

Small Group Guidelines

Choosing a Good Study

1. Curriculum should enhance your study of the Bible not replace it.
2. Make sure the curriculum is relational in nature challenging people to share their lives openly.
3. Studies should be application oriented not just knowledge oriented.
4. Don't feel obligated to answer all the questions. Answering a couple questions thoroughly is better than answering many superficially.
5. The goal is not to get through the curriculum but to make disciples who are growing in love toward Christ and each other.

Studying Any Chapter of the Bible

With some preparation, you can use the following questions to guide you through any portion of Scripture.

1. What does this passage teach me about God, myself, and others?
2. Is there an example here for me to follow?
3. Is there a promise to trust?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a truth to be applied?
6. Is there a sin to be confessed?
7. Is there a prayer for me to pray?

Additional Resources:

1. *The Serendipity Bible* by Lyman Coleman. You don't have to be a gifted teacher, because everything you need to lead a great small group is here in one flexible and easy-to-use package. Thousands of penetrating study questions and extensive study helps make the Serendipity Bible a flexible and exciting tool for Bible study leaders as well as for personal study.
2. *Growing in Christ* by NavPress. This is a great follow-up course for new Christians. We suggest that all new Christians go through the 5 "Lessons on Assurance" with a more mature Christian. The remaining 8 "Lessons on Christian Living" provide a great pathway for developing a pattern of personal study.