Bruce Raley and David Francis draw on their wealth of experience as church leaders of Bible study groups to present a compelling case for starting new Bible study groups in the local church. Raley and Francis identify the potential new groups carry in reaching a community and developing believers. Essentials for starting new groups are defined as well as starting points. The authors propose that new groups lead to reaching lost people, maturing disciples, engaging people in ministry, and increasing available resources for ministry.

Authors:  
Bruce Raley is Director of Church Education Ministry at LifeWay Christian Resources. He served in education ministry roles in churches in Arkansas and Florida before being called to LifeWay in 2006. Bruce and Donna have two married adult children. In 2011, they began a new young adult group at their church in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

David Francis is Director of Sunday School at LifeWay Christian Resources. Before joining LifeWay in 1997, he served as minister of education at First Baptist Church in Garland, Texas. David and his wife, Vickie, love teaching preschool Sunday School and are helping start a new adult class in their church in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Download Training Materials

The booklet can be secured in various formats. You can purchase a printed copy for $1.50 (click here). You can download a PDF of the booklet below, distributing it as print or digital. You can also view the booklet as an ePub (in Apples bookstore, search for Extreme Sunday School Challenge OR you can find it in the LifeWay Reader under free eBooks (click here)).

Resources have been developed to help church leaders training others to start new groups. The first resource is conference package. Teaching plans (RTF), a handout master (PDF), and a PowerPoint presentation are included in the package.

PowerPoint backgrounds are supplied so you can make custom announcements and build your own presentations for training your leaders.

Nametag masters have been developed that support Extreme Sunday School Challenge. The masters are in PDF format. One master is for use with Avery 5390 (or compatible) nametags. The other master is for use with Avery 5392 (of compatible) nametags.

Talking Points is a collection of ten stories with questions to help church leaders and Bible study leaders begin to discuss how their church can start new Bible study groups. These can be used in a variety of settings, including discussion over coffee, dinner conversations, or in a conference setting.

The Catalyst Form is designed for distribution to others who are willing to be catalysts for starting new groups. The form includes a to-do list for starting a new group and a removable commitment card.

Please consult your computer user documentation on the best method for extracting these files. Many computers will extract them automatically.