

# Bible-based Themes

Your small group can grow toward maturity by studying the Bible together. You don't need a study guide or a video. But you do need to know what to look for. We recommend that you start with the following books and pay attention to these themes.

## GENESIS

1. Do some research to find out why Genesis was written and how that impacts what is included (For help, read the introduction of a study Bible or, better yet, read the entry for "Genesis" in a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia that can be found in the church library). Reading the book quickly (at one sitting) helps you see the larger structure.
2. What is God revealing about himself?
3. What is God revealing about what he expects from mankind/his people?
4. What does the New Testament tell you about any of the people in Genesis? (Use a concordance to search for names like Adam and Abraham.)

## ROMANS

1. What is our sin like, and what is our situation because of it? (1-3)
2. If the opposite of sin is righteousness, how do we get it? (4, 5)
3. Once we are righteous, what does our future hold? (6-8)
  - in terms of keeping the righteousness
  - in terms of walking away from sin
  - in terms of our future
4. How does someone live in light of God's mercy? (12-15)

## **EPHESIANS**

1. What are 'spiritual blessings' and why is Paul so eager that we comprehend the dimensions of what we have received? (1)
2. What is God's version of your salvation testimony? (2)
3. Explain what is different under Christ from how people related to God previously? (3)
4. How does God expect us to live together? (4-6:9)
  - With believers
  - With blood relatives
  - With working people
5. What attitude do we need to develop to live in a way that pleases God? (6:10-24)

## **JOHN**

1. In every chapter, what do you learn about Jesus that will cause you to believe in him?
2. There are almost no crowd scenes in John. Rather, Jesus has longer interaction with a wide range of individuals. You may want to keep track of the results as John sees them—which sometimes is found in the material he presents after the meeting is over.
3. A large part of the gospel is dedicated to the final week, when only the disciples have time with Jesus. You will need to digest what he communicated (it took them years to digest it, too).
4. Pay attention to what John is communicating with the following key words: 'sign', 'hour' (or 'time'), 'father', and 'I am'.