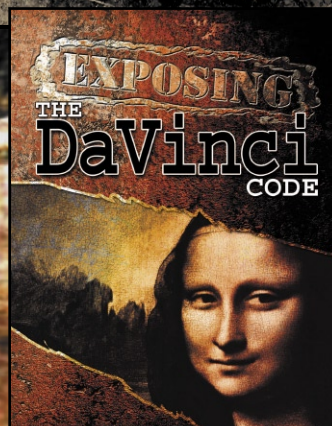
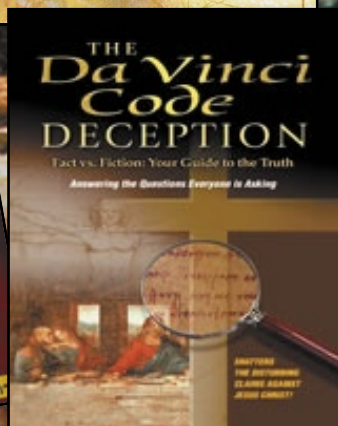
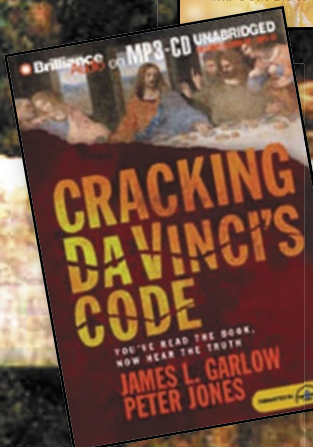
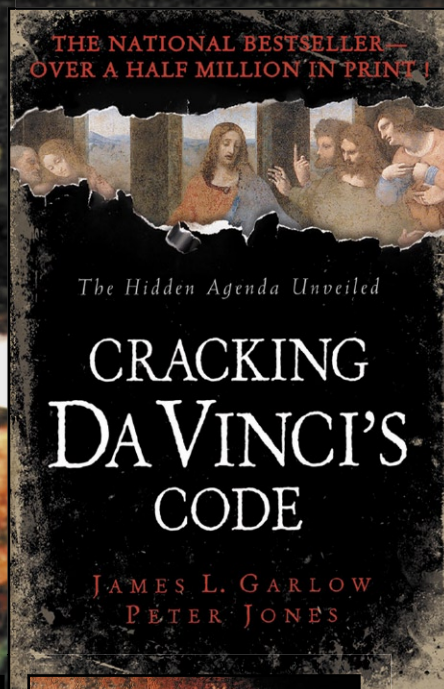
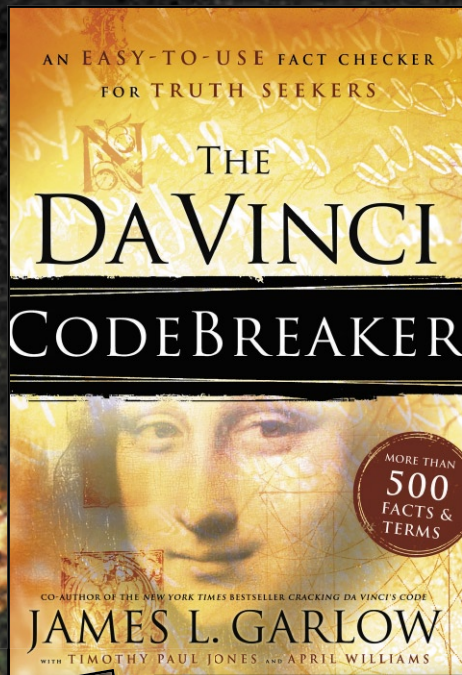


# Preparing for Da Vinci





# Preparing for Da Vinci

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR *THE DA VINCI CODE* MOVIE:

### 4 Phases

By Dr. Jim Garlow

[www.jimgarlow.com](http://www.jimgarlow.com) or 619.415.5445

One lady who was rescued during Hurricane Katrina expressed anger in a nationally televised interview that she had not taken the warnings seriously. A new type of hurricane has come – not Katrina – but a hurricane named *The Da Vinci Code*, in the form of a book and a movie.

*The Da Vinci Code* book and the movie have offered the church a spectacular evangelistic opportunity, if...if...if the church is equipped. 1 Peter 3:15 states, "...be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." We have such an opportunity.

Rarely, if ever, have people asked so many questions about the divinity of Christ or the reliability of the New Testament in the way they have, due to the novel and the movie. Church, this is our moment. Let us be prepared!

**The following is a 4 phase strategy for being prepared to respond to *The Da Vinci Code* movie.**

## 1. RESOURCE PHASE

- Get resources.
- Read Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*.
- Obtain
  - Book: *Cracking Da Vinci's Code* by James L. Garlow & Peter Jones (Cook)  
In addition to the full text, it is available in:
    - i. Abridged ("digest version") text as a "Ten Pac" for give-aways
    - ii. Audio Version: Cassette, CD, MP3
  - Book: *The Da Vinci CodeBreaker* by James L. Garlow, Timothy Paul Jones & April Williams (Bethany House)
  - DVD: *The 6 Things Every Believer Needs to Know About The Da Vinci Code*, a DVD (four 25 min sessions) by Jim Garlow – which can be played (1) as the sermon in a local church, or (2) in a Bible study, or (3) in a Sunday School class.  
(see [www.jimgarlow.com](http://www.jimgarlow.com) for info)
  - DVD: *The Da Vinci Code Deception* (Grizzley Adams Productions)
  - Optional DVD: *Exposing the Da Vinci Code* (ATI Productions)
  - Optional CD: *FAQ's about The Da Vinci Code*, (90 min)  
(see [www.jimgarlow.com](http://www.jimgarlow.com) for info)

## 2. PREPARATION PHASE

- Form a Bible study for 4-5 weeks for leaders & believers before *The Da Vinci Code* movie release covering the 6 things every believer needs to know about *The Da Vinci Code's* claim: (1) The Church & Women, (2) The Church and Human Sexuality, (3) The nature and life of Jesus, (4) The definition of "the church," (5) how the New Testament was formed, and (6) the definition of God.



• **Week 1 - Dan Brown's Portrayal of the Church's View of Women and Sexuality**

a. Before meeting read Chapters 1, 2, 3 of *Cracking Da Vinci's Code* (If using the "digest" version – Chapters 1, 2 [different than "main text,"] & 3)

b. Discussion questions:

1. How much knowledge do you have of who Jesus is? Much? Little? Where did you learn it?
2. In learning about the issues raised in *The Da Vinci Code* book and movie, how do you hope to benefit?
3. Sexuality is a delicate issue to discuss, but both the Bible and *The Da Vinci Code* discuss the topic. What is the difference between "maximal sexual fulfillment" and "minimal sexual fulfillment?" Which promotes "maximum sexual fulfillment?" The Bible? Or Playboy Magazine? Why did you choose what you did?
4. Looking at what the Bible has to say about women and at the history of women in the foundation of the church, how convincing is *The Da Vinci Code* in its claim that the church is the great oppressor of women? Do any of the claims in this chapter of *Cracking Da Vinci's Code* satisfactorily counter that claim as far as you are concerned? Why or why not?
5. Admittedly, some early church leaders wrongly oppressed women even using the Bible to support their actions. Can one legitimately separate the actions of an individual from the organization he or she represents? Is there a difference between an individual Christian's actions and Christianity itself? Are there contemporary examples that come to mind?
6. Does *The Da Vinci Code* ultimately call for a celebration of the uniqueness of male and female or a blending of the two into one androgynous gender? How does the Bible differ from that? How do you respond to the premise that men and women are different?

c. Look up the following terms in *The Da Vinci CodeBreaker*

- Female leadership in the:
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Early church
- Mary Magdalene
- *Malleus Maleficarum*
- Witch-hunts
- Sacred Feminine
- Goddess in the Gospels
- Goddess worship
- *Hieros Gamos*
- Eve
- Mona Lisa
- Inquisition

d. View Part 1 of the DVD: *The 6 Key Things Every Believer Needs to Know About The Da Vinci Code*

e. View portions of the *The Da Vinci Code Deception* DVD (go to menu)

- Chapter 1, Introduction
- Chapter 2, About the Novel
- Bonus Interviews:
  - a. Mary Magdalene, 7 min.
  - b. Christianity, Women's Roles and *The Da Vinci Code*, 6 min.

• **Week 2 – Dan Brown's Portrayal of Jesus and the Church**

a. Before meeting, read Chapters 4 and 5 of *Cracking Da Vinci's Code* (If using "digest" version, Chapters 4 & 5)

b. Discussion questions:

1. How do you respond to Brown's assumption that Jesus was not divine – or considered such till Constantine's time (325 AD)? Jesus' human traits prove He wasn't divine? Why or why not?
2. How is Paul, and the dates he wrote his letters, important to understanding the divinity of Jesus?
3. Is it important to you whether or not Jesus is truly divine? Why or why not? Who do you say Jesus is?
4. If history truly is just a "fable agreed upon," who are we to believe? How can we tell what version of history is the "truest"? Is there such a thing as true history?
5. Christian history seems to have many "losers"—those who committed great sins or who were killed for their faith. Yet *The Da Vinci Code* claims that church leaders—the winners— rewrote history to favor their "side." How do you respond to Brown's argument that winners write the history?

c. Look up the following terms in *The Da Vinci CodeBreaker*

- Christology
- Jesus as mortal prophet
- Jesus as Son of God
- The Last Supper
- Leonardo Da Vinci
- Priory of Sion
- Pierre Plantard
- Dossiers Secrets
- Bibliotheque Nationale de France
- Gospel of Phillip
- Marriage, Jewish
- Christianity as borrowed
- Sabbath
- Clement V
- Phillip IV
- Knights Templar
- Inquisition
- Godefroi de Bouillon

d. View Part 2 of the DVD: *The 6 Key Things Every Believer Needs to Know About The Da Vinci Code*

e. View portions of the *The Da Vinci Code Deception* DVD (go to menu)

- Chapter 3, Leonardo The Grand Master?
- Chapter 4, The Documentary Evidence
- Bonus Interview: Jesus' Marriage and Children, 9 min.



### • Week 3 – Dan Brown’s Understanding of the New Testament

a. Before meeting, read Chapters 6 and 7 of *Cracking Da Vinci’s Code* (If using “digest” version, Chapter 6)

b. Discussion questions:

1. How do we know some things are right and some things are wrong? If we did not have the Bible to follow, if we did as Marcion suggested and got rid of all scripture, what foundation would we have for moral law? What would keep each of us from doing what felt good at the time, regardless of the consequences to others?
2. Why is it important to know how our current Bible was assembled? Does this affect you?
3. Do you believe that the Bible is trustworthy? Why or why not?
4. If one follows the teaching of Gnosticism to its logical end, who will be one’s god?

c. Look up the following terms in *The Da Vinci CodeBreaker*

- Council of Nicea
- Constantine
- Canon (Old Testament; New Testament) notice the chart – and look up any of the words found in that chart
- Gospels, canonical
- Muratorian Fragment
- Nag Hammadi (notice the chart)
- Pagels, Elaine
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Q
- Jesus Seminar
- Gospel of Thomas

d. View Part 3 of the DVD: *The 6 Key Things Every Believer Needs to Know About The Da Vinci Code*

e. View portions of the *The Da Vinci Code Deception* DVD (go to menu)

- Bonus Interview: Early Christianity, The Books of the Bible and *The Da Vinci Code*, 19 min.

### • Week 4 – Dan Brown’s Real “Code:” Redefining God

a. Before meeting, read Chapters 8, 9, 10 of *Cracking Da Vinci’s Code* (If using “digest” version, Chapters 2, 7 & 8)

b. Discussion questions:

1. What is the difference between “spirituality” and Christianity?
2. How do you define sin? Where does the definition of what sin is come from: people or God? If from people, then which person determines what is sin? Is sin a problem that needs to be dealt with or is it simply a part of life that needs to be excused and tolerated?
3. Is it necessary to believe in a literal Satan in order to be a Christian? What would Satan’s purpose be? Do you believe in Satan? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think some are embracing the message of goddess worship? How do you view goddess worship?
5. Romans 1:25 in the New Testament, states in part: “They... worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.” What is the difference between worshipping the creation and worshipping the creator?
6. After reading *The Da Vinci Code*, was your image of Jesus changed? If so, how? Has your image of Jesus changed now that you have read *Cracking Da Vinci’s Code*, *The Da Vinci CodeBreaker*, and watched the DVD? How?

c. Look up the following terms in *The Da Vinci CodeBreaker*

- Gnosis
- Gnosticism
- Paganism

d. View Part 4 of the DVD: *The 6 Key Things Every Believer Needs to Know About The Da Vinci Code*

e. View portions of the *The Da Vinci Code Deception* DVD (go to menu)

- Bonus Interviews:
  - a. Gnostics, Christianity and The DVC, 10 min.
  - b. Historical Evidences and The DVC, 6 min.
  - c. Conclusions, 8 min.

### • Week 5 – Overview & Review

a. Optional DVD: *Exposing the Da Vinci Code* (ATI, 64 minutes)

## 3. MOVIE PHASE

Go to *The Da Vinci Code* movie with “seekers” and un-churched friends.

## 4. DISCOVERY PHASE

- Form “*Da Vinci Code Parties*” (weekly studies / discussion groups) at homes or the workplace.
- Repeat step #2 above (weekly study schedule) – except this time – do it with “seekers” and your un-churched friends. Ideally make it 4-5 weeks long. However, if you can only host it for one week, that can still be a very meaningful time.
- If you can only address two themes, discuss (1) the divinity of Christ and (2) the reliability of the New Testament (See #2 above, Weeks 2 & 3).

For more info, [www.jimgarlow.com](http://www.jimgarlow.com) or 619.660.5000 or 619.415.5445