



SUMMER STUDIES

Convergence:

Where Faith and Life Meet

**Wednesdays in July & August
6:30 p.m.**

In these summer studies in July and August each session can stand on its own, so don't worry if you miss a session. You are welcome to come at any time.

The Convergence series examines the intersects between faith and life, with the goal of sparking deeper conversation and stronger community. The Convergence series encourages and educates Christians by challenging them to live faithfully in a world where culture is often at odds with their faith.

JULY STUDY

"Personal Growth: Learning to Meet the Demands of Life"

Join Donald Miller as he talks with Henry Cloud ("Boundaries") to discuss spiritual and personal growth. **July 7:** Growth and Its Ingredients; **July 14:** Relationships: Bonding & Boundaries; **July 21:** Expectations: Sorting Out Good & Bad; **July 28:** Responsibility: Meeting Life's Demands

AUGUST STUDY

"Marriage: Life After I Do"

In this marriage series we will listen in on conversations between Donald Miller, Dan Allender and Tremper Longman (authors of "Breaking the Idols of Your Heart" & "Intimate Allies") as they discuss God's design for Christian marriage and address relationship questions. **August 4:** Marriage Defined; **August 11:** Husbands and Wives; **August 18:** Leaving, Weaving and Cleaving; **August 25:** Marriage and Community.



SUMMER BOOK CLUB

**JUNE BOOK: "Chasing Francis: A Pilgrims Tale",
Discussion: Thursday, July 1, 6:30 p.m.**

Author Ian Cron shed new light on St. Francis of Assisi. He masterfully weaves actual accounts of St. Francis' radical impact on the world into a fictional story of Chase Falston, a New England minister on a pilgrimage to regain his faith. It's an amazing story with profound implications for the contemporary church. "When the death of a child in his Connecticut congregation sends minister Chase Falson into a tailspin, the elders not-so-gently suggest a sabbatical. So Chase heads for the hills of Italy - searching for himself and a second chance. What he finds is a long-dead saint and an ex-con! Does God have answers Chase can't yet see?" Come and discover Francis the first postmodern Christian.

JULY BOOK: "The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knew", Discussion: Thursday, July 29, 6:30 p.m.

Not every book on developing spiritual intimacy with God includes chapters on getting enough sleep and learning to slow down. But James Bryan Smith has tailored his recommendations for "soul-training" accordingly. "The number one spiritual sickness of our day is 'hurry sickness,'" writes the author. Smith challenges those who seek to follow God to examine the stories they already know about God, engage in new spiritual practices and enter in dialogue with others under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He analyzes "false narratives" (we can work our way to God) and asks the reader to replace them with new ones (God works His way to us). Smith believes we need a pattern of transformation. He encourages us to reexamine what we think about God (our narratives), how we practice (the spiritual disciplines), and whom we interact with (our social context) to discover the life Jesus lived and grow in the knowledge of a good God.

AUGUST BOOK: "Intimate Allies: Rediscovering God's Design for Marriage and Becoming Soul Mated for Life", Discussion: Thursday, August 19, 6:30 p.m.

In their book, "Intimate Allies," Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III, strip away cultural expectations and take a fresh look at God's design for the marriage relationship. The authors focus on five foundations taken from Genesis 1 - 3 and include an extensive review of other biblical passages on marriage. Each section begins with a real-life story concerning an unresolved marriage issue and concludes with the same story built on the "foundation" of a godly marriage. With eloquence and wisdom, this book will challenge you to move your marriage out of the mundane and into the fulfilling and enriching experiences God intended. Dan Allender is a counselor and Longman a renowned Old Testament scholar and Bible editor