

SELECTING STUDY MATERIAL FOR YOUR LIFE GROUP

Perhaps the most common challenge that Life Group leaders face is selecting study material for the group. How do you find good material that will meet the needs of your group members? Here are some points to consider as you select study material for your Life Group.

SPIRITUAL CRITERIA

□ **Divine Direction**

Ask God for direction in your decision. Let the Spirit give you guidance. Be sensitive to the way in which God may speak to you about a topic or material as you consider it.

□ **Discipleship Qualities**

Identify which of the six discipleship qualities is covered by material you are considering. (Information on these can be found on our website under leadership resources)

1. Passionately devoted to Jesus Christ
2. Biblically grounded in our perspective on life
3. Actively involved in authentic community
4. Deeply committed to having a healthy family
5. Personally responsible in the stewardship of all our resources
6. Missionally minded in all of our relationships

□ **Group Member Needs and Issues**

Is your group dealing with a particular issue, or do you need growth in one of these areas? Has your group fallen into a rut in what it studies?

□ **Biblical Soundness**

Confirm that the material is biblically sound. Is the content accurate and aligned with God's Word? Is it from a trusted source? The pastoral staff can help you if you are unsure.

PRACTICAL CRITERIA

□ **Level of Spiritual Maturity**

Does it address the maturity level of the group? If the group is mixed in maturity, does it meet the needs of all levels?

□ **Study Style**

Is this a format that enhances group participation? DVD, book study, bible study... Is the tone academic, humorous, inspirational, soul-searching?

□ **Time Commitment**

How long will the study run? 1 month? 12 weeks? 6 months? If workbook is involved, how long does each study take and how many studies are there each week? If you use a DVD how long are the segments. What will the group commit to?

□ **Cost**

How much will the church and each participant have to pay for the material?

□ **Leader's Knowledge**

Do you feel comfortable teaching this material? Is the topic new to you? Do you need to do more study before you bring it before the whole group?

Now that you know what to look for, where do you look for the material?

Start with the church's resources list on our web site: www.newlifepismo.com

Choose Resources>Small Group Help>Group Study Materials

Most of the listed resources are available at the church; others are recommended, but not owned by New Life.

The information section tells you most of the answers to the selection criteria questions above. If you find something of interest you can check it out from the library / church office and see how you like it. Show it to your group.

Check out Bible bookstores like Parable. Beware of online searches for material; you will have to consider not only the topic, but the source of the information as well.

If you have resources that you recommend, please let us know and we will make the information available on the website. Feedback from other group leaders is one of your best resources.