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 – Denial | Elisha and a woman in denial | 2 Kings 4:8-37 |
| 2 – Anger | Naomi: empty and bitter | Ruth 1:1-22 |
| 3 – Bargaining | David “bargains” with God | 2 Samuel 12:15-25 |
| 4 – Depression | Jacob mourns for Joseph | Genesis 37:12-36 |
| 5 – Acceptance | The suffering of Job | Job 2:1-10 |
| 6 – Hope | Jesus raise Lazarus | John 11:1-44 |

RECOVERY – **ABUSE** – “The hardest thing I ever did was share my darkest secret. Now that I’ve dared to open up the wound, what can I do to heal the pain? I know I’m not alone, but who can help me through this?”

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 – Expressing Emotion | Tamar raped by her half brother | 2 Samuel 13:1-22 |
| 2 – No More Shame | Jesus heals an ‘unclean’ woman | Mark 5:24-34 |
| 3 – Matters of the Heart | The unmerciful servant | Matthew 18:21-35 |
| 4 – You’re Not Alone | God speaks to Elijah | 1 Kings 19:1-18 |
| 5 – Walking in Love | David spares Saul | 1 Samuel 24:1-22 |
| 6 – Hope for Healing | On the road to Emmaus | Luke 24:13-35 |

RECOVERY – **12 STEPS** – “I’m hooked, and this thing is stronger than I am. I know I need a ‘Higher Power’ and I know that ‘Higher Power’ is God. How can God help me break the stranglehold of this addiction?”

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 – Going Beyond Denial | A Pharisee and a tax collector | Luke 18:9-14 |
| 2 – Naming the Higher Power | Elijah and the prophets of Baal | 1 Kings 18:16-40 |
| 3 – Coming to God | A possessed man set free | Luke 8:26-39 |
| 4 – Confession | Josiah’s reform | 2 Kings 23:1-25 |
| 5 – Making Amends | Zacchaeus makes things right | Luke 19:1-10 |
| 6 – An Addiction-Free Lifestyle | Crossing the Red Sea | Exodus 14:5-31 |