



How to Choose A Study For A Small Group

Purpose for Curriculum:

Encourage, strengthen, and inspire, Christian faith;
Increase Bible knowledge and application to daily living.

Components (Which are important to your group and may also affect cost to the group)

- Single book that contains leader’s guide or other study helps
- Separate student and teacher book
- Multiple components in addition to student and teacher
Such as DVDs, MP3, downloadable materials, audio tapes

Questions to ask when considering content of materials:

- Is the material Bible based with the level of Scripture usage appropriate for my group?
- Does it require some Bible study in the lesson?
- Is it consistent with our Biblical heritage and basic Christian beliefs concerning God, the Trinity, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit? Not sure, contact Ceil McGee, cmcgee@ucumc.org
- Is the content relevant to the needs and interests of my group members?
- Is the length (both overall & each unit) of the study appropriate for my group?
- Does the material bring the text to life through practical examples and meaningful application?
- Is material easy to follow; encourages discussion through variety of questions or learning experiences, and how much time will be required for the group member weekly?
- How much preparation time will be involved for the leader?
- Will it contribute to meaningful spiritual and personal growth for my group?
- Does the content invite group members to learn more and provide additional resources?
- Does the content invite group members to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus?

Generally anything from Cokesbury, Lifeway Book Store, Upper Room Resources, Group Publishing, Willow Creek, Christian Book Distributors, will fall into these guidelines.

What should we study next? A way to consider topics for study is a two tier (foundational/going deeper) approach based on these suggested categories.

Bible Study	Christian Living	Family Life	Leadership	Prayer/ Spiritual Disciplines	Church History
Old Testament	A. Stanley	Parenting			
New Testament	J. Ortberg	Marriage Families			
	Finances	Moms/Women Men			

Small Group Curriculum Resource Options

1. Check our UCUMC Adult Ministries library. Online at www.ucumc.org - click on “Church Library” or Visit in Room 108. (Also look in the library’s file drawer for current flyer about new studies and catalogs from publishing houses.)

2. Check our Western NC Conference lending resource library. Online at www.wnccumc.org – click “Fishing Hole” or Call 704.535.2260 x141. or Go visit 3400 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte NC 28215. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.- noon. Those on “approved list” to reserve materials:
MTO: Dawn Eaker, Deanne Lampe
Adult Sunday School: Michele Travis, Neil Brown, Sam Wermuth
Others: Donna Benson, Margie Broadway, Ceil McGee, Wendy Lessin

3. Look for Online Resources.

LifeWay Christian Resources at www.smallgroup.com/

Christianity Today at www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/ See the free area. Although the cost to purchase any lesson series are really reasonable

Use BibleGateway for keyword searches and topical index at www.biblegateway.com

Check with the Global Board of the UMC at www.umc.org/ (Search the site for ‘bible studies’.

Also Ceil through the church has access to the iTeach archives)

CrossWalk www.crosswalk.com/ (I found this site from www.nccumc.org)

Make sure that you print a copy for the church’s library if you like the study!

4. Look for resources from churches and pastors you love. Here are some examples...

Willow Creek at www.willowcreek.com

North Point Community Church with Andy Stanley at www.northpoint.org

Rick Warren (SaddleBack) at www.rickwarren.com

Living on the Edge with Chip Ingram at www.livingontheedge.org

Upper Room at www.upperroom.org

InterVarsity at www.ivpress.com/connect

5. Visit a local bookstore or check them out online!

Cokesbury (www.cokesbury.com). LifeWay (www.lifewaystores.com).

Family Christian BookStore (www.familychristian.com)

When your group is done with a purchased study, please give the materials to the library.

Other groups will benefit from your sharing this gift offering. Thank you!