

# Choosing curriculum

There are several things to consider when choosing a study for your group.

## ***Considering God...***

- Pray about you group's next study, by yourself and as a group.
- Ask your apprentice to join you in prayer and then set aside time to evaluate different options together.

## ***Considering 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?
- What focus did your group choose in their covenant that could help you in choosing a study?
- As your group matures, lead them toward deeper Bible study
- Commitment level of the group members

## ***Considering 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

## ***Considering 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...***

- Doctrinal purity
- Relational in nature
- Application oriented

## ***Different study options...***

- A book of the Bible
- Character study
- Topical studies

### ***Additional advice about choosing curriculum...***

- 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?”
- In Prayer – As group, spend time in prayer asking God to show you together what He things you need next.
- Inspection – Use this time to evaluate your spiritual growth. “Where are we now and how do we take the next steps?”
- 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.
- 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 coach. Be prepared to pass your knowledge of the curriculum onto other groups.