



HOW TO SELECT CURRICULUM

Here's the good news: a study won't make or break your community group experience. Think of the study like a roadmap for your group's meetings. It's not everything, but without it, your group time will lack a clear direction. Great studies will push you to answer the question, "How does this information change the way I relate to God and to others?". As long as a study serves as a springboard into a discussion about practical application there are a wide variety of resources you can use in your group.

How long should the study be?

When studies go longer than 6-8 weeks, they tend to drag. The goal is never to finish or do every part of the study. It's to dig into areas that challenge you and your group members to grow. Don't feel pressure to answer every question at each group meeting. Pick the ones that resonate with you or ones that will challenge your group members to apply what they are learning.

Limiting a study to 6 parts doesn't mean you have to choose studies that are 6 parts or fewer. If a study is longer than 6 chapters, you can double up, or pick only the chapters that are most helpful in terms of personal application.

As the group's leader, you will need to work through the material ahead of time so you can figure out which parts of the study will most benefit your group.

Here are areas to think about as you select your next group study:

Relationships: It is important for group members to grow in their relationships with God, with other believers, and with those outside the faith. You can rotate studies that focus on one of these three relationships.

If your group is just starting out, a good place to start is with a study focusing on their relationship with God.

Topics: There may be topics that consistently come up in group discussions. Pay attention to these topics, and when the time comes to choose a new study, you will already have some ideas.

You can ask your Staff Group Director or other small group leaders for ideas.

Growth: As a leader, you may be able to see a few areas where your group members need to grow. What are some of those areas? A few options could be spiritual disciplines, reading Scripture, making wise choices, or relationships.

When you identify the growth area, find studies that focus on that area in different formats so the group can select the format that works best for them. You might select a book, bible study, book of the Bible, or sermon series to offer as options for your group to select from.