



PARKWAY CHURCH

building relationships that build disciples

There are several things to consider when choosing a study. This may be one of the most challenging things your group will do. You want group participation in decision-making, but ultimately, it is the leader's final decision.

Considering God

Pray about the study, by yourself and as a group. Ask your apprentice to pray and then set aside time to evaluate different options as a leadership team.

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 Bible study
- The 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
- The number of weeks you want to spend on a study
- The 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

Bible

- Choose a book of the Bible
- Character study
- Topical studies

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 predominantly on Scripture, rather than a book.

Topical Studies

- Relationships: Dating, friendships, family, work
- Spiritual disciplines: Prayer, fasting, giving, etc.
- Developing Godly character
- Spiritual Warfare, temptation
- Bonding/Boundaries
- Healing hurt of past experiences
- Finances
- Role of the church; our role in the church