

## **Questions and Answers about The Thoughtful Christian**

[www.TheThoughtfulChristian.com](http://www.TheThoughtfulChristian.com)

### **Who is a thoughtful Christian?**

You are! Along with many UCC members who want to wrestle with the questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life. Jesus called us to love God with our minds, as well as our hearts and souls. This, Jesus said, is the greatest commandment. You shall love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. (Matt. 22:37)

### **What is TheThoughtfulChristian.com?**

The Thoughtful Christian is a web-based resource center located at [TheThoughtfulChristian.com](http://TheThoughtfulChristian.com). It is filled with studies for youth or adults ranging from one to four sessions each for groups and individuals. Each session is designed for forty-five minutes to one hour and comes with a Participant Handout and a Leader's Guide. The studies can be downloaded as Acrobat PDF files, printed out, and photocopied for use in classes or for personal study and devotion. In addition, leaders can e-mail the Participant Handout to students in advance of the next meeting. New studies, including rapid responses to current events, are added to the site on a regular, ongoing basis. The adult studies come with a four page Participant Handout and a two to five page Leader's Guide with lesson plans and resources. Youth studies come with a multiple page Leader's Guide filled with information on the subject and a lesson plan that engages youth from the moment they enter the session. A two page participant handout has plenty of room for reflection. No homework is ever required!

### **What topics does The Thoughtful Christian cover?**

The studies are grouped into six categories:

- In the News
- Contemporary Issues
- Popular Culture
- Bible and Theology
- Christian Living
- Spirituality

These studies can be used in the following settings, among others:

- Adult Sunday school
- Weekday evening discussion groups
- Young adult classes
- New-member classes
- Lay leader training
- Weekend retreats
- Personal study and devotion



*The*  
**THOUGHTFULCHRISTIAN**

*Faithful living in a complex world*

**How much does it cost?**

Individuals, churches, and other organizations have three options for purchasing studies from The Thoughtful Christian:

***Individual purchase***

The rates for downloading individual studies on [TheThoughtfulChristian.com](http://TheThoughtfulChristian.com) are:

One-session unit	\$5
Two-session unit	\$10
Three-session unit	\$14
Four-session unit	\$18

***Save money with a Basic Study Pack!***

Benefits of the Basic Study Pack

You may purchase a pack of five units, of any length, for just \$40. These five units may be downloaded at any time.

For example, if you purchase a study pack today you can download a one-session unit today, a two-session unit and a three-session unit next week, and two three-session units next year. (Your savings in this scenario, incidentally, would be \$13 over purchasing the units individually.)

***Annual subscription***

Sign up for an annual subscription today! Save money, have unlimited access, and add additional users to your account! \$350, renewals \$225

***Small-Church Discount Program***

Specially designed for churches with total weekly worship attendance under 100 people, the Small-Church Discount Program allows smaller churches to take advantage of our Twelve-Month Subscription plan at a reduced cost. \$250, renewals \$225

**Benefits of an Annual subscription**

**Unlimited Downloads:** An annual subscription allows you to download as many studies as you want in a 12-month period. You may download new material, or material that was posted before your subscription began. Your subscription will begin as soon as you complete the order, and you may begin downloading studies immediately.

**Additional Users:** Another benefit of a subscription is that you can add up to four additional users to the account. So if you are a director of Christian education or pastor who oversees the education program, you can add your teachers to the account so they can have access and download as many studies as they want, whenever they want.

**Rebate:** If you're not ready to commit to a subscription just yet, try out a few studies and see what you think. Come back within 30 days of an individual or pack purchase and we'll deduct the cost of that purchase from the cost of the annual subscription.



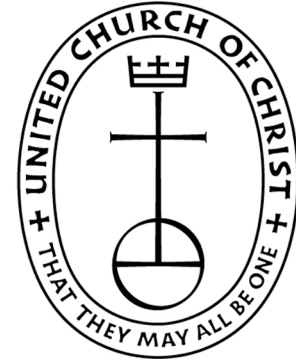
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***Not only does a twelve-month subscription give you unlimited access to the site, it's the best value!***

### **Subscription vs. Individual Study Purchases**

As an annual subscriber, you could save more than \$650 versus purchasing the studies individually.



### **Less Expensive than Traditional Curriculums**

At just \$350 for the first full year, a Thoughtful Christian subscription is about \$100 less than outfitting just one leader and twenty participants with three quarters worth of a traditional adult study curriculum. Your Thoughtful Christian subscription comes with unlimited access for five leaders, and you may print unlimited copies for participants!

### **Save Even More When You Renew Your Subscription**

Renew your Thoughtful Christian subscription for just \$225 per year and save even more!

### **The Thoughtful Christian Is a Resource for Your Entire Congregation**

Five members of your congregation may have their own account and password with total access to the site and unlimited downloads of all the studies and Premium Study Packs. This includes the director of Christian education, pastors, and leaders of classes who use the studies.

- Print out copies of studies for your church library.
- E-mail studies to individual members who request them.
- E-mail studies to college students away at school, homebound members, or members who travel out of town.

### **Can I make photocopies for my friend in another church?**

No. Individuals and churches are given permission to make photocopies of studies they download for use in a single class or to e-mail student sessions to class participants. Permission is not granted for distribution of these studies, either by photocopy or by e-mail, to other individuals or churches for their use. Those who distribute copyrighted materials from this Web site in violation of these policies, and in violation of U.S. copyright laws, will have their access to the site revoked.



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**Is The Thoughtful Christian affiliated with any religious organization?**

The Thoughtful Christian is maintained by Westminster John Knox Press, the publishing house of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). However, The Thoughtful Christian is an ecumenical site with writers from a variety of denominational affiliations and experiential backgrounds. It is our goal to help Christians from a wide variety of perspectives find resources to help them understand, share, and practice their faith. The United Church of Christ is a partner in making the resources available to UCC congregations and participates in the Advisory Board. UCC churches should be sure to identify the denomination when ordering resources from the web site.

**What is the mission statement of The Thoughtful Christian?**

The Thoughtful Christian is a web-based resource center that seeks to help Christians wrestle with difficult questions by stimulating informed conversation and reflection about living faithfully in a complex world.

**How can I search the site?**

You may search this site to locate topics, keywords, authors, or titles of sessions. Simply type the word or words into the Search box at the top right of the page and click Search or hit the Enter key on your keyboard.

**How can I find the youth studies?**

There is a toggle switch at the top of each topic area on the site. It is defaulted to the Adult studies, but clicking on the Youth button will show studies for youth in that area. Likewise, on the home page right side is a button called "Index". Clicking on it shows all the studies currently available. Clicking on the youth button will show all the youth studies available.

**What is the Basic Study Pack?**

You may purchase a pack of five units, of any length, for just \$40. These five units may be downloaded at any time. For example, if you purchase a study pack today, you can download a one-session unit today, a two-session unit and a three-session unit next week, and two three-session units next year. (Your savings in this scenario, incidentally, would be \$13 over purchasing the units individually.)

**How do I download a study?** When you have completed the shopping process you will be on the Download page. Select PC/Windows or MAC/OSX depending on your operating system, from the drop-down menu. Then click the Download button next to the title of the session you want to download. (Depending on how many you ordered, there may be just one, or several.)



*If using a PC with Windows* Once you click Download, a dialog box will open asking you what you want to do with the file. Depending on your web browser and the version of Windows you are using, it will give you the options to Open, Run, Save, Save As, or Cancel. If you click Run or Open, you will then be asked where you want to save the file. The default location will be your desktop. Use the Browse function to change the location, and then click OK. The file will unzip and open automatically in that location. If you choose Save or Save As, a box will open asking you to choose the location to save the file. Using the Save In arrow, select a folder, such as My Downloads or My Documents, and then click Save. Open the folder where you saved the file, and double-click on the file. It will “open” in that location. Important note: Be sure you remember where you saved the file and what it is named! That will make it much easier to locate it later, and will prevent you from having to download it again. Also, please do not rename the file until you have successfully downloaded it to your computer.



*If using a Macintosh with OSX* Once you click Download, a DMG file will be placed on your desktop. If it does not launch automatically, double-click it. This will mount a volume containing the files in your study. This volume acts as a folder. You can discard the DMG file, but do not throw away the volume containing your PDFs. Important note: Be sure you remember where you saved the file and what it is named! That will make it much easier to locate it later, and will prevent you from having to download it again.

### **Can I save my personal information?**

Click on SIGN IN. Below the Existing Customers Login is a hyperlink asking “Forgot your password or login ID?” Click on that line. You will be asked to type in the email address you used when setting up the account and to click the Submit button. A new temporary LoginID and Password will be emailed to that address. Once logged in, you will be prompted to create a new Login and Password. This will take you to your Billing Info, Payment Info, and Order History. The Billing and Payment information was saved during the account set-up. Click Edit to make any changes necessary. Once you have completed those changes, click Continue.

### **Can I view my order history?**

Yes. Click on My Account and enter your LoginID and Password. Click Submit. This will take you to your Billing Info, Payment Info, and Order History.

### **What should I do if I forget my password or LoginID?**

Click on SIGN IN. Below the Existing Customers Login is a hyperlink asking “Forgot your password or login ID?” Click on that line. You will be asked to type in the email address you used when setting up the account and to click the Submit button. A new temporary LoginID and



Password will be emailed to that address. Once logged in, you will be prompted to create a new Login and Password.

**What should I do if I lose a study that I already downloaded?**

Click on My Account and enter your LoginID and Password. Click Submit. This will take you to your Billing Info, Payment Info, and Order History. From your Order History, you can download previous purchases free of charge for ninety days. After ninety days, you will have to purchase the study again. If you have purchased a subscription, click on My Account and enter your LoginID and Password. Click Submit. Using the navigation bar across the bottom or the Search function located in the upper-right-hand corner, locate the study you lost. You will be able to download previous purchases free of charge as long as your subscription is active.

**How can I email the studies after I download them?**

PDF files can be sent via email as an attachment.

**Can other people use my account?**

You should never give someone your LoginId or Password. Your credit card information and Order History are accessible with this information. Giving someone this information would allow this person to charge purchases to your credit card. If you have purchased a subscription account, you can add up to four additional users to the account. Each person added to the account will be given a unique LoginID and Password. They will not use your LoginId and Password, and they will not have access to the credit card you used to purchase the subscription.

