

Westar Institute Study Groups

The following persons are seeking to form a study group in their area.*

**Don't see a group in your area? See below for details on how you can start a Westar study group*

- **Arizona (Phoenix, Scottsdale, Mesa areas)**

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- **California (Auburn area)**

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Want to start a group in your area?

If you are a Westar member and would like to be listed as a study group convener on this page and/or in the list that is published in Westar's membership magazine, [The Fourth R](#), send a request to westar@westarinstitute.org. Please be sure to include the following information:

- state (city or area)
- your name and city of residence
- your telephone number and/or email address

We will check that your membership is current and add your name to the next list that gets published online and in the magazine.

Resources for Study Groups

Visit the [Resources page](#) of the Westar website for a full list of resources, including:

- study guides
- *Fourth R* articles
- seminar reports
- event sign-ups

- links to organizations that are supportive of Westar’s work (religious groups, podcasts, etc.)

Polebridge Press, the publishing arm of Westar Institute, offers books and audiovisual materials at a group discount (30% off an order of 6+ books). To order, call the Westar office at 503-375-5323 during normal business hours Pacific Standard Time.

Tips for Successful Study Groups

- Establish a routine: weekly or monthly get-togethers, a process for selecting materials and discussing them, etc. Routines help people relax because they know what to expect, so they can concentrate on the discussion itself.
- Meet people where they are. Some will be very familiar with the study of religion and Westar, while others will have no experience.
- Respect others’ intellectual and spiritual journeys. As many Westar members—both Associates and Fellows—can attest, studying religion doesn’t automatically mean leaving religious practice and spiritual creativity behind. Expect to see a range of ideas and experiences.
- Work together to develop guidelines about respectful dialogue. This can be organic as you encounter issues, or you can discuss in advance.
- Consider meeting in a neutral location, depending on the make-up of your group. Some examples of neutral locations are the local library or a quiet coffee shop. Some people might feel uncomfortable meeting in a religious building depending on where they are in their journey.
- LitLovers.com has a helpful FAQ on [how to run a book club](#). They give ideas for handling personality conflicts, selecting books, and generating good discussions.