



### ***Winter Choices for Adult Study***

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Winter is almost here, and with it comes a new season of study for our adult classes. Many of us are currently focusing on Advent and Christmas, but what do you plan on offering your adults beyond January 1? Here are some choices that might be good for your adult class or for your personal study; some are also good for youth. I'll have a few more choices in the December 14 newsletter. Contact information for the Resource Center is at the bottom of this article.

[Embracing Spiritual Awakening: Diana Butler Bass on the Dynamics of Experiential Faith](#) (Morehouse Education Resources, 2013) This five-session study includes a study book and a DVD with opening questions and a closing litany. The five sessions are titled: 1) Waking Up; 2) Believing; 3) Behaving; 4) Belonging; and 5) Awakening. Participants will examine and work toward understanding the changing cultural landscape in North America. Bass leads a discussion on what it means to be "spiritual" or "religious" and how Christians might be grace-filled witnesses to what we know and experience. Good for older youth and adult classes; each participant needs a book, which functions as a workbook.



[Grace & Gratitude](#) (Presbyterian Mission Agency, 2016) Part of the *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding* series, this PC(USA) study by Charles A. Wiley focuses on two words that, when combined, are important to our Reformed and Presbyterian identity and conviction. Editor Donald McKim, in an introduction to the lessons, tells us that "*seeing ourselves as daily receivers of grace and expressing gratitude to God for this grace in Christ by our actions and commitments bring meaning and significance to all we do.*"

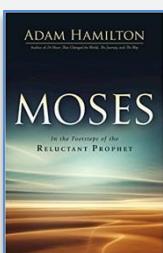
The *Being Reformed* series lessons are set up to be easy to teach and need minimal preparation time or theological knowledge. [Grace & Gratitude](#), like other *Being Reformed* studies, begins each of the six lessons with a Scripture reading and a prayer. Each lesson is followed by a suggested "Spiritual Practice" then "Questions for Reflection." The Resource Center has more than 30 choices of *Being Reformed* study subjects. Come in and browse them, or send me an email and I'll let you know some of the others.

[Read on for more winter study selections](#)

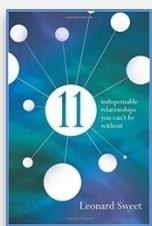




**Nooma** by Rob Bell ([www.nooma.com](http://www.nooma.com), Flannel Productions) 12-15 minute videos with author, Rob Bell. Each video follows Bell through the woods, a neighborhood, a grocery store or someplace else as he expounds on our relationship with God and God's people. The video titles and images give us little clues to the content. For instance, the above images denote "Rich," "Flame," "Store," and "Rain." The videos are very well produced, and Bell is a charismatic speaker. While you or your class may not agree with everything Bell says, these videos will bring up plenty of discussion. They are best used if the leader has viewed the video at least once before presenting to a class. The Resource Center has about 20 videos. Check out two or three at a time to keep your class thinking for many weeks. The name Nooma comes from the phonetic spelling of Pneuma (for spirit, wind, or breath) and points to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. These are good for adults or youth.



**Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet** In *Moses*, Abingdon Press (2017) once again teams up with Adam Hamilton to bring us a video series of six lessons for adult study. The study set includes a DVD, Leader Guide and study book, which each participant may or may not want to purchase. All three are included in the Resource Center set. The Leader Guide gives leaders preparation ideas, an opening activity, exploration discussions for the video and/or book (as well as help to wrap up the discussion), and a closing activity and prayer. If you are a Hamilton fan, you will probably pick this as one of your favorites. The Resource Center has several other Hamilton DVD studies, including **John, the Gospel of Light and Life** and **The Call: the Life and Message of the Apostle Paul**.



**11 Indispensable Relationships You Can't Be Without** (David Cook) In this 2016 book, author Leonard Sweet submits that there are 11 personality types we need in our lives to keep us "living right." One personality is *Nathan*, an editor, or one who tells you what you need to know, one who reminds you when you are tending toward or actually doing something wrong. Another chapter is on the *Jonathan* personality, or a true friend. Still another chapter deals with having a *Timothy*, or a protégé, in our lives; we all need someone who will look up to us, someone to guide. There are discussion questions at the end of the 12 chapters. Yes, twelve. Sweet gives us 11 personalities, then adds one more.



**For More Information email Nellie Howard at the Resource Center:**  
[resourcecenter@wvpresbytery.org](mailto:resourcecenter@wvpresbytery.org) **or call her at 304-744-7634**