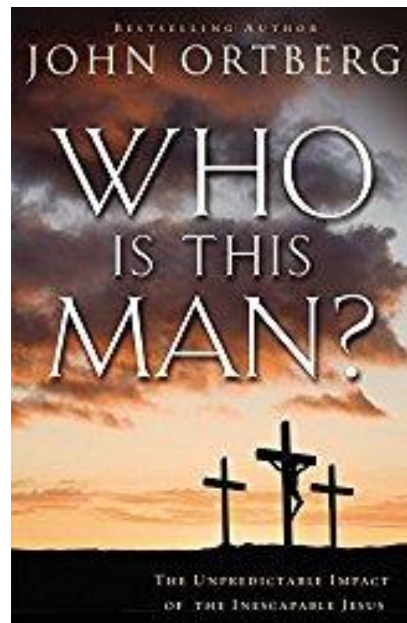


**Board of Evangelism  
Seventh Episcopal District  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church**

**presents**

# Lenten Study 2017

BOARD OF EVANGELISM + SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver, Director of Evangelism  
Bishop James B. Walker, Presiding Prelate**

*The Investment Factor: A Changed People, Changing the World"*

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## Announcing Lenten Study 2017

The Seventh Episcopal District Board of Evangelism is pleased to announce Lenten Study 2017 – *Who is this Man* by John Ortberg. Back by popular demand, Lenten Study 2017 will offer CME churches throughout the New York-Washington Region and Carolina Region to participate in a church-wide Lenten study, sermon series, and small group discussion based on the book *Who is this Man?* This study includes a book, study guide, and DVD sessions about the impact that Jesus has had throughout history. Pastors are invited to offer a sermon series based on the book.

Churches are encouraged to form Lenten small groups to meet weekly to discuss the sermon, book, and DVD, creating an atmosphere of fellowship and discipleship. If your church does not currently have a small group ministry, Lenten small groups are a great way to pilot the ministry and plant the seeds of a larger ministry of discipleship through small groups at your church. When the entire church is united in studying the same topic in worship, Sunday school, small groups, youth and young adult ministry, we will experience in a new way the synergy of the movement of the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of the Lenten Study and of small groups is to fulfill the biblical vision of discipleship, when early Christians met in house-churches and “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” The Lord “added to their numbers those who were being saved,” demonstrating the power of discipleship and evangelism in small groups. The benefit of a regional and episcopal district-wide study is that we can prepare for this season together, sharing best practices and encouraging one another in this ministry.

To this end, we will offer two conference calls to prepare for Lenten Study 2017.

**Conference Call for Pastors**  
**Thursday, Feb 9 at 8pm**

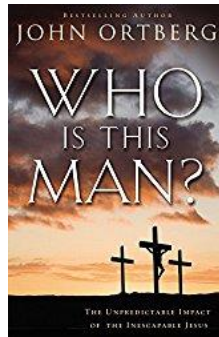
**Conference Call for Clergy and Lay**  
**Thursday, Feb 16 at 8pm**

**Dial In Number: 712-770-4010**  
**Access Code: 589788**  
**RSVP: [seventhforlent@yahoo.com](mailto:seventhforlent@yahoo.com).**

During the conference calls, we will also begin plans for Social Justice Summer 2017. In the meantime, this packet provides an overview of Lenten Study 2017.

**Lenten Study 2017**  
***Who is this Man?***  
***The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus***  
**By John Ortberg**

**March 5 – April 16, 2017**



On the eve of his crucifixion it seemed like Jesus' influence on the world had ended. On the contrary, it had just begun. In *Who Is This Man?*, John Ortberg reveals how Jesus has impacted civilization and individual human hearts. His life and teaching simply drew people to follow him. He made history by starting in a humble place, in a spirit of love and acceptance, and allowing each person space to respond.

From the Dark Ages to Post-Modernity, Jesus' vision of life continues to haunt and challenge humanity. His influence has swept over history bringing inspiration to what has happened in art, science, government, medicine, and education; he has taught humans about dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope.

John Ortberg is the senior pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. He is the author of *The Life You've Always Wanted* and other books on spiritual formation.

Lenten Study 2017 includes a sermon series, DVD, book study, study guide, and small group discussion. The following resources are recommended:

- *Who is this Man?* Book by John Ortberg – 1 book per individual or couple
- *Who is this Man?* DVD – 1 DVD per small group
- *Who is this Man?* Study Guide – 1 study guide per small group leader

For more information, including book excerpt and video trailer, visit <http://www.johnortberg.com/books/who-is-this-man>.

## Lenten Small Groups

### What?

Small groups are comprised of 6 to 12 individuals who meet regularly to fellowship together and to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Small groups build a sense of community, learning together, caring for one another, and serving together in mission or ministry. Lenten small groups are a great way to start a small group ministry. Many Lenten groups decide to continue throughout the year. Churches are invited to start a small group pilot ministry during this season of Lent. Coaching will be offered via conference call prior to Lent. After Lent, churches will evaluate and consider whether and how to continue the ministry.

### Who?

- Identify a **point person** for small group ministry. Consider Clergy staff, Director of Evangelism, Director of Christian Education, Director of Adult Ministry, or anyone with a passion for this ministry.
- Identify and invite individuals, especially lay people, to serve as a **leader** or **co-leader** of a small group. Consider those who display spiritual leadership.
- For home-based groups, identify those who can **host** a small group in their home. This may or may not be the small group leader.
- Identify and invite worshippers to become small group **members**.
- Identify a **leader-in-training** for each small group. This person may eventually leave the group and start another group.
- Consider how best to Include youth and young adults in the planning and implementing of a small group ministry.

### When?

- Sunday School: Lenten Studies are a great way to strengthen adult Sunday school.
- Sunday afternoon: Consider a “lunch and learn” small group following the 11am service
- Weekdays: Lunch time during the work week or mid-morning for retirees
- Weekday Evenings: Invigorate Wednesday night studies or expand to other evenings

### Where?

Consider piloting home-based small groups during Lent. Home-based groups are a great way to extend beyond the church building and to create a safe space for seekers and the unchurched. Small groups can also meet at church, work, coffee shop, diner, or other community location.

## Lenten Small Groups

cont'd

### Why?

We were made to live in community. Our understanding of God is one of community (Trinity). Jesus modeled small group community with the twelve apostles. Moreover, the early church grew through the spread of small groups known as house churches (Acts 2:42-47). John Wesley also encouraged small groups, known as classes, for spiritual growth and accountability. Many growing churches continue to utilize small groups to build fellowship and Christian discipleship beyond that which can be achieved on Sunday morning during worship.

The purpose of small groups is to provide a place for learning, growing, caring, serving, and expanding the kingdom of God.

- **Learning** by studying the bible and other Christian teachings
  - “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)
- **Growing** spiritually through a fellowship of believers
  - “Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another.” (Prov. 27:17)
- **Caring** for one another through difficult times
  - “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Gal. 6:2)
- **Serving** together in mission and ministry
  - “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4:10)
- **Expanding** the kingdom of God
  - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20a)

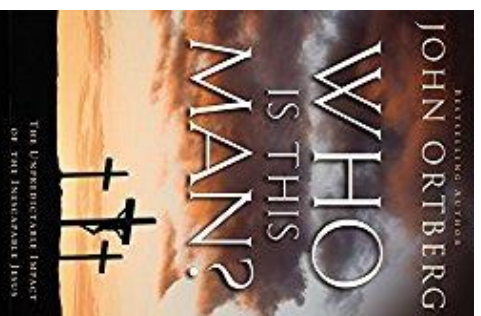
## Countdown to Lenten Study 2017

### *Who is this Man*

**March 5 – April 16, 2017**

<u>Task</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Check</u>
Meet with clergy, staff, and key lay leaders	3-4 weeks before start	Feb 5-12	
Decide which components to use Worship/sermon series Adult Sunday school/small groups Youth groups Older children/younger children	3-4 weeks before start	Feb 5-12	
Complete promotion plan Newspaper/Radio/Television/ Social Media/Mailings/Postcards	3-4 weeks before start	Feb 5-12	
Seventh Episcopal District Evangelism conference calls	Thursdays, 8pm	Feb 9 and 16	
Identify and train small group leaders	1-3 weeks before start	Feb 12-26	
<a href="#">Register online</a> for Lenten Study 2017. Print copies of CME Lenten Guide	1-3 weeks before start	Feb 12-26	
Order resources	1-3 weeks before start	Feb 12-26	
Implement promotion plan Send press releases Post to social media Church newsletter/bulletin Hang posters/distribute flyers	1-3 weeks before start	Feb 12-26	
Distribute books to participants	1-2 weeks before start	Feb 19-Mar 5	
Small groups have introductory meetings	1 week before start	Wk of Feb 25	
Lenten Sermon Series begins	First Sunday in Lent	March 5, 2017	

## Lenten Study 2017



### Lenten Study 2017

March 5 – April 16, 2017

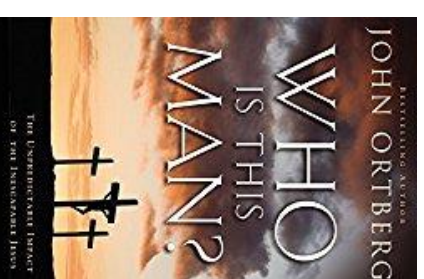
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Lenten Study 2017 includes a sermon series, DVD, book study, study guide, and small group discussion.

For more information, contact  
[Name, phone, e-mail]

## Lenten Study 2017



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March 5 – April 16, 2017

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You are invited to join one of the following small groups participating in this study.

[Examples]

Adult Sunday Class, Leader's Name, Time, Room

Men's Small Group, Leader's Name, Day, Time, Location

Young Adult Small Group, Leader's Name, Day, Time, Location



## Resources

### 1) CME Lenten Study 2017

- Receive updates at [www.facebook.com/seventhdistrictcmec](http://www.facebook.com/seventhdistrictcmec)
- Presentations by Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver, [www.cynthiajohnsonoliver.com/category/cme-lenten-study](http://www.cynthiajohnsonoliver.com/category/cme-lenten-study)

### 2) *Who is this Man?* by John Ortberg

- Available for purchase at [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com), [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and other booksellers. For Lenten Study 2017
  - Purchase books (Revised Edition: Zondervan 2014) for individual study and for each small group member.
  - Purchase one DVD for each small group.
  - Purchase Study Guides for small group leaders. (There is also a Participant Guide, but it is not necessary for the study.)
- Book chapter and trailer at <http://www.johnortberg.com/books/who-is-this-man/>.
- Downloadable version of DVD available for purchase at <http://www.johnortberg.com/books/who-is-this-man-downloadable-video-study/>.

### 3) Training Small Group Leaders

- Bill Donahue, *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups* (Zondervan, 2012)
- Bill Donahue, *Equipping Life Changing Leaders* (Format: DVD) (Zondervan, 2012)

### 4) Forming a Small Group Ministry

- Bill Donahue, *Building a Life-Changing Small Group Ministry* (Zondervan, 2012)
- Steve Gladen, *Small Groups with Purpose* (Baker Books, 2013)

### 5) Free Small Group Articles and Resources

- “5 Steps to Small-Group Facilitator Success,” <http://www.umcom.org/learn/5-steps-to-small-group-facilitator-success>
- “Wesleyan Small Groups for Today,” <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/wesleys-small-group-model-for-today>
- <http://www.smallgroups.com/explore> - Note: This is a paid site. The articles in the “Explore” section are free