

Stonecroft Bible Studies Handbook



Stonecroft
where she is ✦ as she is

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STONECROFT CONTACT INFORMATION

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800.525.8627
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Stonecroft Store (Bible Studies and Resources)

888.819.5218
stonecroft.org/store

Urgent Stonecroft Bible Studies Group Prayer Requests

800.525.8627
prayerconnections@stonecroft.org

Stonecroft Website

stonecroft.org



PART ONE

Introduction to Stonecraft and Stonecraft Bible Studies

WELCOME STONECROFT BIBLE STUDIES LEADERS!

Stonecroft Bible Studies bring people together around God's Word.

Together. That's the key.

Stonecroft volunteers gather seekers and believers in their communities to explore together what God has revealed about Himself in the Bible. We know that whether the Bible is familiar or new for your group's participants, God's Word will transform each one and bring answers to life's questions. Together, we discover God's wonder, His words, and His desire for a relationship with everyone.

Two needs lie deep within a woman's heart: friends with other women and to know Jesus Christ. Stonecroft Bible Studies (SBS) meet the first need (friendship), and through these studies God works to meet the second (to know Jesus Christ).

Why do we plan and lead these life-changing studies? We want people to begin a relationship with Jesus Christ and become His followers.

We aspire to see others know the love, the freedom, and the forgiveness offered through Christ alone, but we don't want the relationship to stop there. With God's help, we provide believers with the resources they need to grow spiritually and understand His Word. SBS have helped countless people discover God's unchanging truth, start, and mature in their relationship with Him!

Thank you! Thank you for partnering with Stonecroft to make Jesus Christ known in your area and to help others follow Jesus. Your volunteer leadership matters and you make a difference in your community!

Please know that volunteers and staff pray for you. We are thrilled that you are now part of the SBS story.

- the Stonecroft Team

As Stonecroft Bible Studies volunteers, we help people discover Jesus – no matter what their knowledge of God, familiarity with the Bible, or personal circumstances. These studies are life-changing because they emphasize how to understand and apply God's Word to their lives. Living what is learned leads to a radiant life transformation.



WHO IS STONECROFT?

Stonecroft is a Christian organization with a heart for women to begin a relationship with God. The ministry is a non-denominational, non-profit organization with the vision to help others reach women for Jesus Christ. Thousands of volunteers and a full-time staff work together to support our evangelistic outreach ministries.

It All Began with Prayer

“So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.”

– John 1:14

One woman had a love for God and a desire to deepen her ministry of prayer. In the midst of everyday life with her husband and children, she set aside specific times to pray. Soon the Lord prompted her to invite others to join her in prayer. Before long, 24 different groups of women met weekly to pray for an avenue through which they could tell people about God and His love and concern for them.

This was the beginning of Stonecroft. Many believe the ministry started with the first Christian Business and Professional Women’s Club in San Jose, but the founder Helen Duff Baugh acknowledged that, “God allowed me to have this wonderful ministry of prayer ... and used this as the foundation for Stonecroft.”

Prayer indeed forms the foundation for every outreach ministry activity, planning meeting, leadership training, Bible study, and small group. We unashamedly begin with prayer as one sign of our utter dependence on God.

This commitment is primarily expressed through a growing prayer life, but is equally revealed through a deepening faith walk. We believe that sincere and effective evangelism best occurs when a believer is

regularly engaged in a relationship with God – spending time submitting requests and listening to Him primarily through His Word. We also understand that we walk by faith in the One who is the Provider of all we need to accomplish His purposes. In this regard, as a ministry we seek the Lord to *increase our faith*.

For more information on the history of Stonecroft Ministries, visit stonecroft.org/our-history.

What We Do

Stonecroft exists so that women are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

Stonecroft has a rich history of inspiring and equipping women to reach others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Read on to understand the heart and values of serving with Stonecroft.

Stonecroft makes Christ known. Every Stonecroft activity, every group, and every training experience focus on proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel. These are also in every part of our lives.

As we mentioned before, prayer supports and strengthens everything we do. Jesus said “apart from me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5). Dependence on God, seeking His leading and blessing, is vital.

We want to help you – a Stonecroft volunteer – share your faith with women in your community. We believe that Jesus’ model of going to people and making His home among them is the best model to reach women where they are. We desire to demonstrate love and faithfulness when we share Jesus and live out His love before others.

Our training and resources are created to equip you to facilitate small groups, and have one-on-one conversations that connect with each woman where she is, as she is, no matter her background or circumstance. Stonecroft volunteers work together to reach women in diverse contexts and help them meet Jesus.



Stonecroft Bible Studies (SBS) were first published in 1968, initially designed as a means for follow-up at outreach meetings. Today, SBS and other Small Group Resources continue to introduce people to the God of the Bible, and help new believers understand and apply God's Word to their lives.

Evangelism includes discipleship. As women become Christ followers, Stonecroft provides opportunities and resources to help them grow in their faith and, in turn, lead others to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

We believe that as followers of Jesus Christ, we must commit to deepen our walk with Him through personal spiritual growth and drawing others to Jesus through our lives. SBS help make disciples of those who seek Him and those who desire mature spiritual relationships.

Equipping women for leadership is another Stonecroft hallmark. We help women discover and develop the gifts God has given, empowering them to be effective leaders who make a difference in their world by introducing others to Jesus Christ.

Stonecroft Bible Studies often follow a Women's Connection event. Women's Connection is our flagship ministry through which our volunteers have shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ for more than 75 years! These events provide opportunities for friends, family, and other women in the community to have fellowship and receive Christ. Our desire to reach women *where they are, as they are* relies on diverse avenues to reach our peers in relevant, effective ways. Women's Connection outreaches include the following:

Prayer Connections. Volunteers and friends meet monthly for prayer. After an inspirational devotion and timely Scripture, those attending pray for Stonecroft's local, national, and international outreaches, countries, and government leaders, as well as individual needs.

Women's Connection events. Women's Connection, Christian Women's Clubs, Vital Networks, After 5s and other special gatherings are our multi-generational ministries. Their similar programs set the stage for a Speaker who shares the Gospel through a vulnerable, relevant story from her life. She explains how Jesus Christ transformed her and continues to be her Lord. The Speaker then invites women to begin a relationship with Him. Each Group has its own Planning Team who pray for, plan, and implement the programs and serve in follow-up duties that allow the impact of the meeting to continue.

Stonecroft also provides additional opportunities to meet the specific circumstances, needs and interests of women across the generations so they come into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Our other outreaches include:



Stonecroft Military. Stonecroft volunteers take the Gospel to active duty women and military wives on bases and posts nationwide. Military women reach their neighbors through relevant small groups with seasoned mentors offering loving support and guidance.

Detox – find your balance. Women lead and attend a special event that includes presentations and relevant discussions about how to find balance in mind, body and soul. Several follow-up small group communities give women the opportunity to learn more about balance, the Bible, and Jesus.

Stonecroft Prays. These prayer gatherings held in homes, coffee shops, parks and other places, ask God for new ways to reach nonbelievers and for revival. An annual Prays Walk encourages women to take their prayers to the streets of their community.

Conversations. Stonecroft’s newest outreach targets women who desire to be in community with others and discuss the important topics of life. They explore what the Bible has to say about their pain and struggles and are given the opportunity to begin a relationship with Him.

Local outreaches. Community volunteers create and lead various evangelistic efforts that meet their local needs. Successful ideas are posted to our website’s Outreach Network so they can be duplicated by volunteers in other parts of the country.

In addition, Stonecroft has an international reach. It has partnerships with more than 40 countries. Our outreach groups, Bible studies, and other publications reach thousands of people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. To learn more about global outreach, visit stonecroft.org.

SBS Values

The following SBS Values align with our Women’s Connection Values. These values help us effectively reach women in our communities with the Gospel through SBS.

Gospel-centered: We want women to meet Jesus and begin a relationship with Him. Rather than advocating particular denominational practices, political views, or methods of following Jesus, we center on the core message of salvation.

Relational: We invite women into a relationship with Jesus while providing support in a Stonecroft community. Staff and volunteers work together in our unified mission of reaching women with the Gospel.

Stonecroft Bible Studies were initially designed as a means for follow-up at Stonecroft outreach meetings. The studies’ reach has expanded and studies are used in prisons, resource pregnancy centers, the workplace, churches, and other locations. Stonecroft staff, volunteer leaders, and independent authors have written these studies. The studies have been used by hundreds of thousands of people around the world.

Intentional: Stonecroft exists to reconcile women to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore, we provide many avenues for women to meet Jesus. We help our volunteers discover and joyfully grow in their God-given gifts as they share the Gospel.

Generous: We bless others by stewarding our resources well. We pray and financially partner with Stonecroft to reach as many women as possible.



Context appropriate: We create hospitable environments that are safe and inviting to non-Christians. We encourage conversation around topics that will unite, not divide.

Therefore,

Pray: We believe God changes hearts and communities because of prayer.

Invite: Rather than waiting for women to come to us, we are committed to going where they are. We want women to feel welcomed into community with each other and with Jesus.

Listen and Ask Questions: We are committed to listening and asking questions to get to know each woman and help her explore who Jesus is.

Proclaim: We offer numerous ways to learn how to share the Gospel through events, relationships, and training materials.

Study: We encourage women to know Jesus through the study of Scripture.

Stonecroft trusts these values and strategies serve you as you prepare to help women meet Jesus. We are praying for you and believe that Jesus will work powerfully in and through you!

How to Stay Connected with Stonecroft

Up-to-date information about Stonecroft can be found in our e-newsletters and on our website at stonecroft.org. To be assured that you receive Stonecroft's e-newsletters, keep your e-mail address up-to-date through connections@stonecroft.org.

Additional personal support is available from Stonecroft Home Office staff, Monday through Friday, at 800.525.8627.

For opportunities to connect with other Stonecroft volunteers in your region, contact Ministry Support at 800.525.8627 or connections@stonecroft.org. You can find events in your area by visiting stonecroft.org/resources/regional-events/ and stonecroft.org/group-locator.

Online Resources Available at stonecroft.org.

The Stonecroft website includes helpful articles, forms, and publications for those in any volunteer leadership position with Stonecroft.

- The Women's Connection Communiqué and monthly e-newsletters give Women's Connection and Stonecroft Bible Study volunteers evangelism ideas and creative ways to reach their communities.
- Friends of Stonecroft helps you learn how God uses Stonecroft to reach people around the world and gives you an opportunity to invest financially in the work of Stonecroft.
- Evangelism Tools offer you the opportunity to facilitate training on evangelism. Two of the documents available free of charge on the site are *Answering Difficult Questions* and *Starting a Faith Conversation*.



KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF STONECROFT BIBLE STUDIES

Stonecroft Bible Studies (SBS) make the Word of God accessible to everyone, no matter where they are on their spiritual journey. We pray and expect that these studies will open up many opportunities for you to be equipped and encouraged to transform your community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Understanding your word brings light to the minds of ordinary people.”

– Psalm 119:130, CEV

- The primary goal of SBS is to introduce people to Jesus through His Word. SBS effectively blend evangelism and discipleship. The Gospel is woven through every Stonecroft Bible Study and application of God’s Word is emphasized.
- SBS are for everyone, regardless of their background. While Stonecroft’s primary audience is women, SBS are for everyone.
- Each study is prepared and conducted so that those unfamiliar with God’s Word can participate. In select studies, references to New Testament Scripture are accompanied by page numbers found in the *Abundant Life New Living Translation* (select studies use the *Good News New Testament*). This simplifies looking up Bible verses for those who are unfamiliar with the Bible.
- Stonecroft volunteers hold Bible studies in homes, churches, neighborhood coffee shops, prisons, libraries, and the workplace – wherever people gather.
- SBS are easy to use one-on-one, in small groups and in larger settings. They offer a variety of study lengths (4-14 lessons).
- The groups are facilitated by a Guide who leads with discussion rather than lectures. The Guide learns along with the group and does not have the role of a teacher or counselor. Group discussion is a key element of learning and growing together as groups study God’s Word.

- Guides encourage all participants to join in discussion regardless of prior preparation. The material and application questions will help all participants discover the truth in God’s Word.
- In order to expand outreach and discipleship, the groups are designed to multiply so that others in the community can be transformed by the truth of God’s Word.

Small Group Recommendations

Small group studies often meet once a week for 60 to 90 minutes. If time is limited, the group can choose to divide the lessons in half and take more weeks to complete. Discussion is generated by shared answers to the questions and by reading the Bible verses together.

Groups often work through the first lesson together, which prepares them for individual study at home.

Before a study ends, the Guide is encouraged to present other SBS and inspire participants to host a study and invite their friends.

The group also has an opportunity to participate in an appreciation offering to support the ministry of SBS.



Everyone serving with Stonecroft Bible Studies agrees to the Stonecroft Ministries Statement of Faith and the Essentials for Facilitating a Stonecroft Bible Study. See page 35 to sign these documents.

ESSENTIALS FOR FACILITATING A STONECROFT BIBLE STUDY

Stonecroft –

- Proclaims the Gospel message in all that we are. Stonecroft exists so that people are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.
- Desires to lift up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in all things and believes that “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NLT).
- Promotes the Scriptures that tell us to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3, NIV). A spirit of love and peace has been the hallmark of Stonecroft Ministries. We depend on those who serve with us to help maintain this spirit.
- Works in harmony with churches and encourages people without church affiliation to attend a church of their choice.
- Is not called to take a stand on doctrinal, social, or political issues outside its Statement of Faith.

Because of this, Stonecroft Bible Studies –

- Seek to point participants to Scripture to find answers to faith questions. Discussion is encouraged only about what the Bible says, rather than focusing on what church doctrines or traditions teach.
- Seek to avoid distractions and disruptions stemming from discussions about doctrinal, social, or political topics on which people and/or churches disagree.

Stonecroft Bible Studies volunteers at every level –

- Are from various churches which agree with Stonecroft’s Statement of Faith. Guides and Stonecroft leaders are asked to avoid 1) recruiting people to attend their individual churches or 2) convincing others about their specific doctrinal, social, or political beliefs or views, outside of those mentioned in the Stonecroft Statement of Faith.
- Remember that the purpose of Stonecroft Bible Studies is to introduce people to the truth of the Bible and help them understand and apply God’s Word.





Stonecroft

Statement of Faith

We believe -

the supernatural and plenary (total, full, complete) inspiration of the Scriptures - that they are inerrant and that their teachings and authority are absolute, supreme, and final;

the Trinity of the Godhead - God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit;

the personality of God; the personality and deity of Jesus Christ (Jesus Christ and God are one; Jesus Christ is God incarnate in the flesh), begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, very God and very Man; the personality of the Holy Spirit;

the resurrection of Jesus Christ - that His body was raised from the dead, according to the Scriptures and that He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God as the believer's Advocate;

the sinfulness of man - that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, are totally depraved, and need a Savior from sin;

the atonement - that Jesus Christ became the sinner's sacrifice before God when He shed His blood and died as the propitiation (payment) for the sins of the whole world;

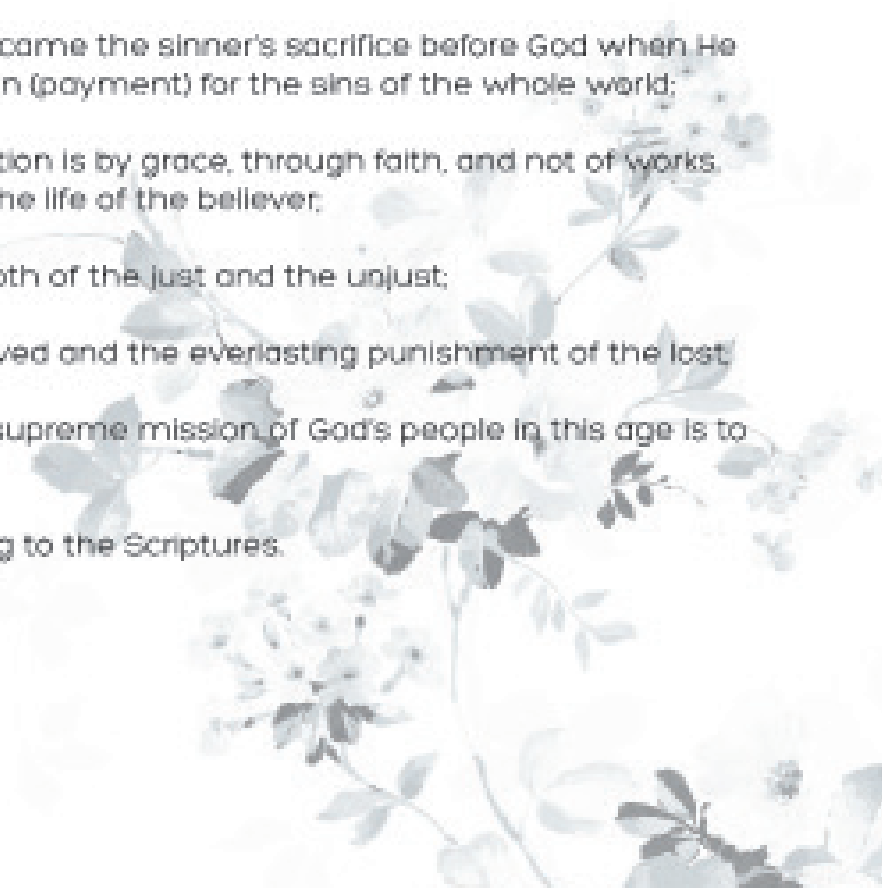
the necessity of the new birth - salvation is by grace, through faith, and not of works. Saving faith will maintain good works in the life of the believer;

the literal resurrection of the body - both of the just and the unjust;

the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost;

the evangelization of the world - the supreme mission of God's people in this age is to preach the Gospel to every person;

the second coming of Christ, according to the Scriptures.



PART TWO

Volunteers and the SBS Essentials

VOLUNTEER LEADERS IN STONECROFT BIBLE STUDIES

Each of the following key leadership positions are explained in more detail below.

- **Hosts** create a welcoming environment for SBS.
- **Guides** lead the studies.
- **Coordinators (Coordinators, SBS Team Coordinators, and Church Coordinators)** establish a Stonecroft Bible Studies ministry in a community and organize new groups.
 - An **SBS Coordinator** can also be one who is designated for follow-up at a Stonecroft outreach group or
 - One who is designated for church studies, etc.
- **Consulting Coordinators** equip and encourage Coordinators to develop their outreach.
- **District Consulting Coordinators** work to expand the SBS ministry in a region.

Small Group Leaders

Each SBS group has a **Host** and **Guide** who faithfully and prayerfully serve the ladies in the gathering.

Host

The **Host** is key to inviting friends and neighbors to the study. You have the opportunity to create a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere for each study participant. This plays an important part in their receptiveness to the Gospel.

Hosts are encouraged to do the following:

- Work with the Coordinator and/or Guide to select a day and time for the group to meet.
- Pray with them when planning the study and considering whom to invite, and at various times during the course of the study.
- Assist the Guide in starting and ending on time.

- Arrange for child care, if applicable. Encourage each parent to contribute to the cost of the sitters.
- Invite others to the study and follow up each personal invitation with a phone call.

Guide

As a **Guide**, your responsibility is to facilitate the study. As you serve with your Coordinator, you have the opportunity to make an impact on your community by introducing others to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The term “Guide” originated from the book of Acts where Philip asked the official, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And [the official] said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” (Acts 8:30-31, NASB).

Guides are encouraged to do the following:

- Pray specifically for each person who will be in the study.
- Abide by the Statement of Faith and Essentials for Facilitating a Stonecroft Bible Study (page 35).
- Receive training from a Coordinator to facilitate Stonecroft Bible Studies. This will help you stay informed and equipped on ways to improve your skills as a Guide. Helpful training resources for Guides are found starting on page 20 in this Handbook.
- Order Bible study materials from Stonecroft prior to starting a study group, providing payment at the time of order. The Guide collects payments from participants for Study Books and New Testaments.
- Prepare for the group by reviewing the materials. During the study, the Guide makes group aware of the importance of confidentiality in the group and keeps group focused on study questions and Scripture. Discussion is focused on discovering what the Bible says, rather than focusing on what church doctrines or traditions teach. (See Tips for Guides on page 22.)



CHARACTERISTICS OF A COORDINATOR

Several characteristics describe a Stonecroft Bible Studies Coordinator (including Coordinator, SBS Team Coordinator, Church Coordinator, Consulting Coordinator, and District Consulting Coordinator). Each volunteer:

- has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and is growing in Him.
- is eager for others to know the Savior and the transforming power of God's Word.
- abides by the Essentials for Facilitating a Stonecroft Bible Studies.
- communicates and works well with others.
- has the ability to motivate others to become involved in Stonecroft Bible Studies so more people can learn God's Word.
- is passionate about the discipleship of others, helping them become more like Christ.

Coordinator

A **Coordinator** establishes an SBS ministry in your community. You will work with Stonecroft leaders and other Christians to challenge believers to reach their neighborhoods for Christ through the life-changing power of God's Word.

Coordinators are selected by Consulting Coordinators in collaboration with their District Consulting Coordinator to work with Guides and Hosts in their communities or specialty areas.

Coordinators are encouraged to do the following:

- Identify potential Guides and arrange a time to speak with them about the role of a Guide. When meeting with a potential Guide, we encourage you to use the interview ideas found on page 20.
- Once the Guide and Coordinator both agree to move forward with starting a Bible study group, the Coordinator trains the Guide in selecting the appropriate study, inviting participants, selecting and training Hosts, effectively facilitating a group, and ordering Stonecroft materials. Helpful training resources are found on pages 19-24.
- Pray regularly for the SBS outreach in the area.

- Notify Stonecroft of new Guides and Hosts, using the Volunteer Contact Information form, or emailing connections@stonecroft.org. Use the Ministry Activity Report online or hardcopy Stonecroft Activity Report to report group's participants and their progress.
- Organize new Bible studies and challenge the participants to expand the outreach of SBS by adding Guides and groups. You may want to visit a SBS periodically to meet potential Guides.
- Maintain communication and develop personal relationships with Guides throughout the year. Pray regularly for Guides and Hosts and provide additional training and encouragement when needed. Introduce new Stonecroft Bible Studies and coach on group facilitation skills.
- Work in conjunction with the regional leadership team to bring Guides together within the area. In addition, Coordinators may plan events such as informational meetings to introduce people to Stonecroft Bible Studies (see page 27).

SBS Team Coordinator

As an SBS Team Coordinator, you provide continuous small group Bible study opportunities for those at a local outreach event who have prayed with the Speaker or expressed interest in learning more about



the Bible studies. As a member of the Leadership Team of your Women's Connection group, you encourage the Planning Team in its understanding and involvement in Stonecroft Bible Studies. You also act as liaison to other Coordinators in your area.

The Coordinator is selected by the Consulting Coordinator in cooperation with her District Consulting Coordinator.

In addition to the responsibilities of a Coordinator, an SBS Team Coordinator is encouraged to take these steps:

- Serve as part of a Leadership Team on a local Stonecroft Planning Team and attend Planning Team meetings; partner with a Chair/Area Representative in contacting individuals to invite them to join a Stonecroft Bible Study.
- Follow up on participant requests within three to four days of the outreach event and ensure they have information about Stonecroft and current Stonecroft Bible Studies groups. See "Follow-up Helps" on stonecroft.org/resources/bible-studies/
- A Women's Connection Speaker may request a specific Stonecroft Bible Study be started following the event. Work together with your Chair or Speaker to prepare for this.
- Inspire the Planning Team to participate in Stonecroft Bible Studies, host a new study, and invite their friends.
- Share prayer requests concerning the Bible studies and report on new groups that will start at Planning Team meetings.
- Engage and train Guides to ensure that participants have a wide range of studies available.
- Stay in communication and continue to develop personal relationships with Guides throughout the year. Commit to pray for them regularly and provide additional training and encouragement when needed. Introduce new Stonecroft Bible Studies and coach on group facilitation skills.

Church Coordinator

The Church Coordinator position is designed to equip church leaders to guide Stonecroft Bible Studies. As a Church Coordinator, you will organize Stonecroft Bible Studies in your church, encouraging believers to reach those who do not yet know Jesus in their neighborhoods. You have the opportunity to develop future leaders in your church as they guide studies and grow through God's Word.

A Church Coordinator is encouraged to:

- Become informed of the uniqueness of Stonecroft Bible Studies and their evangelistic outreach, recognizing Bible studies are written to attract Christian and non-Christian participants, regardless of denominational affiliation.
- Work with their church staff and leadership to promote Stonecroft Bible Studies to encourage those currently not engaged in a Bible study to join one of Stonecroft's Introductory Studies, such as *Who is Jesus?*, *What is God Like?*, *Where is the Holy Spirit?*, or *Why Believe?*
- Connect with a regional Stonecroft volunteer or contact Stonecroft's Home Office (the national headquarters in the Kansas City area) to locate the closest District Consulting Coordinator or Consulting Coordinator for necessary training and resources.
- Facilitate a Stonecroft Bible Study and then train Guides to start a group, lead a study, and order and use Stonecroft materials.
- Use the Stonecroft Bible Studies Application (recommended) when interviewing and selecting Stonecroft Bible Study Guides, as it assists church leaders in determining the applicant's faith journey and qualifications.
- Pray for the ministry of equipping Guides, organizing studies, and reaching the community with the Gospel.

Materials to use when you present Stonecroft Bible Studies to churches:



- Stonecroft Statement of Faith
- Stonecroft Studies brochure
- Any additional materials which would be helpful to the local church

Consulting Coordinator

Consulting Coordinators (CCs) are selected by District Consulting Coordinators in collaboration with their Stonecroft Regional Administrator (SRA) to work with Coordinators in a geographical region or specialty area.

As a CC, your main responsibility is to expand the Stonecroft Bible Studies ministry in your area by equipping and encouraging Coordinators to further develop their outreach. You will be a spiritual mentor to strengthen their vision for reaching those who are without Christ.

In addition to the Coordinator's responsibilities, a CC is encouraged to do the following:

- Interview and select new Coordinators in the region; inform new Coordinators of the Guides with whom they will work; work with local Planning Teams to select SBS Team Coordinators. Interviewing tips can be found on page 24.
- Notify Stonecroft of new Coordinators and their contact information, as well as any Guides and Hosts who report to the new leader, by emailing connections@stonecroft.org.
- Work with Coordinators to engage and select Guides, equip Coordinators with training skills and ways to handle difficult situations; keep resources updated for the Bible study ministry within their region.
- Stay informed on all Stonecroft communication and submit online or hardcopy *Stonecroft Activity Reports* as necessary.
- Keep in communication and continue to develop personal relationships with Coordinators throughout the year. Pray regularly for Coordinators. Provide additional training and encouragement when

needed by having events to equip and encourage Bible study leaders. Pass along applicable information from Stonecroft to Guides and Hosts.

- Support the prayer ministry of the Stonecroft Prayer Consultant (SPC) in the area. The SPC is the volunteer who coordinates prayer for a region.
- Encourage Coordinators to expand Stonecroft Bible Studies in new areas by identifying geographical areas in their region where they are able to support further expansion.
- If there is not an active Coordinator in a region, the Consulting Coordinator may assume this position.

District Consulting Coordinator

District Consulting Coordinators (DCCs) are selected by the SRAs and through recommendations received from the region's additional volunteer leadership. This position is the top Bible study leader in the SBS region. They report to Stonecroft, while working closely with SRAs, Stonecroft Development Leaders, and others on the regional leadership team.

As a DCC, you work to expand the SBS ministry in your region by developing and strengthening leaders. Your spiritual leadership is a vital component for a strong biblical foundation in your region.

DCCs are encouraged to do the following:

- Maintain and expand SBS in the region by setting goals to reach new geographical areas. Build and strengthen outreach in the region.
- Interview and select new CCs in the region. Notify Stonecroft of new Coordinators and CCs and their contact information, as well as any Coordinators, Guides, and Hosts who report to the new leader, by emailing connections@stonecroft.org.
- Train CCs in their responsibilities to encourage and motivate Coordinators and Guides in their volunteer responsibilities to multiply their groups. In addition, equip them to expand their outreach in their community to both believers and those who do not yet know Jesus.



- Maintain regular communication, develop relationships, and pray regularly with CCs and Coordinators. You are encouraged to provide additional training and encouragement when needed.
- Introduce new SBS and keep the Bible study leaders informed about Stonecroft news. A DCC may contact Stonecroft about using a Stonecroft conference call line to bring the team together.
- Participate in monthly conference calls to stay informed on all Stonecroft communication. Submit online or hardcopy *Stonecroft Activity Reports* as necessary.
- Plan annual training for all SBS leaders in the region for leadership development of Consulting Coordinators, Coordinators, and Guides.

Reminder to Volunteers:

The Stonecroft Women's Connection staff at the Home Office headquarters in Overland Park, Kansas, is available to serve you with the tools and resources needed to equip and encourage SBS leaders.

- Trained staff is available Monday-Friday at 800.525.8627 to offer prayer, encouragement, support, and assistance.
- DCCs and CCs serve as resource people to provide inspiration, encouragement, and training relevant to the needs of their area. If you have an interest in starting a new Bible study group, need additional training, or have questions about Stonecroft, these leaders are there to provide assistance.

RESIGNATION OF LEADERS

If circumstances require a District Consulting Coordinator, Consulting Coordinator, or Coordinator to resign, the resigning leader should notify the “report to” leader. For example, if a Coordinator is resigning, the Consulting Coordinator should be notified.

The “report to” leader will then notify Stonecroft by emailing connections@stonecroft.org. The “report to” leader should also provide Stonecroft with the name of the Coordinator who will now be responsible for the resigned leader’s Coordinators, Guides, and/or Hosts. Notify Stonecroft of the resignation of any volunteers who are no longer serving.

If you are serving in a location without a “report to” leader, contact Stonecroft directly.

The resigning leader should distribute materials on hand to other local Stonecroft Bible Studies leaders.

If irresolvable conflict has occurred, the leader agrees to quietly and graciously resign.





PART THREE

Training Resources

TRAINING FOR STONECROFT BIBLE STUDIES LEADERS

Training leaders is an important part of the Stonecroft Bible Studies program. The following resources are created to be helpful tools for interviewing potential leaders and training leaders for service. They are designed as one-page documents, allowing you to print and use them as a handout or training resource.

Effective training equips leaders with the skills to communicate effectively, tackle new responsibilities, or stay sharp in their position. Well-trained leaders are a key ingredient for SBS.

When training any SBS leader, review the following:

- Prayer, individually and corporately, with other leaders is vital in ministry. Pray for your study group, church, and community, as well as for Stonecroft. Prayer has been the foundation of Stonecroft since its beginnings more than 75 years ago!
- Stonecroft and regional leaders are available to encourage, equip, and support you as you lead others to explore God's Word. Review the relationship with Stonecroft and its leaders (see Section 1) and also visit stonecroft.org for more information.
- SBS are uniquely suited for today. Studies are written with people who may have little or no knowledge of the Bible in mind. A SBS is a unique study that evangelizes, informs, educates, and discipless women through God's Word.
- Individuals from various church affiliations use Stonecroft Bible Studies. Bible studies will have greater meaning if you invite neighbors, friends, co-workers, and anyone else who wants to explore God's Word for themselves, whether they have new faith in Christ or they are just beginning to explore faith.

Tips for Selecting and Interviewing Potential Guides

Approach local Guide selection thoughtfully, prayerfully, and strategically. Guides help expand SBS in your area. It is important to look for the qualities in a Guide that would correspond to the responsibilities described on pages 12-13.

The following guidelines are helpful when considering individuals to serve as Guides:

- Pray prior to meeting with the potential Guide, asking God to give both of you wisdom and discernment regarding this position.
- Arrange a time to get acquainted with each other. Be prepared to acquaint prospective Guides with Stonecroft Bible Studies and Stonecroft Ministries, if needed. During the interview, focus on areas included on the Stonecroft Bible Studies Application.
 - Does the potential Guide present a clear salvation testimony?
 - Does the person have a passion for the transforming power of the Word of God and a heart for reaching those who do not know Christ?
 - Is the potential Guide willing to work with people with varied beliefs, cultural, and denominational backgrounds?
 - What experience does the person have in studying God's Word and guiding Bible studies?
 - Is the potential Guide willing to abide by the Essentials for Facilitating a Stonecroft Bible Study and the Statement of Faith (page 35)?
- Potential Guides are encouraged to read and understand the helpful resources on pages 10.
- Discuss the role of a Guide, described earlier in Part Two (pages 12-13). Receive the completed Stonecroft Bible Studies Application from the potential Guide.



Approving a New Guide

If you feel the person is ready to Guide and has passed the application process, schedule a time to train the candidate as a Guide. Use pages 12-13 of this Handbook. Keep the Guide's application for your files. After completing the selection process, contact your Stonecroft regional leaders with the new Guide information. In addition, contact Ministry Support staff with this same information. You may do this one of the following ways:

- Email: connections@stonecroft.org.
- Mail the Stonecroft Bible Studies Volunteer Contact Information form (available on the website) to Stonecroft 10561 Barkley, Suite 500, Overland Park, KS 66212.

Please include the Guide's complete mailing address, telephone number(s), and email address. This is also the way to communicate new Host information.

Upon Stonecroft's receipt of the information, the newly selected Guide will receive a welcome email confirming her new position. Guides will also be part of the network of volunteers and will receive Stonecroft's e-newsletter. Obtain a log-in to access Stonecroft's website for volunteers and other resources by visiting stonecroft.org.

Reporting your new Guides (and Hosts) will assure they are identified as Stonecroft leaders. We consider every person who is involved valuable to your local ministry and part of reaching our world for Jesus Christ.

If the candidate's testimony is unclear or if the person is not ready to Guide, carefully read the completed application to gain assurance her testimony is clear. You may want to consider reading through the *Would You Believe It?* booklet with the candidate. Prayerfully consider asking the candidate a few more questions about her relationship with Jesus Christ, such as:

- "I'd like to hear more about your journey with God. What role has Christ played?"
- "If a Stonecroft Bible Studies participant asked you how they could be in relationship with Jesus Christ, how would you respond?"
- "What is your understanding of the Gospel, and how would you communicate it?"

If you have questions or concerns about the candidate, you may contact a local Coordinator, Consulting Coordinator, District Consulting Coordinator, or Representative for assistance. If you are still unsure, contact the Ministry Support staff at 800.525.8627 or email connections@stonecroft.org.

Remember that not everyone is ready to be a Guide. If you discern that a potential Guide is not able to focus on the core vision of Stonecroft Bible Studies and avoid controversial, social, and political issues, gently encourage her away from guiding the study; instead encourage her to participate in a study. You may want to discuss this with your Consulting Coordinator.

Tips for Training New Guides

Each Guide is unique and has differing experiences, therefore the training is unique to each one. Here is an example of how to train a new Guide:

- Give a brief introduction to Stonecroft (pages 3-5) and the characteristics of Stonecroft Bible Studies (page 7). Due to these characteristics, encourage Guides to bring together people from a variety of faith backgrounds. The studies are designed to draw people to God's Word for answers.
- Explain that the studies share how to apply biblical principles and the desired result is more radiant Christians who desire to worship and obey Christ.
- Talk through the Stonecroft Bible Studies Guide Brochure that comes with each Bible study purchase. It details how to Guide the study, including how to prepare and lead the study. The tips from other Guides located on page 22 may also be helpful.



Why “Guide” and not “Teacher”

The term “Guide” originated from the book of Acts. We learn of a eunuch riding along in his carriage. As he rode, he was reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. With prompting from God, Philip ran over and heard him reading from the book. Philip asked the man, “Do you understand what you’re reading?” The official replied, ‘Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?’” (Acts 8:31, NASB). Then he invited Philip to sit with him.

Philip had the amazing privilege of sharing the Gospel with this man. He guided him into an understanding of God’s Word and the message of the Gospel. As a Guide, you will have the opportunity to Guide people to the truth as well!

As a Guide, you will prepare for your study differently than a teacher would. You will be learning along with the others – not lecturing or presiding as an expert. You are not expected to know all the answers. You are there to direct the discussion and encourage participation.

- Guides can strive to make the study environment a safe place for learning (see page 23). Consider establishing respect and confidentiality guidelines at the beginning of the study, being non-judgmental, open, and accepting. As Guides, establish the opportunity for the relationships in the group to develop into a caring community.
- Explain how to keep the discussion “on track.” Sometimes it is difficult to interrupt, though you often might need to gently interject, so the conversation does not go on a rabbit trail. Keep moving forward, always bringing the conversation back to the Scripture and what God says.
- If the new Guide has never experienced a Stonecroft study, you may want to work together through a sample lesson, so the new Guide better understands what is involved.
- Pray together for this new Guide and the new study group.

Helpful Tips for New Guides from Other Guides

Before the study begins, we encourage you to:

- Contact the Host and get acquainted. Discuss the study time, location, and how many books to order.
- Invite friends, family, coworkers, and others you meet. The goal is to invite non-believers and seekers.
- Order the study materials.
- Read the first lesson of the study and contact your Coordinator if you have any questions.
- Pray for each person who will attend.

During the study, we encourage you to:

- Greet the participants and make them feel welcome.
- Distribute the materials and collect payment.
- Let the participants know that the group consists of various church and family backgrounds. Encourage them to not debate doctrines or issues that churches interpret differently.
- Point participants to Scripture to find answers to faith questions. Discussion is encouraged only about what the Bible says, rather than focusing on what church doctrines or traditions teach.
- Aim to avoid distractions and disruptions stemming from discussions about doctrinal, social, or political topics on which people and/or churches disagree.
- Foster participation.
- Understand it is not your responsibility to persuade everyone to agree.
- If someone brings up a serious personal situation, pray with the individual and encourage that person to talk to a church leader or counselor.
- At the end of your meeting, encourage your group to read through and answer the questions in the next lesson. Preparation will enhance and accelerate spiritual growth.
- Have a supply of *Would You Believe It?* booklets available for those who ask how to begin a rela-



tionship with Christ. You can read through the book together as a group or individually with the person. The books can be ordered by visiting stonecroft.org/store.

At the last session, we encourage you to:

- Ask each person to think of other non-believers or seekers they can invite to another study. Encourage them to pray for each one by name.
- Tell your Coordinator about any participants in your group who you think would make good Guides.

How Guides Can Create an Environment for Learning and Sharing

Maintain and build feelings of self-confidence and self-worth.

Acknowledge ideas, comments, and responses in a sincere and specific manner by restating what the person did or said. Remember when people don't have a faith background or knowledge of Scripture, they may say some things that are not necessarily accurate. As the Guide, you can still acknowledge their beliefs.

- Use a variety of statements to praise participants. Using the same phrase too often (such as "Great job!") could cause your sincerity to be questioned. Consider taking a few words from the person's sentence and repeating it back. "I really liked what you said about ..."
- When correcting or clarifying, take the focus off the individual and put it on the situation.

Listen and seek to understand the participants.

- Listen to the entire statement before responding; do not interrupt. Remember you are there to serve, encourage, and support participants. Be careful not to represent yourself as the authority.
- Be a non-judgmental listener – concentrate on what participants say instead of whether you agree or not. Affirm what you can affirm, and then turn the question to someone else.
- Be aware of nonverbal messages participants send.

A frown or not making eye contact could indicate more clarification is needed. Feel free to ask, "I can tell you have something on your mind. What are you thinking?"

Encourage involvement.

- Feel free to rephrase questions if it would be helpful for understanding. Use open-ended questions, rather than those that can be answered "yes" or "no." These are questions such as, "What are your thoughts?" "How do you feel about ...?" "Give me an example." "Tell me more about that." These simple questions or statements can be very helpful to encourage dialogue.
- When asking questions of the group, it is helpful to wait at least a few seconds for someone to respond. This gives participants time to think. If you believe that someone prefers not to share, respect that. Avoid putting people on the spot by calling on them by name. You can encourage their participation by asking, "Would anyone else like to share?" Or you can also speak with individuals privately and let them know you would love to hear from them.
- Keep the discussion "on track." Sometimes you may need to gently interject when the conversation is dominated by one person. Be aware of those unique opportunities the Lord is using to share at a deeper level.

Additional Tips

- Someone whose life experience relates to the study could be invited to share a brief testimony of what God has taught her or how He has been real in her life.
- If someone expresses a concern that may require counseling, approach the person privately. Encourage her to seek godly counsel.
- Regional leaders are trained and willing to help you prayerfully work through situations when controversy disrupts a study group or when a participant causes difficulties. These leaders are valuable assets when handling controversial issues or conflict resolution.



- For more ideas on encouraging participation and handling situations, check out the facilitation document in the Evangelism Tools on the stonecroft.org website.

Tips for Interviewing Potential Bible Studies Coordinators

Selection of Coordinators

When selecting a potential Coordinator who will train SBS Guides, it is helpful if the person has guided SBS in the past. This helps the Coordinator better understand the mission, goals, and uniqueness of our studies. It is important to look for the qualities in a Coordinator that would correspond to the positional responsibilities described on page 14.

The following Guidelines may be helpful when considering individuals to serve as Coordinators.

- Pray prior to meeting with the candidate, asking God to give both you and the potential Coordinator wisdom and discernment regarding this position.
- Visit in person or by phone with the potential Coordinator to be sure that the person is a viable candidate before giving the application. If possible, meet with the person face-to-face.
- When interviewing a potential Coordinator, look for a leader who has a passion for God's Word, a heart to see others experience His Word, and a commitment to spread God's Word through the use of SBS. Since the Coordinator will identify Guides and provide ongoing training, good communication and people skills are very helpful.
- When possible, determine that the candidate has a good relationship with a church that is in agreement with Stonecroft's Statement of Faith.

If you recommend someone to be a Coordinator, ask the candidate to complete a Stonecroft Bible Studies Application. Notify Stonecroft of new Coordinators and their contact information by emailing connections@stonecroft.org.

Training Events and Communication

Many Coordinators send out a newsletter from time to time to keep in touch with their Guides. Conference calls are also a great resource to keep the Guides connected in your area.

Coordinators should plan events for SBS Guides to get together for mutual support and encouragement, as well as equipping in how to effectively facilitate SBS. They can meet to benefit from networking, praying, sharing common concerns, learning people skills, and exploring how to respond to challenging questions!

These events can be as simple as meeting together at a coffee shop or more structured with a seasonal or fun theme.

Consider these ideas for Guide training events:

- A special time of prayer and fellowship
- A Scripture challenge or devotional, encouraging and thanking them for serving
- Introducing Guides and sharing positive results in their studies
- Train in: sharing your testimony, multiplying outreach in your community, introducing Stonecroft to the local church or community service organization. This also should be a time to learn from each other. Have Guides share how they invite participants, the most difficult situations they encountered, and where they have seen God at work in the participants' lives.
- Information about new Stonecroft Bible Studies and other Stonecroft updates – challenge Guides with new leadership or mentoring opportunities.
- End with encouragement and a time to pray for one another.



PART FOUR

Expanding Stonecroft Bible Studies

MULTIPLYING STONECROFT BIBLE STUDIES

You serve in an area of great need in our world as Stonecrock Bible Studies leaders. Many people today have very little knowledge of the Bible and the truth about Jesus Christ. SBS make the Word of God accessible to anyone, regardless of their knowledge or background.

SBS help people discover a relationship with Jesus Christ. God has placed you in your communities to be a voice for His Word. We pray that you will know exactly where and when to begin these studies, so that people will know Him.

Tips for Guides – Multiplying Stonecrock Bible Studies

SBS groups are designed to multiply, which encourages participants to share what they have learned with others.

- Ask each person in your group to think of others they can invite to another study. Encourage them to pray for each one by name.
- Identify potential Hosts and Guides from participants in your study groups. Arrange a time for them to meet your local Coordinator. Use the characteristics on page 12 to identify potential new Guides.
- Use Stonecrock Information Cards to gather contact information from study group participants. (Downloadable cards are available on our website. You can also call 800.525.8627 or email connections@stonecrock.org.) If participants live in various communities, these cards may help you plan new groups in new areas.
- At the end of the study, a *Ministry Activity Report* should be completed online or a *Stonecrock Activity Report* hardcopy sent to Stonecrock. Send a copy of each report to your local Coordinator, which allows her to keep your group in prayer; share news of what God is doing in your community; and track how God's Word expands throughout the region and state.

As a Guide, you can also expand the Bible study outreach in your community. Begin to pray for the people you encounter in your everyday activities and listen to what God says. Some ideas for creating new studies include:

- Post a flyer at the YWCA or your local fitness center.
- Start a study in a coffee shop.
- Advertise your SBS in a local free newspaper.
- Check with your local church about offering a study for parents during regularly scheduled weekly programs for children.
- Ask the activities director at a local assisted care facility about offering a study for residents.
- Consider a lunch hour study with co-workers.
- Invite neighbors for an evening study.

Tips for Coordinators

- When you interview and train new Guides, present the goal of beginning new Introductory Studies (*Who is Jesus?*, *What is God Like?*, and *Why Believe?*) and multiplying groups.
- Some study groups stay together because of the relationships built. As groups study and grow together, encourage the Guide to share her enthusiasm for starting a new group. Have participants share stories about how SBS had an impact on their lives, then encourage them to start a new group so others can have the same experience.
- During regular phone calls with your Guides, pray and discuss potential Hosts or Guides. Be prepared to set up a time to visit the group and establish new relationships. Remember that new Guides will need to be interviewed and selected.
- Be alert for opportunities to engage new Guides. Meet with local Planning Teams (Women's Connection group leaders), local church leadership, Christian friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Consider where you would like to have a study start and ask God to direct your future conversations. Most importantly, be bold and persistent.



- Consider starting a team of Coordinators assigned to different demographics in your community. For example, one Coordinator might meet with local church groups, one with social service groups, e.g. homeless shelters, resource pregnancy centers, nursing homes, or prisons. Another Coordinator could explore summer Bible studies in a public park or introduce them to local businesses.
- Use reports to help track expansion. The *Coordinator's Quarterly Report* to her Consulting Coordinator combined with *Ministry Activity Reports* (or *Stonecroft Activity Reports*) help track individual groups and their progress. It is important to follow up with SBS Guides regularly and be aware of estimated study end dates, Send reminders of due reports on a regular basis.
- Your District Consulting Coordinators and Consulting Coordinators are the support team to guide your efforts. Share prayer requests for your groups with them and let them know the tools and training you might find helpful.

Tips for District Consulting Coordinators / Consulting Coordinators

- As the key regional leaders often responsible for numerous SBS Guides and Coordinators, your ability to strengthen and develop leaders is vital to the expansion of the studies. Prayer is a key component of this position and is foundational to ministry.
- The Ministry Support team at the Home Office can provide tools to assist in tracking Guides and groups. The *Coordinator's Quarterly Report to Consulting Coordinator* and *Ministry Activity Reports* (or *Stonecroft Activity Reports*) are samples of the necessary tools to keep you aware of the activity in the large geographic region you supervise.
- For expansion and development of more studies, all Coordinators are encouraged to meet for prayer as they develop their strategic plan to reach a city, county, or state. An excellent tool to use with your leaders is a state or county map, as you begin to chart and set new goals. Colored dots on maps and other charting tools can be used in the following ways: rural and urban designated communities; identification of trained Guides and existing stud-

ies; recognition of cultural demographics; and new community developments.

This will give an idea of where ministry takes place. It will also reveal where it is not! You can then target those areas for prayer and goal-setting for new studies and future leaders. Informational meetings offer a great way to introduce Stonecroft in a local area, Training leaders to set time aside for these gatherings provides a good launching point to expand Stonecroft Bible Studies.

Informational Meetings

Informational meetings are a great way to introduce people to Stonecroft Bible Studies. These meetings may include new Christians, those who do not yet know Christ, and seasoned Christians. Typically, a Coordinator or Guide generates interest, though anyone can hold an informational meeting in her community. Here are a few tips:

- Find a location where you can host a simple get-together.
- Personally invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers – especially those who have never been in a Bible study before, but are interested in exploring matters of faith.
- Consider asking those in your church whom you know are not currently a part of a Bible study group. This is an easy way to introduce them to studying the Bible.
- Use a similar format as you begin to identify Christian leaders to become Guides. Put increased emphasis on the importance of reaching our communities with the Gospel.
- Arrange for a display of Stonecroft materials by contacting Ministry Support at connections@stonecroft.org or 800.525.8627 or by contacting your regional leaders for additional resources.



Possible Display Items

- Stonecroft Bible Studies Card
- Stonecroft Life Publications
- Information Cards
- Stonecroft Bible Studies and Small Groups brochures
- Introductory Study Book (*Who Is Jesus?, What Is God Like? or Why Believe?*)
- Other Stonecroft Bible Studies
- *Abundant Life New Living Translation Bible*

Meeting Tips

- Use a fun survey sheet to gather information as guests arrive, or use Stonecroft's basic Information Cards, if you prefer a simpler approach.
- Share the vision of Stonecroft Ministries. Describe some of the unique qualities of Stonecroft Bible Studies. (Refer to page 7 of this Handbook.)
- Have someone tell how his or her life has been changed by the studies, or tell them your story.
- Ask a few questions and allow for discussion as well as question and answer time.
- Use a sign-up sheet for later follow-up (be alert to possible Guides/Hosts).
- Be creative and have fun!
- You may want to prepare take-home packets. Consider including the following items: Stonecroft Bible Studies brochure (requested from stonecroft.org/resources/womens-connection/), your contact information, and a Stonecroft pen (available for purchase from stonecroft.org/store).

Home Gatherings

Stonecroft Home Gatherings provide a natural way to connect friends and neighbors who may not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, or may not participate in a church or Bible study. Home Gatherings provide a warm and welcoming setting, often themed around a season or holiday. A speaker presents the Gospel in a non-threatening, inviting manner. These gatherings can generate interest for neighborhood Bible studies and other shared interest opportunities. Religious holidays such as Christmas and Easter are a perfect time to consider a Home Gathering.

To find a Speaker, check with a local Women's Connection Chair or Regional Speaker Trainer.

Why Home Gatherings?

Home Gatherings help you build friendships with the people closest to you – your neighbors. People's hearts are often more receptive to the Gospel, particularly during the holiday season. These gatherings are a fun, easy, and meaningful way to share your faith with others.

Often just two people hold a Home Gathering – a host and a speaker. The host invites friends and neighbors. The speaker shares her brief Gospel-centered talk or salvation testimony.

At the conclusion of the talk, guests are invited to silently pray with the speaker a prayer of invitation to begin a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. They receive a Comment Card (requested from stonecroft.org/resources/womens-connection/) and, after the event, the guests are invited to attend a SBS. Either *Who is Jesus?* or *Why Believe?* or one of our other Introductory Bible Studies can be used.

What are good themes for Home Gatherings?

A Christmas Gathering is a great example of a Home Gathering. At a Christmas Gathering, guests get to



know one another as they enjoy Christmas treats and discuss their families' holiday traditions. The event also includes a guest speaker who gives a brief talk about the real meaning of Christmas. This includes a clear presentation of the Gospel, an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ, and an opportunity to participate in a Bible study.

While Christmas is a good time for Home Gatherings, you can also schedule these events at other times of the year. Consider the calendar carefully as schedules get very busy! February events focused on Valentine's Day are fun; summer barbecues offer a chance for neighbors to meet each other; Thanksgiving is also special, since everyone has something to be thankful for and faith can be easily introduced. It is never too early in the year to begin praying, planning, and connecting with your neighbors informally.

Where can I learn more about Home Gatherings?

For more information, please contact Ministry Support at 800.525.8627 or email connections@stonecroft.org. Local or regional Stonecroft leaders can also provide some great ideas for gatherings such as these.

Special Training Events

Stonecroft offers inspiring national, regional, and local events that focus on our mission to help women share the Gospel in meaningful, relevant ways. Every year, DCCs and CCs plan inspirational training events to equip and encourage Coordinators, Guides, and other Bible study leaders. These events offer great opportunities to introduce new people to Stonecroft.

Training Event Tips

- Choose a comfortable environment where conversation can flow easily (usually a home or church).
- Brainstorm with other leaders in your region about how to best equip and encourage those who attend. You can also access additional resources from the Home Office to put on a well-thought-out training event.

- Gather a training team of Coordinators to brainstorm new strategies for community outreach.
- Select a few leaders who have an exciting or inspirational story to share.
- Consider specific goals and objectives.
- Challenge people to focus on the unchurched and those who do not yet know Jesus. Use Scripture that provides great inspiration.
- Focus on developing the skills of Guides and how they lead a group of those exploring faith. Possibly have a skit showing how to handle skeptical participants.
- Communicate the current number of Bible study groups. Challenge them to expand their outreach to local churches or community service organizations or to widen their studies to include men, couples, teens, and/or people in the workplace.
- Always pray for lives to be transformed as people understand and follow God's directions for life.
- Plan a fun theme with an interesting speaker – Stonecroft staff or Bible studies leaders from another region often work well.
- Budget for your expenses. If necessary, charge a registration fee (follow guidelines on the *Financial Summary for a One-Time Event*, an accounting document found in the Resources and Forms section). This fee would be used for costs of Speaker, printing, refreshments, room rental, child care workers, etc.
- Prepare attractive, fun invitations and invite Guides throughout the state, current and past Bible study participants, and new people interested in the mission and purpose of Stonecroft.
- Arrange for a Bible study display around the theme for the event, emphasizing Introductory Studies and the most up-to-date materials to aid in their outreach. Keep the display simple and inviting; less is more. (Call the Home Office for more information.)



PART FIVE

Book Orders and Donations

ORDERS AND RETURNS

Stonecroft Bible Studies and other supplies and resources discussed in this handbook can be obtained by placing orders online at stonecroft.org/store or by phone at 888.819.5218. When placing an order by phone, let the customer service representative know that you want Stonecroft to receive credit for your order. A complete listing of all Stonecroft Bible Studies is available at stonecroft.org/store. Click on the "catalog" button toward the top to see the complete listing. You can then click on the any photo to get pricing and a more detailed description.

Any Stonecroft Bible Studies leader may order Stonecroft materials.

Returns

Stonecroft uses the return policy of ChristianBook.com. It can be found at christianbook.com/page/info/returns. All returns should be sent to the Peabody, Massachusetts, address.

DONATIONS

Stonecroft is committed to expanding Bible study outreach in the United States and around the globe. At the end of each study, participants have the opportunity to play a vital role in this expansion through their financial investments.

Each donation helps enable Stonecroft, a non-profit organization, to:

- Create and develop new Stonecroft Bible Studies
- Provide materials at no cost for studies held in jails, shelters, nursing homes, and similar locations
- Assist with the translation and printing of Bible studies in different languages
- Continue outreach efforts. Stonecroft strives to carry God's Good News to people of all backgrounds, ages, and life stages

Select SBS contain an individual donation envelope for use by participants. Please ensure these donations are sent to: Stonecroft 10561 Barkley, Ste. 500, Overland Park, KS 66212. Or, donation envelopes are enclosed in your order. Guides should encourage the study participants to pray, and as God leads them, complete the information on the envelope, then mail it directly to Stonecroft.

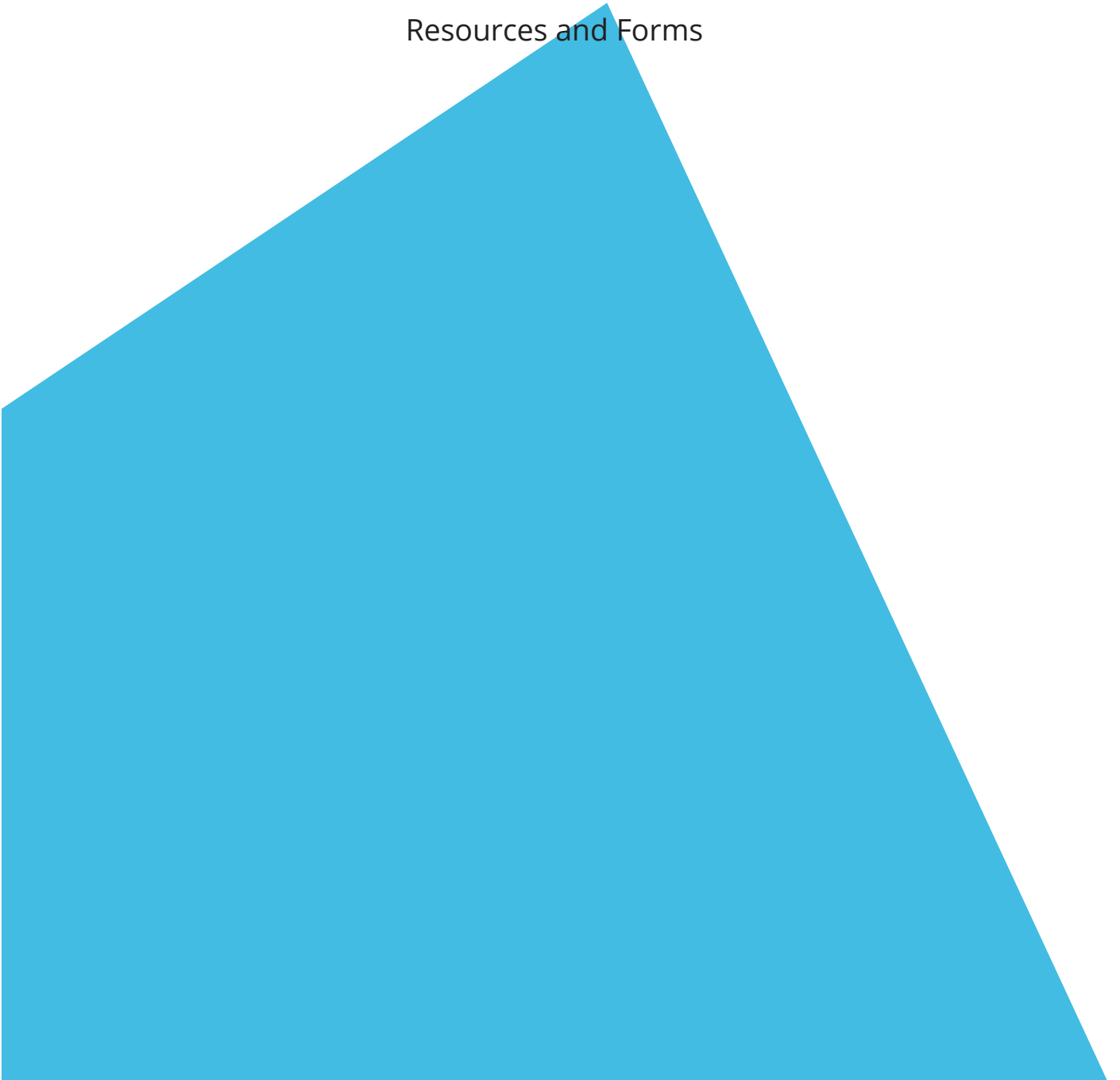
Each participant can confidentially support Stonecroft, giving whatever amount God has placed on her heart. Use the donation envelope provided

Should the participants prefer to return their individual, sealed envelopes to their Guide, the Guide may collectively mail them to Stonecroft (the Overland Park, KS address listed above). No report is required. Stonecroft will individually thank and receipt each donor.



PART SIX

Resources and Forms



Please complete your information before interviewing the applicant:

Name _____ Position _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip/Code _____

After interviewing, I recommend this person for the following position:

- Stonecroft Coordinator Church Coordinator Guide Stonecroft Bible Studies Team Coordinator

Outreach Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Form is sent to your Supervising Coordinator

Stonecroft Bible Studies Application

Applicant's Name _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip/Code _____

E-mail _____ Fax _____

- Briefly state how you trusted in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation.
Give Bible verses which confirm your salvation experience.

- Describe how you would answer questions about the identity of Jesus Christ.

- What has motivated you to consider serving with Stonecroft Bible Studies?

- Are you willing to facilitate a group with those of various spiritual beliefs, cultures, and backgrounds as you follow the study material? Yes No

- Are you familiar with Stonecroft? Yes No
If yes, how?

- What other activities are you currently involved in?

- Church Affiliation _____

- After reading the Stonecroft Essentials and Statement of Faith, do you have any concerns?
If so, please explain. If in agreement, please sign (see reverse side).

Essentials for Facilitating a Stonecroft Bible Study

Stonecroft –

Proclaims the Gospel message in all that we are. Stonecroft exists so that people are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

Desires to lift up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in all things and believes that “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NLT).

Promotes the Scriptures that tell us to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3, NIV). A spirit of love and peace has been the hallmark of Stonecroft Ministries. We depend on those who serve with us to help maintain this spirit.

Works in harmony with churches and encourages people without church affiliation to attend a church of their choice.

Is not called to take a stand on doctrinal, social, or political issues outside its Statement of Faith.

Because of this, Stonecroft Bible Studies –

Seek to point participants to Scripture to find answers to faith questions. Discussion is encouraged only about what the Bible says, rather than focusing on what church doctrines or traditions teach.

Seek to avoid distractions and disruptions stemming from discussions about doctrinal, social, or political topics on which people and/or churches disagree.

Stonecroft Bible Studies volunteers at every level –

Are from various churches which agree with Stonecroft’s Statement of Faith. Guides and Stonecroft leaders are asked to avoid 1) recruiting people to attend their individual churches or 2) convincing others about their specific doctrinal, social, or political beliefs or views, outside of those mentioned in the Stonecroft Statement of Faith.

Remember that the purpose of Stonecroft Bible Studies is to introduce people to the truth of the Bible and help them understand and apply God’s Word.

Statement of Faith

We believe –

the supernatural and plenary (total, full, complete) inspiration of the Scriptures – that they are inerrant and that their teachings and authority are absolute, supreme, and final;

the Trinity of the Godhead – God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit;

the personality of God; the personality and deity of Jesus Christ (Jesus Christ and God are one; Jesus Christ is God incarnate in the flesh), begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, very God and very Man; the personality of the Holy Spirit;

the resurrection of Jesus Christ – that His body was raised from the dead, according to the Scriptures, and that He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God as the believer’s Advocate;

the sinfulness of man – that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, are totally depraved, and need a Savior from sin; the atonement – that Jesus Christ became the sinner’s sacrifice before God, when He shed His blood and died as the propitiation (payment) for the sins of the whole world;

the necessity of the new birth – salvation is by grace, through faith, and not of works. Saving faith will maintain good works in the life of the believer;

the literal resurrection of the body – both of the just and the unjust;

the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost;

the evangelization of the world. The supreme mission of God’s people in this age is to preach the gospel to every person;

the second coming of Christ, according to the Scriptures.

If at any time while involved in Stonecroft I cannot continue to follow these policies, I will quietly and graciously withdraw.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____





Stonecrott Activity Report

Thank you for facilitating a Stonecrott Bible or Book Study!

To complete online, please go to stonecrott.org/reporting

Submitted by:

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City/St _____ Zip _____

Stonecrott Position (if applicable) _____
(Ex: Coordinator, Guide, Chair, etc.)

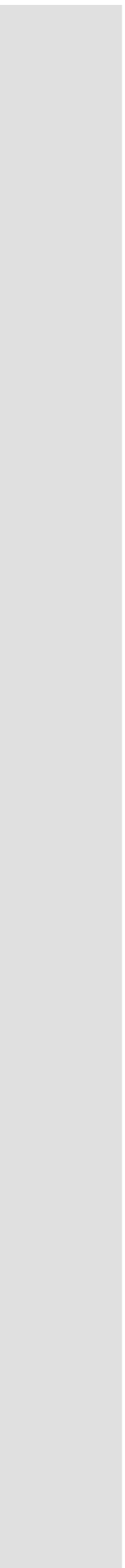
Women's Connection group you're connected with _____
(as it appears on Stonecrott correspondence, with city and state first)

W Location Code:	Participants Code:
H Home	W Women
W Workplace	M Men
R Restaurant/Café	C Couples
SM School - Middle	T Teens
SH School - High	YM Young Moms
SU School - University	SC Sr. Citizens
P Park	YA Young Adults
C Church	B Business & Professional
I Internet	S Singles
T Telephone	O Other _____
SC Sr. Citizen's Facility	
RPC Resource Pregnancy Center	
WS Women's Shelter	
JD Jail/Detention Facility	
O Other _____	

Please complete the following for each Stonecrott Bible or Book Study. Multiple studies may be listed on one report.

	Title of Stonecrott Bible or Book Study	Loc. Code	Part. Code	Number of 1st Time Attendees	Total Number of Attendees	Number of Known Decisions	Study End Date
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							

Please share your praise reports, prayer requests, stories of changed lives, and any other comments.



Please mail to:

Stonecrott
Ministry Support
10561 Barkley, Suite 500
Overland Park, KS 66212

To complete online, please go to:

stonecrott.org/reporting
Questions? Please email:
connections@stonecrott.org

What Stonecroft Bible Studies have you previously completed?

- Why Believe?
 - Investigate Evidence for Faith
 - Who Is Jesus?
 - What Is God Like?
 - Who Is the Holy Spirit?
 - Mark – Following Jesus Through Mark
 - Know the Truth
 - Prayer – Connecting with God
 - Colossians – You Are Alive in Christ
 - Philippians –
 - Discovering the Joy of Jesus
 - 1 John – God's Love Through You
 - Ruth – Living in God's Will
 - Genesis 1 – The God of Creation
 - Genesis 2 – The God of the Family
- Genesis 3 – The God of the Nation
- James – Growing in the Christian Life
- Luke – Following Jesus with Luke
- Christ in the Psalms
- Christ in the Home
- Romans –
- Discovering God's Good News for You
- 10 Smart Things Women Can Do to Build a Better Life
- Moving from Fear to Freedom
- What's Brewing?
- Ephesians
- Known
- Rest
- Enough



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Stonecroft Bible Studies Information Card

Name _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 City _____ St _____ Zip _____
 Home phone (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____
 What day and time works best for you to be in a Stonecroft Bible Study?

Do you need childcare? Yes No Ages of your children _____
 Recommend a person as a childcare provider:
 Name _____ Phone (_____) _____
 Are you willing to host a study in your home or place of business? Yes No
 Would you like to receive Stonecroft's e-newsletter? Yes No



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 City _____ St _____ Zip _____
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 Name _____ Phone (_____) _____
 Are you willing to host a study in your home or place of business? Yes No
 Would you like to receive Stonecroft's e-newsletter? Yes No



RECEIPTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please include all receiptable gifts given by check, credit cards, or cash.

				NATIONAL GIFTS	LOCAL	For Office Use Only
				COLUMN A	COLUMN B	
				Gifts designated for National Ministry	Gifts designated for regional event use	
For Office Use Only	Line 1 — Complete Name					
	Line 2 — Address					
	Line 3 — City	State	Zip	0.00	0.00	
Sample						

Total each column. If additional rows are needed, please transfer the totals to the appropriate columns on another page.

\$		\$	
----	--	----	--

TOTAL COLUMNS A+B AND TRANSFER THE TOTAL TO PAGE 1, LINE 1.

→ \$

RECEIPTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please include all receiptable gifts given by check, credit cards, or cash.

				NATIONAL GIFTS		LOCAL		For Office Use Only
				COLUMN A		COLUMN B		
				Gifts designated for the National Ministry		Gifts designated for regional event use		
For Office Use Only <u>Sample</u>	Line 1 — Complete Name			0.00	0.00			
	Line 2 — Address							
	Line 3 — City	State	Zip					

Total each column. If additional rows are needed, please transfer the totals to the appropriate columns on another page.

\$		\$	
----	--	----	--

TOTAL COLUMNS A+B AND TRANSFER THE TOTAL TO PAGE 1, LINE 1.

→ \$

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FINANCIAL SUMMARY for a ONE-TIME EVENT

BEFORE THE MEETING —

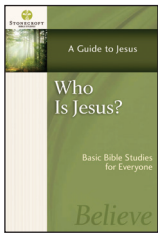
Complete the general information at the top of Page 1 on two copies of the summary. THE SUMMARY MUST BE COMPLETED IN DUPLICATE. Arrange for two people to count the money and complete the summaries.

AFTER THE MEETING, it is necessary that **two people** count the funds, verify, and sign two copies of this summary.

- I. Separate the loose cash contributions from donations that are to be receipted.
Please provide the full name and address of the donor. **Count the loose cash contributions and record the amount on LINE 2.**
- II. Process donations to be receipted. **Do not mix cash** from receiptable donations with loose cash contributions until both have been counted and recorded.
 - A. Process the following as receiptable contributions:
 1. Checks and credit cards which include donor's name and address.
 2. Completed contribution envelopes containing checks, cash, or credit cards. **Open envelopes and indicate amount enclosed** on outside of each envelope. Credit card forms should accompany this form; checks and cash will be in your deposit.
 - B. **List** complete name, address, and amount of receiptable donations in appropriate columns beginning on page 2. If more space is needed, transfer the total of each column on page 2 to page 3 and continue.
 1. Column A — list all donations designated for National Ministry in Column A.
 2. Column B — donations designated for event expense.
 - C. **Combine the totals of Columns A and B and enter on LINE 1.** Do not include any receiptable cash in amount on **LINE 2.**
 - F. RECORD INCOME:
 1. **LINE 4**—Record total funds received from registration or tickets.
 2. **LINES 5 through 8**—Record all other income. Describe specifically the source of the income.
 3. **LINE 9**—Add the total of LINES 4 through 8.
 - G. **LINE 10**—Add LINES 3 and 9 to record the Total Income.
 - H. RECORD EXPENSES:
 1. **LINES 11 through 16**—Record all expenses (**attach a copy of a bill or receipt for each expense**).
 2. **LINE 17**—Add the total of LINES 11 through 16 and record the Total Expenses.
 3. **LINE 18**—Subtract LINE 17 from LINE 10 and record the Balance to be sent to the Home Office.
 - I. FIGURE THE AMOUNT TO BE SENT TO THE HOME OFFICE:
 1. **LINE 19**—Enter the amount shown on LINE 18.
 2. **LINE 20**—Total all credit card forms.
 3. **LINE 21**—Subtract LINE 20 from LINE 19. **WRITE A CHECK (OR GET A MONEY ORDER) FOR THE AMOUNT ON LINE 21.**
- III. THE REPORT IS TO BE COMPLETED, VERIFIED, AND SIGNED BY TWO PEOPLE.
 - A. Please send the original copy of this form, check, and credit card forms totaling LINE 18 on the report to the Home Office within one week following the meeting.
 - B. For local records, keep one copy of this form and the original copy of all paid bills.



INTRODUCTORY STUDIES



Who Is Jesus?

This small group experience helps you discover why Jesus came to earth and what He accomplished. *6 chapters.*

What Is God Like?

God wants you to know Him, and that He pursues a relationship with you. *6 chapters.*

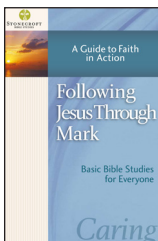
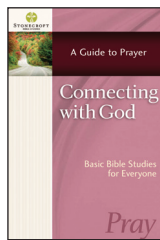


Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Consider who the Holy Spirit is. Become more aware of God's activity in your life. *6 chapters.*

Connecting with God

This practical study on prayer helps you experience a closer connection to God. *8 chapters.*

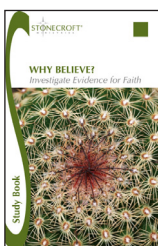
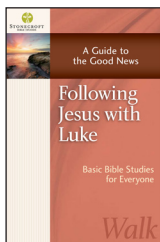


Following Jesus Through Mark

Follow Mark's account and Jesus' example – that of the Greatest Servant. *12 chapters.*

Following Jesus with Luke

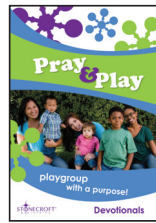
Jesus Christ came and lived among us. He shares our heartaches and suffered for us. *9 chapters.*



Why Believe?

Those seeking answers can explore compelling evidence that shows why faith is a reasonable response. *4 chapters.*

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

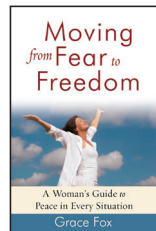


Pray & Play

Pray & Play uses inspiring devotionals to help mothers connect with God. *12 devotionals.*

What's Brewing?

This topical study helps you filter your thoughts and attitudes through the Bible. *5 chapters.*

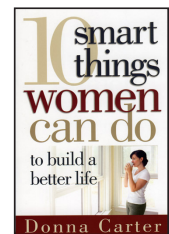


Moving from Fear to Freedom

This book study will show you biblical ways to move beyond fear. *10 chapters.*

10 Smart Things Women Can Do to Build a Better Life

Address relevant topics while also sharing the Gospel. *10 chapters. DVDs also available.*



Be Still

This beautiful, 4"x6" journal provides daily Scriptures that prompt prayer and help you pray within God's will. It also includes a clear Gospel presentation for those who need Jesus.

Rest **NEW!**

This conversation helps you discover how God enables us to find rest in an overly busy world. *4 Conversations.*



Known **NEW!**

This conversation helps you discover how God enables us to be known and loved in a materialistic world. *4 Conversations.*

See SBS Brochure for full resource list.



PART SEVEN

Additional Information

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS USED IN STONECROFT BIBLE STUDIES

Stonecroft Bible Studies are prepared and conducted so that those unfamiliar with God's Word can participate. In select studies, references to New Testament Scripture are accompanied by page numbers found in the *Abundant Life New Living Translation* (select studies use the *Good News New Testament*). This simplifies looking up Bible verses for those unfamiliar with the Bible. Information on the translations is provided below.

The Abundant Life New Living Translation (2015)

The Abundant Life Bible offers readers insights about living the abundant life through a relationship with Jesus Christ. The goal of the New Living Translation (NLT) is a translation of the Bible into a clear, readable form of modern English.

The New Living Translation is based on the most recent scholarship in the theory of translation. The challenge for the translators was to create a text that would make the same impact in the life of modern readers that the original text had for the original readers. In the New Living Translation, this is accomplished by translating entire thoughts (rather than just words) into natural, everyday English. The NLT follows a combination of formal equivalence (word-for-word) and dynamic equivalence (thought-for-thought) methods of translation.

This Bible is now available in large print.

Good News New Testament

The *Good News New Testament* is accurate and reliable with simple language. The *Bible in Today's English Version* (Good News Bible) was translated and published by the American Bible Society for use throughout the world. It was published only after being carefully

reviewed and approved by a translations committee composed of pastors, teachers, and biblical scholars belonging to many denominations.

The primary concern of the translators was to provide a faithful translation which expressed the meaning of the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts. Every effort was made to use language that was natural, clear, simple, and unambiguous. The *Good News Translation* was one of the first functional equivalent English translations of the Bible in which the text attempts to recreate the same dynamic impact on its readers today as the original text had during its time. This translation is universally accepted by most denominations.

HISTORY OF STONECROFT BIBLE STUDIES AS TOLD IN ONE WOMAN, ONE FAITH, ONE VISION

For years, there were no Bible studies held in connection with the Councils or Clubs that formed the basis of what would become Stonecroft Ministries. But by 1967, things needed to change.

In the United States, Bible teaching was falling out of favor. It was a time of cultural rebellion and moral confusion. There was no guarantee that any significant spiritual development was available to those coming to Councils or Clubs, even in the churches they attended. As Mary Clark and Helen Baugh compared notes from their travels across America, they determined that making sound Bible studies available through Stonecroft was a crucial step in encouraging inquirers to become believers, and believers to become disciples.

Lucille Sollenberger was chosen for the task. A Stanford-educated teacher and curriculum writer, Lucille brought a passion for God's Word and the ability to effectively introduce and explain it to others. Helen and Lucille bathed the project in prayer before Lucille put a word on paper, and kept it in prayer as it developed.



The studies had to be sensitive to the wide variety of people who associated with Stonecroft. They had to stay away from needless controversy and cut to the chase in the Scriptures. They had to embody sound doctrine without promoting the doctrine of a specific denomination. And, they had to be simple enough to be understood by the newcomer while being challenging enough to keep a serious Bible student interested.

The studies began with the book of Mark. This gospel account is a book of action, covering the brief ministry of Jesus Christ on earth. The possibilities of teaching that book according to Stonecroft standards excited Lucille. She began gathering materials, thinking through outlines, and praying specifically for God's leading.

There was also the matter of how to present the material in a way that would reach the uninformed and uncommitted. After much prayer and discussion, Helen and her team came up with the name Friendship Bible Coffees (now Stonecroft Bible Studies). It offered a non-threatening name around which to gather a group—and a non-threatening format to go with it. As Helen described them, "The Coffees would be held in the relaxed, informal atmosphere of a home where the neighbors would be invited to meet. Sitting around the table with a cup of coffee or tea, they would read and study the Bible together. The purpose would be to learn what the Bible really says and how to make practical application of Bible truths to our lives today."

Helen worked with Lucille to help her complete a prototype lesson. Lucille then returned to her ministry base in San Antonio to complete the study, which was completed and presented at Stonecroft's International Convention in August 1968. The next month the first 25 Coordinators came to Stonecroft to learn how to use the Bible Coffee studies in a friendship evangelism program.

Within 16 years, more than three million student books for the Bible Coffee studies had been sent out from Stonecroft. There were Friendship Bible Coffees in countries as diverse as Botswana, Malaysia, France, Germany, South Korea, Switzerland, Sweden, Brazil, Mexico, the United

States, and many other countries. There were 18 different studies translated into 18 languages.

Yet the numbers meant very little to Helen Baugh unless she knew how they affected people in need of Jesus. This testimony was one of many that affirmed Stonecroft's decision to print Bible studies and present them through Friendship Bible Coffees. A Friendship Bible Coordinator from southern California wrote,

"Walter Barnette was an extraordinary man: highly respected principal of one of San Diego's largest suburban high schools, tennis coach, outdoorsman, church founder, fine family man and community helper, and, one year after his retirement, elected as foreman of the Grand Jury! He was loved by everyone who knew him, but he didn't know Jesus Christ. His son did, and began to talk with his father about God and the Bible. Walt thought that he was good enough without all of that. Oh, he might have "struck out" a few times, but who hasn't? However, never being one to avoid a challenge, he began to look into this Book his son was so excited about.

"That's when he joined a couples' Friendship Bible Coffee. Walt and his wife and six other couples met every Tuesday night. Friendship Bible Coffees really made a hit with Walt when he learned what the Bible says about our relationship with God. We watched him turn into a wonderful man of God, a man who reveled in the Word of God as it revealed all that God is and had for him; a man who turned his whole life over to Jesus Christ when he invited Christ to come into his being.

"Several months ago, Walt found that he had terminal cancer and within seven weeks he was gone—gone to be with the Lord whom he had learned to love so dearly. His wife, Marion, and all who loved him miss him mightily, but we rejoice that he is with the Lord Jesus Christ forever—safely home."

In response, Helen wrote, "How could we ever have known that God would use these lessons on such a scale to bring men, women, and young people to a saving knowledge of Christ; to mend



broken marriages; to make Paul's prayer for the Colossians come true in thousands of lives today: '... that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will ... increasing in the knowledge of God.'

People engaged in Friendship Bible Coffee studies don't miss their everyday value, either. One participant commented, "Friendship Bible Coffees have given me the necessary tools to convert faith and belief into behavior—they have bridged the gap between knowing and doing! I didn't realize the Bible was actually a recipe for living our lives on earth as well as giving us the key to salvation. I am so thankful to be learning and living the 'cannot-fail, success-every-time recipe.' It's practical!"

Late in life Helen Baugh wrote in her journal, *New days demand new METHODS, BUT... The Word of God never changes.*

The message of Christianity never changes. The work of the Holy Spirit never changes.

Our commission to preach the Gospel never changes.

Bill Bright has said, "Several hundred million people would accept Christ if they knew who He was."

"I can't conceive of a person saying No to God, when it meant being born into a new family, having the peace of God and a home in Heaven."

For Helen in the 1960s, ministry became an issue of getting the Gospel to bikers as easily to housewives and school principals. It was a matter of making it difficult for people to say "No" to God by making God's Word easy to access and understand – especially in a time and a culture that had largely forgotten it.

For millions of people, Helen and her Stonecroft team succeeded wildly.

Today we have a variety of Stonecroft Bible Studies and Small Group Resources dedicated to the same heart as when they first began.

A QUICK LOOK AT STONECROFT VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Stonecroft volunteers bring their individual giftings to fill a variety of positions. When we combine the various positions with God's blessing, we become something bigger. Reliance on God makes us stronger than the mere sum of our gifts. Here are the ways volunteers and staff serve:

The Chief Executive Officer, Leadership Team, Field Staff and Home Office Staff work to fulfill the organization's mission and goals. They strive to expand our outreach methods and help our thousands of volunteers become effective in their outreach activities. The Vice President of Women's Connection leads her team to inspire, train, and encourage Women's Connection Groups and Stonecroft Bible Studies across the country. This department includes the Ministry Support team: knowledgeable and helpful staff available to answer questions, pray, and provide resources that make outreaches effective in presenting the Gospel.

Volunteers also serve in these roles:

Stonecroft Regional Administrators (SRA)

- Serve as the key leader in a designated area to ensure effective evangelism and provide inspiration, equipping, encouragement, and motivation relevant to the needs of that area
- Help to plan and carry out special events that will strengthen and expand the local outreach
- Should be actively involved in engaging and selecting volunteer leaders within their region

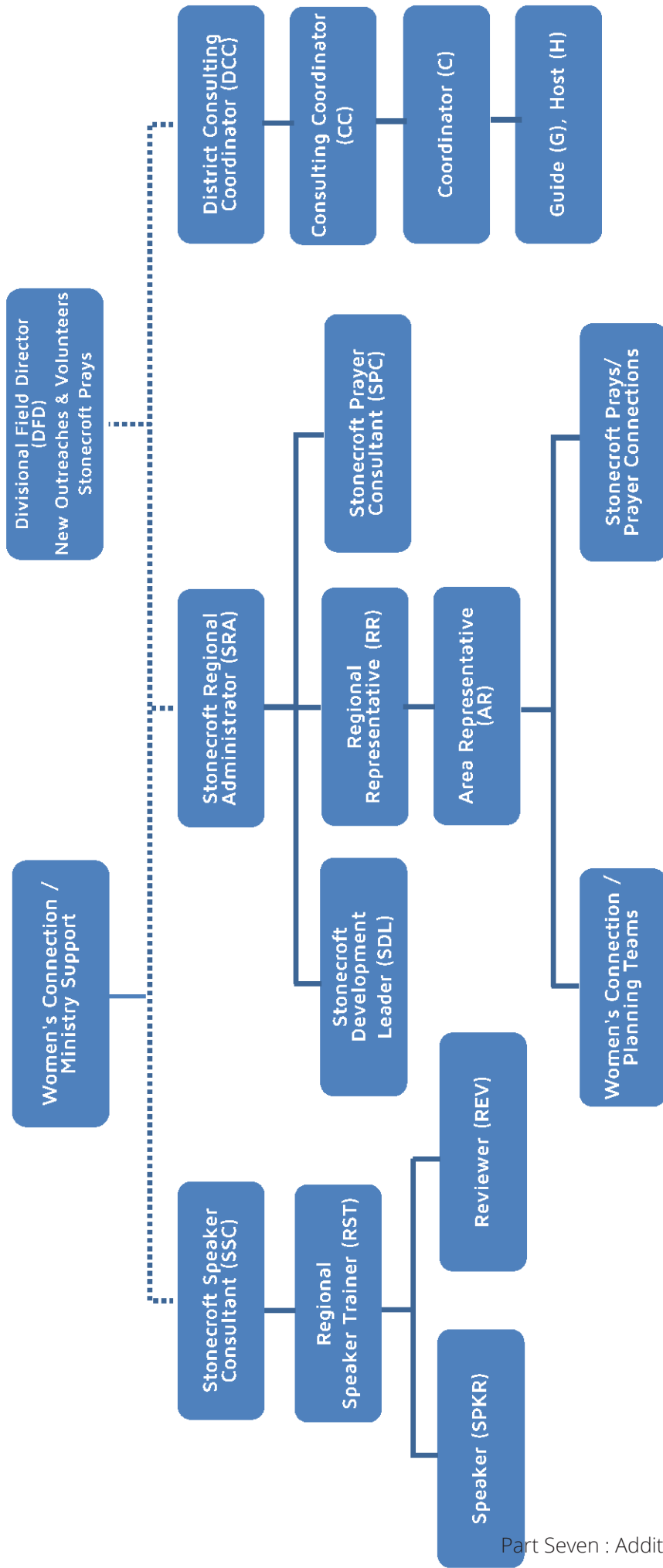
District Consulting Coordinators (DCC)

- Serve as key area leaders for Stonecroft Bible Studies
- Engage additional and support SBS Coordinators for their region
- Meet area SBS Coordinators several times a year for training, encouragement, and motivation





Stonecreek Ministries Volunteer Structure – July 2016



- Meet regional leaders for prayer, planning special events, and expansion of the Bible Studies ministry

Stonecroft Development Leaders (SDL)

- Have a good working knowledge of Stonecroft outreach events and the Stonecroft Bible Studies ministry
- See potential in new areas to be developed for ministry and have the ability to network and cast vision
- Build teams of Stonecroft volunteers to move ministry forward in targeted areas
- Work with local leaders to target new areas for growth – either through a new Outreach Group or Stonecroft Bible Studies

Stonecroft Speaker Consultants (SSC)

- Have a recording/manuscript of their testimony on file at the Home Office
- Assist the national organization as a Speaker resource
- Are available to travel to conduct Stonecroft Speaker Training Seminars and will work closely with the SRAs and Representatives in the areas where requested to do training and reviewing
- Engage, train, and continually provide resources for Regional Speaker Trainers

Stonecroft Prayer Consultants (SPC)

- Are encouraged to work with Prayer Coordinators to equip and strengthen the local prayer ministry
- Provide encouragement, motivation, and prayer support to SRAs, Representatives, Stonecroft Bible Studies leaders, local Planning Teams and Speakers
- Will contact the groups and Stonecroft Bible Studies leaders in an assigned area and pray with them regarding their needs
- Will keep the ministry of prayer for outreach before the Planning Team and Stonecroft Bible Studies leadership
- Conduct Calls to Prayer

Regional Representatives (RR)

- Serve as a leader in the designated area to ensure effective evangelism and offer training and advice to those under their leadership
- Engages additional leadership in their region
- May be asked to perform Area Representatives' duties

Regional Speaker Trainers (RST)

- Have a recording/manuscript of their testimony on file
- Initiate ongoing and individual training of current and potential Speakers with the SRA/RR in a designated area
- Conduct Speaker Training Seminars with follow-up seminars and handle individual training
- Develop a team of reviewers* to evaluate manuscripts
- Review and approve individuals to be Speakers

**Reviewers: Preferred are individuals who have developed their testimony through the Speaker training and follow-up process, and who will work with the Regional Speaker Trainer or Representative in their area to review and approve Speakers*

Area Representatives (AR)

- Serve as a leader in the designated area to ensure effective evangelism and offer training and advice to Groups Stonecroft assigns to them
- Visit each Group assigned to them three to four times a year. (Visits may include outreach events, planning meetings, and Prayer Connections.) Stonecroft may request that the Area Representatives visit a Group more often
- Recommend Chair/Vice Chair/Prayer Coordinator/SBS Team Coordinator to Stonecroft for selection



We love and appreciate all
you do for the Gospel!



Stonecroft
where she is ✦ as she is

stonecroft.org
connections@stonecroft.org
800.525.8627