

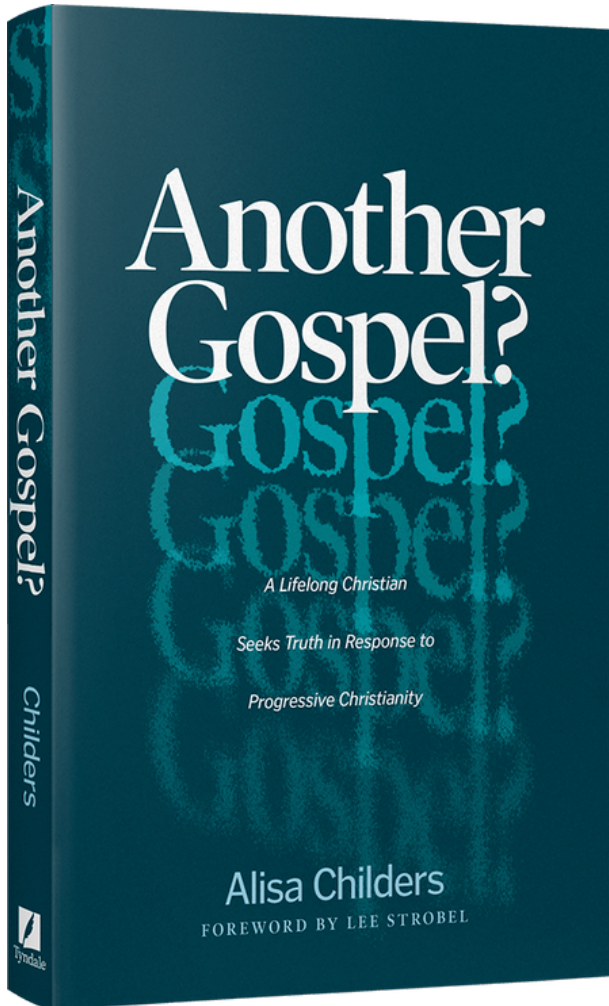
**RENEW  
GROUP**



JANUARY - FEBRUARY  
MAY-OCTOBER 2022

# ABOUT THE BOOK

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## In a Culture of Endless Questions, You Need Solid Answers.

Alisa Childers never thought she would question her Christian faith. She'd been raised in a Christian home, where she had seen her mom and dad feed the hungry, clothe the homeless, and love the outcast. She had dedicated her own life to leading worship as part of the Christian band ZOEgirl. All that was deeply challenged when she met a progressive pastor who called himself a hopeful agnostic. *Another Gospel?* describes the journey Alisa took over several years as she wrestled with questions that struck at the core of the Christian faith and found the truth. Alisa's story may be your own—or that of someone you love. Or perhaps you have encountered the ideas of progressive Christianity in your everyday life and aren't sure how to respond.



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# WHAT IS A RENEW GROUP?

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At New Creation, we embrace small groups as one of the primary means of continual discipleship. We are committed to regular, intentional community and fellowship with one another in this way. In Hagerstown, for the sake of parents, these groups are divided into women's and men's groups. Three things should happen at every Renew Group:

*1) Fellowship*

*2) Topical study based out of the Scriptures*

*3) Mutual encouragement in prayer*

It's our desire that everyone leave encouraged in the Faith and personally lifted up in prayer.

Within Renew Groups, there is a **host** and a **study leader** for each study. Generally, these should not be the same person.

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# RENEW GROUP STUDY LEADERS

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Frederick Renew Group Leader:

David Breisch

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Hagerstown Women's Renew Group Leader:

Stephanie Sipes

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Hagerstown Men's Renew Group Leader:

Garrett Sipes

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# SCHEDULE OF READINGS & QUESTIONS

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## ▶ JANUARY

### CHS. 1&2: CRISIS OF FAITH & THE ROCKS IN MY SHOES

#### GUIDING SCRIPTURES SELECTED BY STUDY LEADER

\*HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE TERM “PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY” BEFORE? IF YOU HAVE NOT, ARE YOU SURPRISED TO LEARN HOW IT CAN PICK APART AT ALL OF WHICH CHRISTIANS TEND TO HOLD NEAR AND DEAR? IF YOU HAVE, WHERE DO YOU SEE ITS PERVASIVENESS (SOCIAL MEDIA, CHURCH, ETC.)?

\*ALISA DESCRIBES HER FAITH AS INTELLECTUALLY WEAK AND UNTESTED BEFORE SHE BEGAN A CLASS WITH THE PROGRESSIVE PASTOR (SEE PAGE 5). IN WHAT WAYS MAY YOUR FAITH BE VULNERABLE TO QUESTIONS, DOUBTS, OR TEMPTATIONS?

\*HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THRUST INTO A SPIRITUAL BLACKOUT LIKE THE AUTHOR DESCRIBED (PG. 8)?

\*ALISA DESCRIBES ONE OF THE PEBBLES IN HER SHOE TO BE HER CONCERN OVER ALTAR CALLS. ARE THERE ANY “TRADITIONAL” PARTS OF YOUR RELIGION/FAITH THAT SOMETIMES GIVE YOU PAUSE OR FEEL LIKE A PEBBLE IN YOUR SHOE?

\*IN THE CONTEXT OF FAITH, DECONSTRUCTION IS THE PROCESS OF SYSTEMATICALLY DISSECTING AND OFTEN REJECTING THE BELIEFS YOU GREW UP WITH” (PG. 24). IN YOUR OPINION CAN DECONSTRUCTION BE HEALTHY? WHY OR WHY NOT?

# SCHEDULE OF READINGS & QUESTIONS

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## ▶ FEBRUARY

### CH. 3: CREEDS, COBBLER, & WALTER BAUER

#### GUIDING SCRIPTURES SELECTED BY STUDY LEADER

- \*DID IT SURPRISE YOU TO LEARN THAT THERE ARE OTHER GOSPELS SUCH AS THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS?
- \*WHY IS THE THE INERRANCY, AUTHORITY & RELIABILTY OF SCRIPTURE SUCH AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR FAITH?
- \*“IN MY VIEW, IT SHOULD BE UP TO JESUS AND THE APOSTLES TO DEFINE WHAT CHRISTIANITY IS” (PG. 41). WHY IS THIS STATEMENT SIGNIFICANT? HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM HOW OUR CULTURAL MOMENT TREATS CHRISTIANITY?
- \*BASED ON PASSAGES LIKE 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-5 AND PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11, WHAT WAS THE CORE OF THE EARLY CHURCH'S FAITH?
- \*HOW DOES OUR ANGLICAN HERITAGE BOTH CELEBRATE AND CATECHIZE US INTO THIS CORE CHRISTIAN FAITH?

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QUESTIONS DRAWN FROM [HTTPS://JENNIFERDUNGEY.COM](https://jenniferdungey.com) & THE DISCUSSION GUIDE



# SCHEDULE OF READINGS & QUESTIONS

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## MAY

### CH. 4: FIXING WHAT ISN'T BROKEN

#### GUIDING SCRIPTURES SELECTED BY STUDY LEADER

\*IN THIS CHAPTER, ALISA LAYS OUT SEVERAL REASONS THAT CAN LEAD TO A PERSON QUESTIONING HIS/HER FAITH: ABUSE, DOUBT, MORAL DEMANDS, TROUBLE WITH THE BIBLE, NEW PHILOSOPHIES (EX: CRITICAL THEORY), HYPERFUNDAMENTALISM (LEGALISM), AND SUFFERING. HAVE ANY OF THESE LISTED AFFECTED YOUR FAITH? ARE THERE OTHER REASONS WHY A PERSON MAY BEGIN TO QUESTION THE FAITH?

\*"JESUS REQUIRES EVERYTHING OF EVERYONE" (PG. 54). WHY IS THIS STATEMENT SIGNIFICANT?

\*AS YOU LOOK AROUND AT OUR CHURCH CULTURE, DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO ADD TO OR SUBTRACT FROM THE GOSPEL MESSAGE? EXPLAIN.

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QUESTIONS DRAWN FROM [HTTPS://JENNIFERDUNGEY.COM](https://jenniferdungey.com) & THE DISCUSSION GUIDE

# SCHEDULE OF READINGS & QUESTIONS

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## ▶ JUNE

### CH. 5: A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTIANITY

#### GUIDING SCRIPTURES SELECTED BY STUDY LEADER

\*“AS I’VE LEARNED, PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY IS NOT SIMPLY A SHIFT IN THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF SOCIAL ISSUES. IT’S NOT SIMPLY PERMISSION TO EMBRACE THE MESSINESS AND AUTHENTICITY IN CHRISTIAN LIFE. IT’S NOT SIMPLY A RESPONSE TO DOUBT, LEGALISM, ABUSE, OR HYPOCRISY. IT’S AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT RELIGION- WITH ANOTHER JESUS- AND ANOTHER GOSPEL” (PG. 76). THE AUTHOR LAYS OUT THE BASIC BELIEFS PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS SHARE REGARDING THE BIBLE, THE CROSS, AND THE GOSPEL. DO YOU AGREE WITH HER CONCLUSION THAT THIS IS ANOTHER GOSPEL? IS IT SHOCKING TO DISCOVER THIS BELIEF WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH?

\*CONTRAST THE RULE OF FAITH (SUMMARIZATION OF THE EARLY ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN BELIEF THAT IS LAID OUT ON PAGE 91) WITH THE PROGRESSIVE VERSION OF THE GOSPEL (PG. 92). WHAT IS MOST STRIKING TO YOU ABOUT THEIR DIFFERENCES?

\*HOW DOES OUR ANGLICAN HERITAGE ENCOURAGE US TO EMBRACE AND ARTICULATE THE CLASSICAL, ORTHODOX "RULE OF FAITH"? (HINT: CONSIDER OUR FORMULARIES - E.G. THE CREEDS, THE 39 ARTICLES & THE PRAYER BOOK).



# SCHEDULE OF READINGS & QUESTIONS

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## ▶ JULY

### CH. 6&7: NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN & FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO?

#### GUIDING SCRIPTURES SELECTED BY STUDY LEADER

\*THE AUTHOR LISTS VARIOUS HERESIES THAT HAVE EXISTED SINCE THE CHURCH BEGAN. DOES IT COMFORT YOU TO KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN HERETICAL VIEWS FROM THE BEGINNING? OR IN YOUR OPINION, IS THAT MORE FRIGHTENING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

\*DO YOU AGREE THAT PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY EMPLOYS A FORM OF WHAT C.S. LEWIS CALLED "CHRONOLOGICAL SNOBBERY" (PG. 109)? WHY OR WHY NOT?

\*WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT THAT NOTHING BE ADDED TO OR SUBTRACTED FROM JESUS? DO YOU FEEL THAT CURRENT CHURCH CULTURE IS ADDING OR SUBTRACTING? DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CURRENT TIMES WE LIVE IN (I.E. SOCIAL JUSTICE, THOUGHTS ON HOMOSEXUALITY, ETC.)?

\*HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE? HOW DID ALISA'S RESEARCH ADDRESS THOSE QUESTIONS?

\*AFTER READING THIS BOOK, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A FRIEND WHO ASKS WHY WE CAN TRUST THE TESTIMONY OF THE FOUR GOSPELS?

# SCHEDULE OF READINGS & QUESTIONS

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## AUGUST

### **CHS. 8&9: WAS IT ONLY TRUE FOR THEM? & AUTHORITY PROBLEMS**

#### **GUIDING SCRIPTURES SELECTED BY STUDY LEADER**

\*“WHILE IT’S TRUE THAT THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS REPRESENT THE FIRST CHRISTIANS, THEY WERE ALSO THE ONES CLOSEST TO JESUS. THEY KNEW HIM. THEY WALKED WITH HIM. THEY LEARNED PERSONALLY FROM GOD IN THE FLESH. FOR US TO ASSUME THAT WE KNOW MORE ABOUT THAN THEY DO SEEMED VERY ARROGANT AND SHORTSIGHTED TO ME” (PG. 139). DO YOU AGREE WITH THE AUTHOR? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THE DISCIPLES WERE EYEWITNESSES TO JESUS? WHY IS IT ARROGANT FOR US TO ASSUME WE KNOW MORE THAN THOSE WHO WALKED WITH JESUS?

\*AFTER READING CHAPTER 8, ARE YOU FULLY REASSURED ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF THE FOUR GOSPELS?

\*THE AUTHOR DISTINGUISHED THAT FOR PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS, THE BIBLE IS COMPELLING BUT NOT THE AUTHORITATIVE WORD OF GOD. COMPARE AND CONTRAST THIS VIEW WITH THE VIEW SHE LAYS OUT THAT JESUS HELD OF SCRIPTURE.

\*WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAYING THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD AND SAYING IT "CONTAINS" THE WORD OF GOD?

# SCHEDULE OF READINGS & QUESTIONS

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## ▶ SEPTEMBER

### CH. 10: HELL ON EARTH?

#### GUIDING SCRIPTURES SELECTED BY STUDY LEADER

\*HOW IS THE DOCTRINE OF HELL RELATED TO THE HOLINESS OF GOD? IS THERE ANY WAY IN WHICH HELL IS "GOOD NEWS" RELATED TO EVIL? SIN? REDEMPTION?

\*WHY DO YOU BELIEVE HELL IS SUCH AN UNCOMFORTABLE TOPIC FOR PEOPLE? HAS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF IT CHANGED AFTER READING CHAPTER 10? IF SO, HOW?

\*ALISA SUGGESTS THAT PROGRESSIVES HAVE A DISTORTED VIEW OF THE GOD WHO REVEALS HIMSELF IN THE BIBLE. DO YOU AGREE? IF SO, IN WHAT WAYS WOULD YOU SAY HE IS PORTRAYED INACURATELY BY PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS?

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QUESTIONS DRAWN FROM [HTTPS://JENNIFERDUNGEY.COM](https://jenniferdungey.com) & THE DISCUSSION GUIDE

# SCHEDULE OF READINGS & QUESTIONS

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## OCTOBER

### CHS. 11&12: COSMIC CHILD ABUSE? & RECONSTRUCTION

#### GUIDING SCRIPTURES SELECTED BY STUDY LEADER

\*HOW DO YOU RECONCILE GOD'S WRATH WITH HIS  
LOVINGKINDNESS?

\*HOW DOES OUR VIEW OF GOD AFFECT OUR VIEW OF THE  
CROSS? HOW DO PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS MISUNDERSTAND  
GOD IN THIS AREA?

\*THE AUTHOR LISTS 8 ESSENTIALS TO FAITH IN CHRIST (PG.  
232). DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS LIST? WHY OR WHY NOT?

\*ALISA LIKENS REBUILDING HER FAITH TO BUILDING LEGOS AS  
BOTH NEED ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCKS TO CREATE A  
STURDY STRUCTURE. WHAT ARE YOUR ESSENTIAL BUILDING  
BLOCKS OF FAITH? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE THESE  
ESSENTIAL BLOCKS IN PLACE? HAVE PROGRESSIVE  
CHRISTIANS REMOVED THESE ESSENTIAL BLOCKS IN THEIR  
BELIEF SYSTEM?

\*HOW HAS THIS BOOK HELPED YOU TO BUILD A STURDIER  
STRUCTURE FOR YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST?