

# Introduction to Paul's Middle Letters

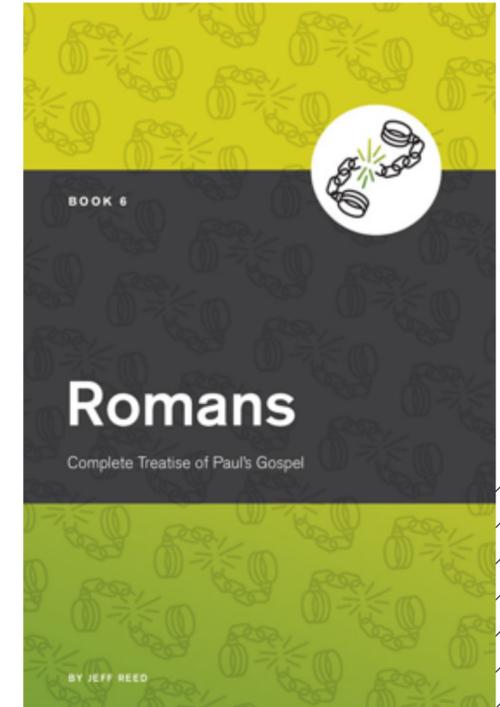
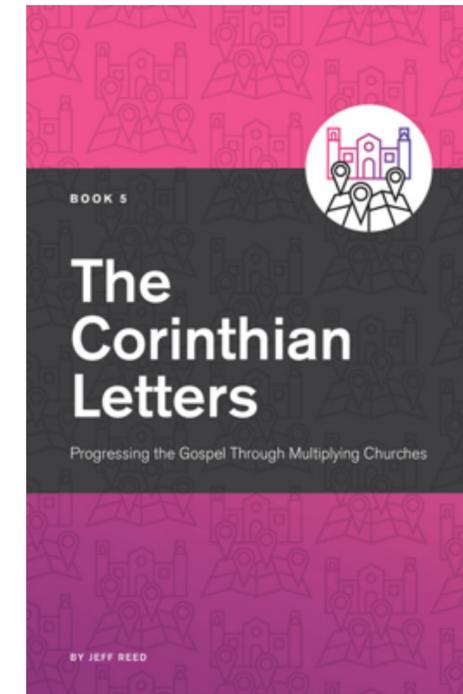
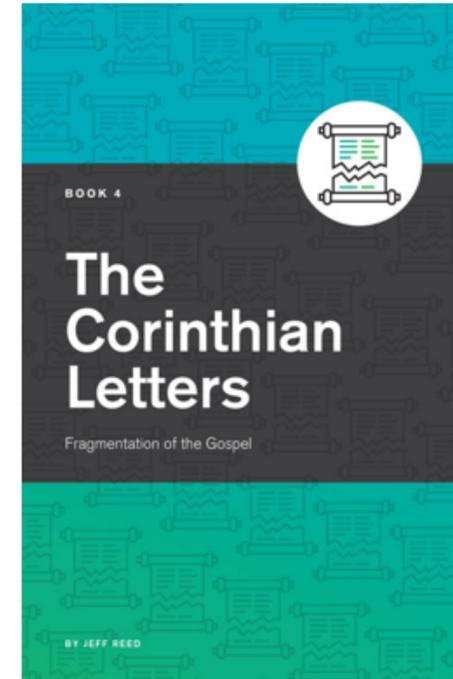
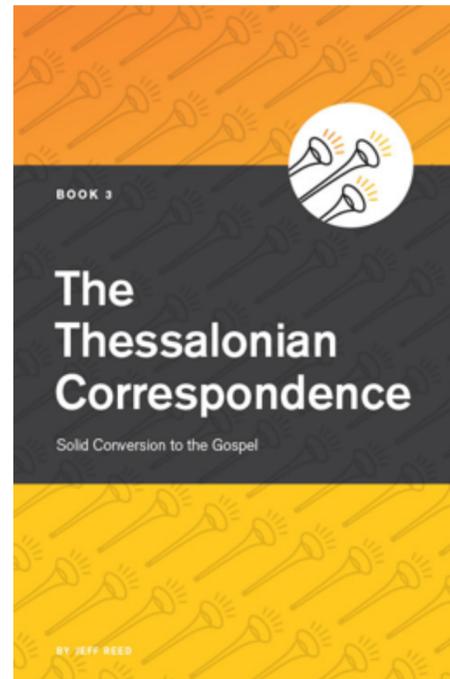
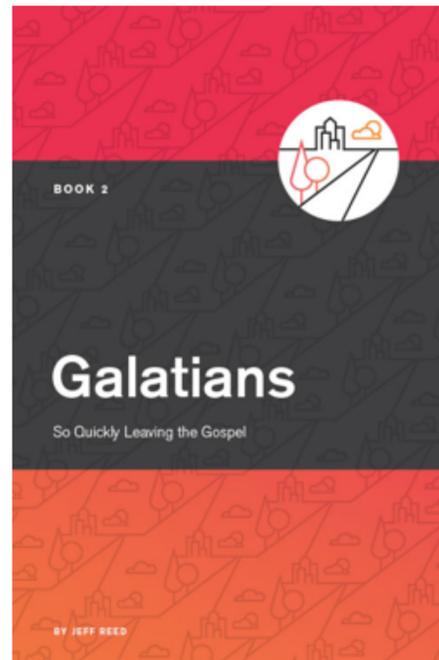
Today we are going to look at the people in Paul's middle letters

The middle letters are: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon

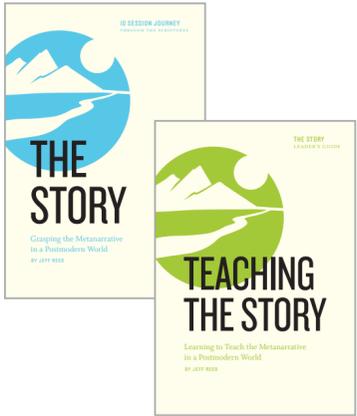
As we begin this series, as is often the case, I have to work around in them with a few preliminary studies before I officially begin the booklets.

Same is true this time.

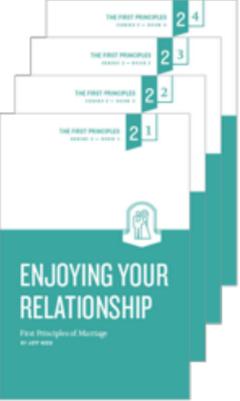
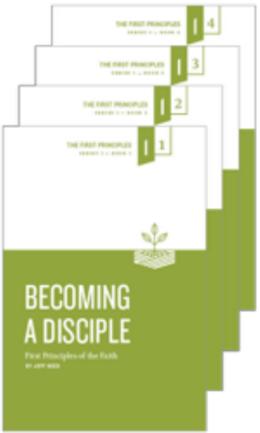
# Paul's Early Letters



# Establishing Process—3 Years



**Kerygma**  
**Early Acts**  
**Apostles' Teaching**  
**6 months**  
**Paul: 3 years “night and day”**



**Didache**  
**Body of Acts**  
**Theology of Paul**  
**1½ years**



**Full Kerygma**  
**After Acts**  
**Apostles' Gospels**  
**1 year**

## Ephesians 1:15–18; 2:10; 6:21–22

<sup>15</sup>Because of all this, and because I'd heard that you are loyal and faithful to Jesus the master, and that you show love to all God's holy people, <sup>16</sup>I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of King Jesus our Lord, the father of glory, would give you, in your spirit, the gift of being wise, of seeing things people can't normally see, because you are coming to know him <sup>18</sup>and to have the eyes of your inmost self opened to God's light. Then you will know exactly what the hope is that goes with God's call; you will know the wealth of the glory of his inheritance in his holy people.... 2:10 This is the explanation: God has made us what we are. God has created us in King Jesus for the good works that he prepared, ahead of time, as the road we must travel.... 6:21 It's important that you should know how things are with me, and what I'm up to; so our dear brother Tychicus will tell you about it. He is a loyal servant in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>I've sent him to you with this in mind, so that you may know how things are with us, and so that he may encourage your hearts.

## Philippians 1:1–3; 2:19–20, 25; 4:2–3, 21–22

<sup>1</sup>From Paul and Timothy, slaves of King Jesus, to all God's holy ones in King Jesus who are in Philippi, together with the overseers and ministers: <sup>2</sup>grace to you and peace, from God our father and King Jesus the Lord. <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I think of you! <sup>4</sup>I always pray with joy, whenever I pray for you all, ... <sup>19</sup>I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I in turn may be encouraged by getting news about you. <sup>20</sup>I have nobody else of his quality: he will care quite genuinely about how you are.... <sup>25</sup>But I did think it was necessary to send Epaphroditus to you. He is my brother; he has worked alongside me and fought alongside me; and he's served as your agent in tending to my needs.... 4:2 I have a special appeal which goes jointly to Euodia and Syntyche: please, please, come to a common mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>And here's a request for you too, my loyal comrade: please help these women. They have struggled hard in the gospel alongside me, as have Clement and my other fellow workers, ... <sup>21</sup>Give my greetings to all God's people in King Jesus. The family with me here send their greetings. <sup>22</sup>All God's people send you greetings, especially those from Caesar's household.

## Colossians 1:1–2; 2:1–3; 4:2–3, 7–18

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of King Jesus by God's purpose and Timothy my brother; <sup>2</sup>to God's holy people in Colossae, the king's faithful family; grace to you and peace, from God our father....  
2:1 You see, I'd like you to know just what a struggle I am having on behalf of you, and the family in Laodicea, and all the people who don't know me by sight.... 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer; keep alert in it, with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup>While you're about it, pray for us, too, that God will open in front of us a door for the word, so that we may speak of the mystery of the king—which is why I'm here in chains.... <sup>7</sup>Our dear brother Tychicus will tell you all my news. He is a faithful servant, indeed a fellow slave in the Lord. <sup>8</sup>This is why I'm sending him to you—to let you know how things are with us, and to encourage your hearts. <sup>9</sup>I'm also sending Onesimus, who is a dear and faithful brother. He is one of your own number. They will tell you everything that's going on here. <sup>10</sup>Aristarchus (who's in jail with me here) sends you greetings. So does Mark, Barnabas's nephew. You've received instructions about him; if he comes to you, do make him welcome.

## Colossians 1:1–2; 2:1–3; 4:2–3, 7–18

<sup>11</sup>Jesus Justus sends greetings as well. These three are the only fellow Jews I have among my colleagues working for God's kingdom, and they have been an encouragement to me.

<sup>12</sup>Epaphras, one of your own folk and also one of King Jesus's slaves, sends you greetings. He's always struggling in prayer on your behalf, praying that you will stand firm and mature, and have your minds fully settled on everything that God wants you to do. <sup>13</sup>I can bear him witness that he's gone to a lot of trouble on your behalf, and also on behalf of the family in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. <sup>14</sup>Luke, the beloved doctor, sends greetings; so too does Demas. <sup>15</sup>Pass my greetings on to the family in Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. <sup>16</sup>When this letter has been read to you, make sure it's read in Laodicea as well; and you, too, should read the letter that will come on to you from Laodicea. <sup>17</sup>And say to Archippus: "Take care to complete the service that you have received in the Lord." <sup>18</sup>I'm signing off in my own hand: paul. Remember the chains I'm wearing. Grace be with you.

## Philemon 1:1–2, 10–11, 22–24

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# Introduction to Paul's Middle Letters

Issue: Participation with Paul in the progress of the gospel

Questions:

1. How did the churches participate with Paul in the progress of the gospel?
2. Who were some of the key individuals? What roles did they play?
3. What does this tell us about Paul's strategy?
4. How should this shape our lives and thinking today?

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# The People of Paul's Middle Letters

Ephesians—Paul, Tychicus, and the churches of Ephesus

Philippians—Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus, Euodia and Syntyche, and the churches of Philippi

Colossians—Paul, Timothy, the family in Laodicea, Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Barnabas's nephew, Jesus Justus, Epaphras, the family in Laodicea and in Hierapolis, Luke, Demas, the family in Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house, Archippus

Philemon—Paul, Timothy, Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, Onesimus, “Mr. Useful,” Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my colleagues here.

# Ali and team Praying for 3 Leaders Facing Possible Prison



# Recording Songs for Arab Spring Countries



# Scott Smith Did a Lot of Translating



# At an Opera Restaurant in Paris



# At an Opera Restaurant in Paris



# Galegor and Team in Tirana, Albania



# Posted at every Toilette at Praise Assembly



# Joseph and Key Bishops from East African Community



# East African Community Bishops Multiply



# Yusufu and Yunusa



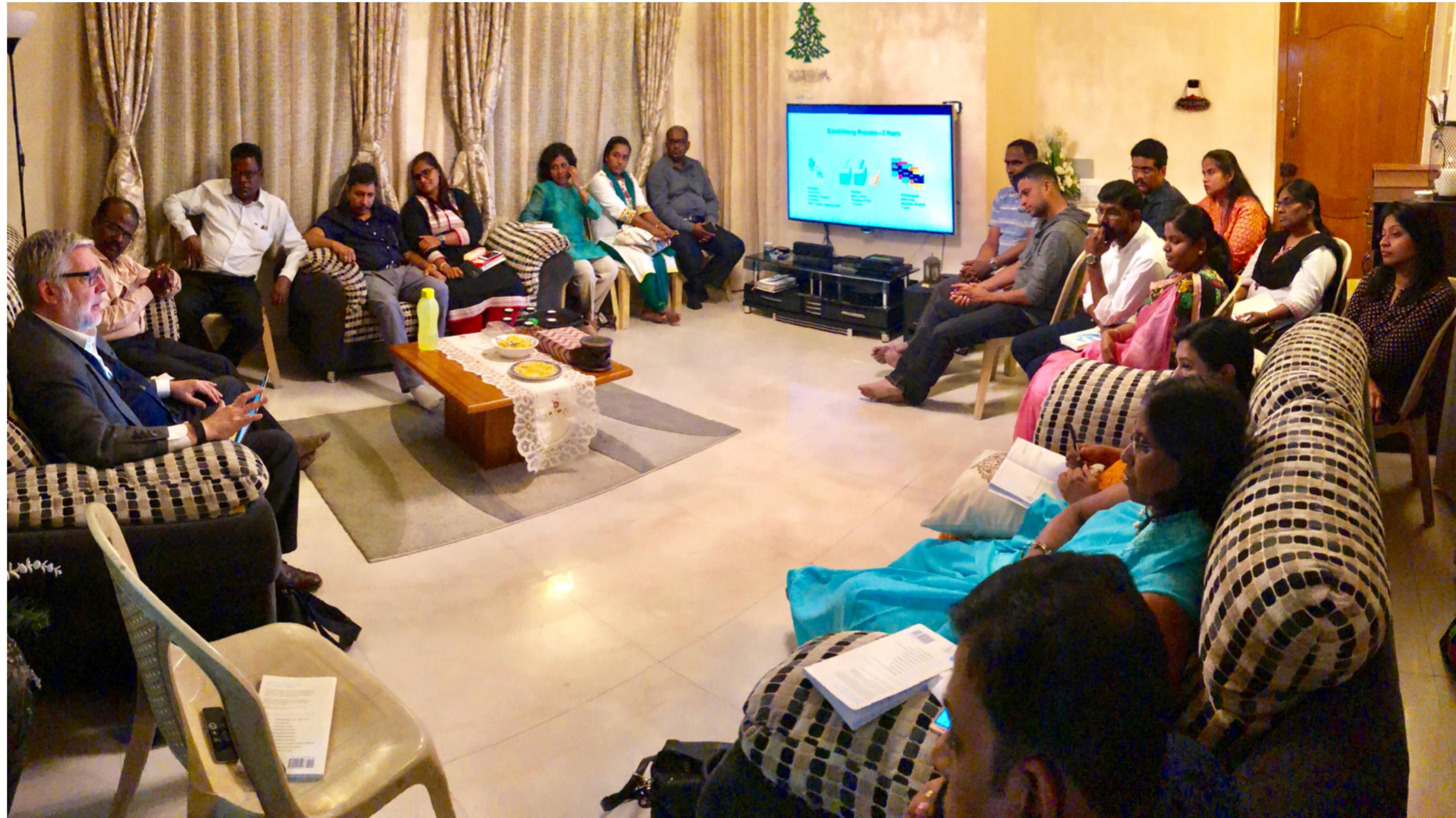
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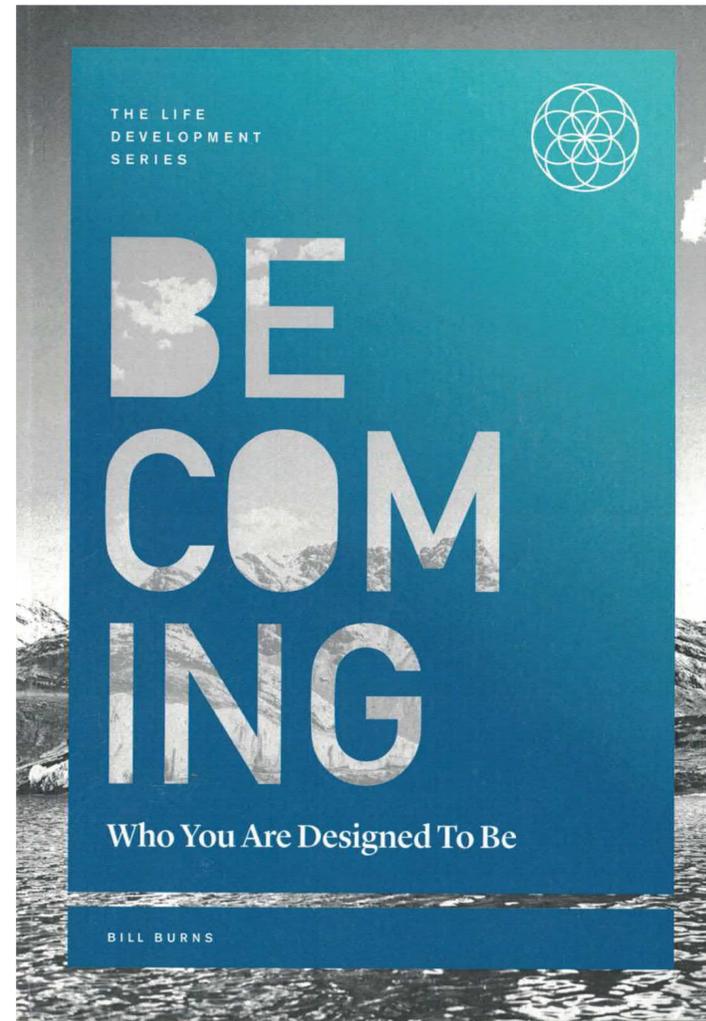
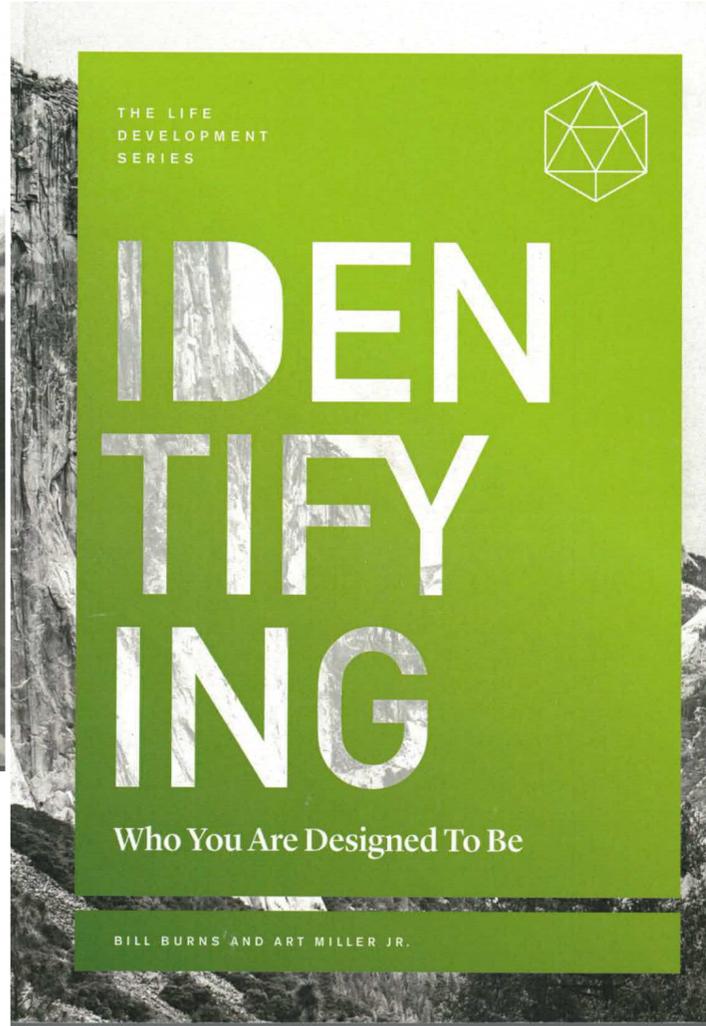
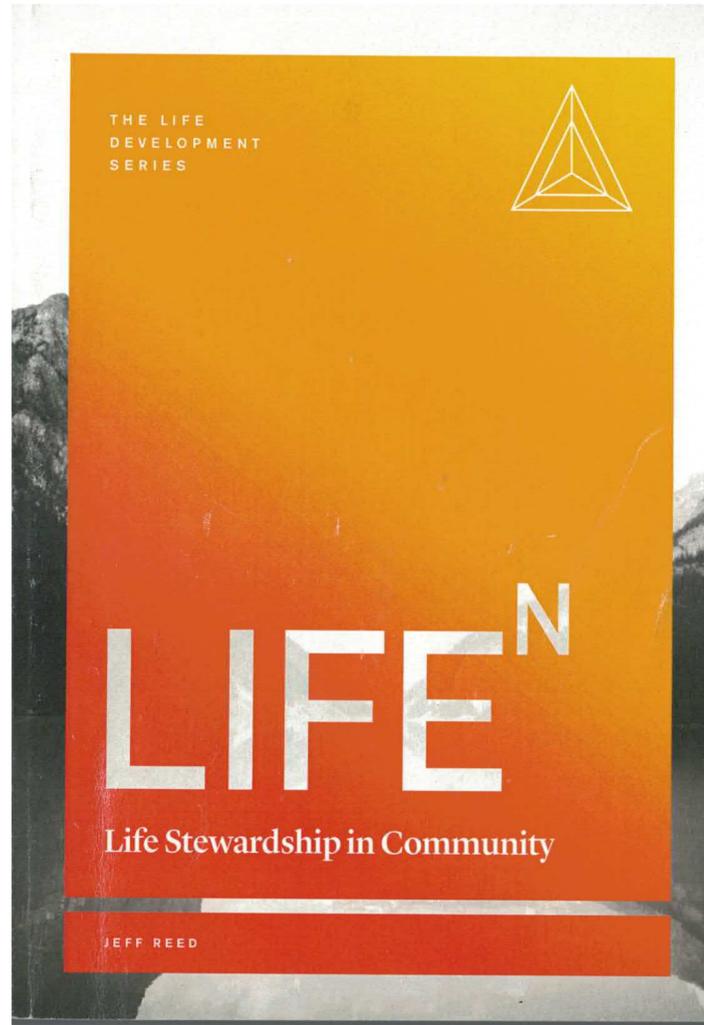


# Chadwick and Chennai Global Center



# Chadwick and His Sodal Team in His House





**Your name —  
where does it  
fit?**

(talk through  
audience)