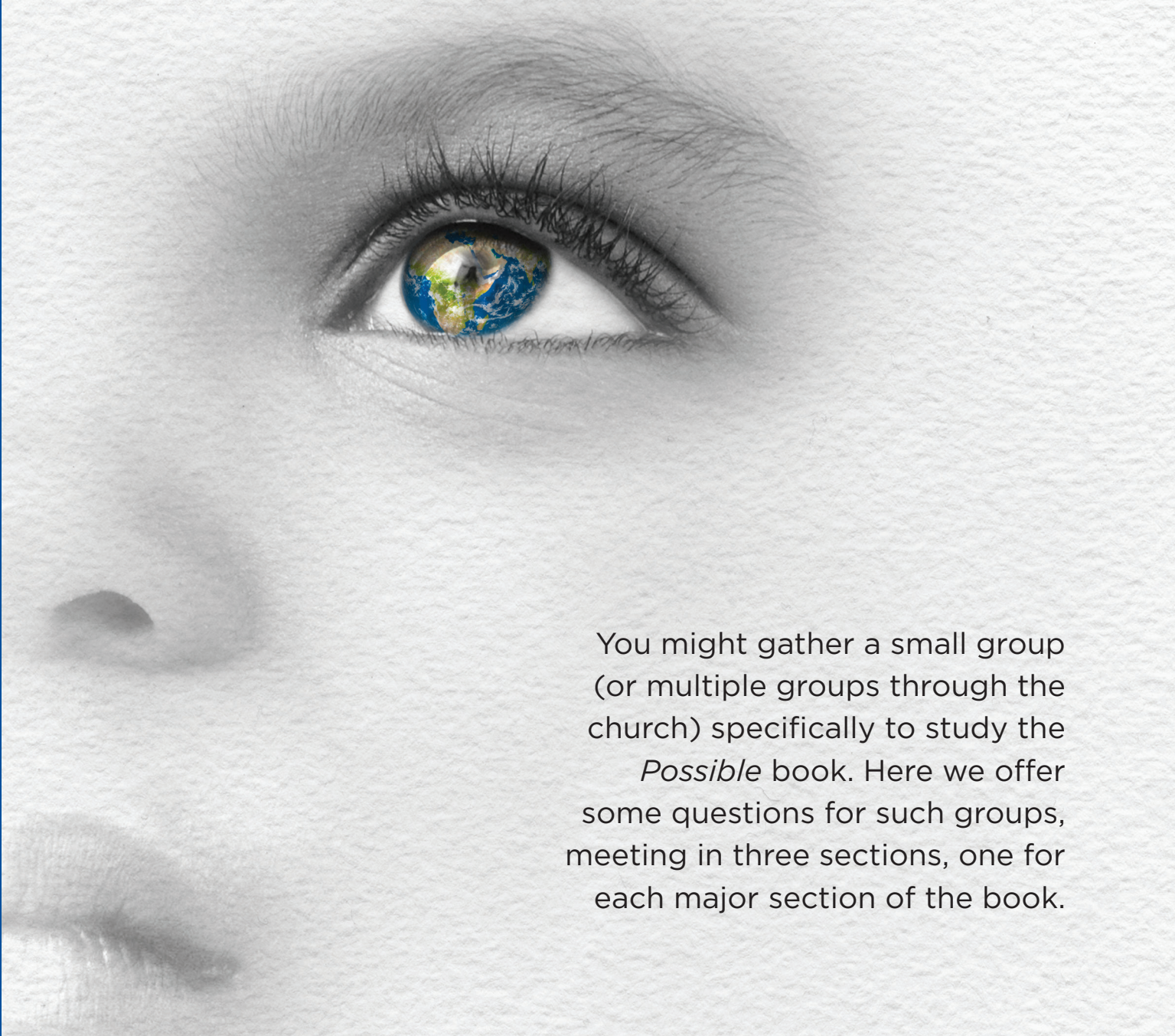


SMALL GROUP GUIDE  
to accompany  
**POSSIBLE**  
by STEPHAN BAUMAN



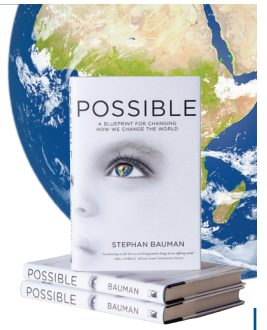
You might gather a small group  
(or multiple groups through the  
church) specifically to study the  
*Possible* book. Here we offer  
some questions for such groups,  
meeting in three sections, one for  
each major section of the book.



## GROUP GUIDE SESSION 1

*“Recovering our Call” Chapters 1-4*

Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1: 26—2:5; John 14:12-17



**OPEN:** What is something you wanted to do as a child that was impossible? Why? How did you feel about that?

What bothers you about the world? What would you like to change? How do you think God feels about this? Is it possible to change this, or would most people consider it impossible?

What abilities would you need in order to make a difference in this matter?

What does the 1 Corinthians passage tell us about the importance of our personal qualifications? Are we too weak or dumb or insignificant to do anything important? Was the apostle Paul (who wrote the epistle) any better qualified?

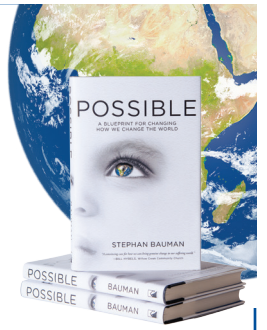
What does John 14 say about the ongoing work of Jesus’ disciples (including us)? What will we do, and how will we do it?

**CLOSE:** Think about—pray about—some seemingly impossible task that God might be calling you to tackle. Or perhaps the group could tackle it together?

## GROUP GUIDE SESSION 2

“Reframing the Problem” Chapters 5-7

**Key Scriptures:** Luke 6:43-45; Isaiah 58:6-10.



**OPEN:** What is your favorite kind of tree, plant, or shrub? Why?

In *Possible*, the author uses the image of a tree in evaluating the root causes of certain situations (see pp. 90-96; 167-171). Results stem from Behavior, which stems from Values, which grow out of Beliefs.

The Luke 6 passage has similar imagery. How did Jesus explain it there?

Do you see this progression in issues you're concerned about? How can our current problems be traced back to particular beliefs?

As we seek to address certain problems in the world (be specific), what can we do at the Behavior level, the Values level, and the Belief level? Does this make change seem more possible or less?

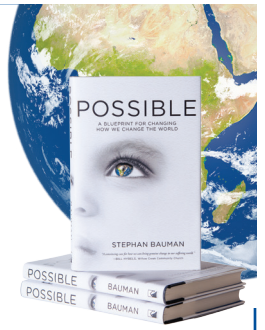
Consider the Isaiah 58 passage as an example. What does it tell us about the Results, Behavior, Values, and Beliefs of that culture? What needed to change, and how?

**CLOSE:** The book also talks about “collisions,” moments when we're forced to confront a problem, or when we glimpse a solution. Think about any such collisions that have recently occurred in your life. Where might God be steering you?

## GROUP GUIDE SESSION 3

*“Remaking the World” Chapters 8-10*

**Key Scriptures:** Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15,19; Romans 8:19-26; Ephesians 4:11-13.



**OPEN:** What have you “created” that you feel good about?  
(This could be an artistic creation, but perhaps a plumbing fix, a line of computer code, a win-win negotiation, or a happy home.)

What do the verses in Genesis say about the role of humans in God’s creation? Is it stretching things to say we are co-creators? Where does our creativity come from?

How well has the human race performed those original assignments?

What does the Romans passage say about our current status? What can we do about this?

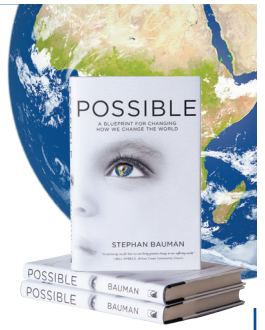
Where does our hope come from?

The Ephesians passage mentions an array of church leaders sharing three distinct tasks with the people. Note how creative these words are: equip, work, build up. How can our creativity pull people together to face “impossible” challenges? What does this look like?

**CLOSE:** Consider the “mapping” techniques on pp. 124-131 and in Appendix B. Can you do these together as a group on a joint project? Or could an individual map a personal project in this way?

## TASK GROUP

The material in *Possible* is perfect for certain “task groups” in the church, especially leadership boards or outreach committees. This guide, based on Appendix B, might help.



**STEP 1: BUILD YOUR TEAM.** You might assume that this board or committee is your “team,” but consider establishing a subgroup of those completely committed to the project.

**STEP 2: DEFINE YOUR COMMUNITY.** Be careful about the us/them division. Your community is the collection of people who want to address a problem in their midst. And the community might not be geographical, but cultural, social, racial, virtual, occupational, or affinity-based. Don’t just name the community . . . describe it. What words come to mind?

**STEP 3: DISCOVER YOUR ASSETS.** The book invites us to think in terms of people (individuals with certain skills and passions); groups (collections of people); and organizations (structured groups with common goals). Write each one on a separate sticky note.

**STEP 4: BRIDGE YOUR ASSETS.** What connections already exist there? What connections can you create? Move the sticky notes around to see what bridges might help move you forward.

**STEP 5: TAKE ACTION.** Brainstorm possible actions, then select the best ones. Note that the best way toward sustainable change is to activate the energy already in the community. This is done, often, through introductions, suggestions, encouragement, and casting a vision.