

How to Choose a Curriculum

Factors to Consider

- 1. God...**
 - Ask God to direct you to the right study for your small group.
 - Ask your co-leader to join you in prayer and then set aside time to evaluate options together.
- 2. The group...**
 - Where people in your group are in life? What issues are they struggling with?
 - Background and knowledge of people in the group
 - Spiritual maturity: Are they mature Christ followers, new believers or seekers?
 - Age of group: How bonded is the group?
 - Group members' interests in type and content of study?
 - As your group matures, lead them toward deeper Bible study
 - Commitment level of the group members
- 3. The leader...**
 - Based on the leader's experience, should the leader develop the study or use a prepared study guide
 - Own strengths, life experiences, interests
 - Personality and gifts
- 4. Logistical constraints...**
 - Shorter studies with less homework work better as the group is forming and building relationships
 - Number of weeks you want to spend on a study
 - Time you want to spend each meeting in study
 - Amount of homework group members will do

Guidelines for choosing a good study

- 1. Doctrinal purity**
- 2. Relational in nature** (*the idea of Groupalogue vs. Monologue*)
- 3. Application oriented**

Different study options...

- 1. A book of the Bible** (*a letter, a narrative, a poetic, etc.*)
- 2. Character study** (*a person*)
- 3. Topical studies** (*a subject*)

Additional advice about choosing curriculum...

1. Be inspirational

Use this time to ask not “what do I want to study next” but “how does God want us as a group to grow? Are there areas that we need to grow together?”

2. Be in prayer

As group, spend time in prayer asking God to show you together what He thinks you need next.

3. Be introspective

Use this time to evaluate your spiritual growth. “Where are we now and how do we take the next steps?”

4. Be invitational

It’s an ideal time to invite new people in. Publicize the study. Let the small group ministry leader know so that he can let others know.

5. Be intentional

Use the choice of a new curriculum to have the group renew commitment to Him and to each other. Read and re-affirm the group covenant. As your group matures, make sure that they are growing in their ability to discover Biblical truths for themselves. Encourage your group members to choose to study a book of the Bible or do a topical study based on Scripture on their own.

Finally, communicate your choice to your Small Group Ministry team. Be prepared to pass your knowledge of the curriculum onto other small groups.