

HELPING GROUP LEADERS NAVIGATE CURRICULUM

One of the most stressful parts of leading a group for some leaders is this question: *What should we study?* There is no shortage of options and group leaders can become overwhelmed by the choices. As a coach, it's your role to be familiar with our resources, ask guiding questions of our group leaders, and help group leaders involve the group in the decision-making process.

Available Resources

Please review the [Curriculum Resources](#) we provide group leaders.

Right Now Media can be overwhelming, even with the “Recommended for...” sections. The Groups Team has previewed some RNM studies and you can find our reviews [here](#).

Guiding Questions

Below are questions that can help your group leader narrow down study choices:

Spiritual Growth & Needs

1. **Where do you sense your group is spiritually right now?**
(E.g., hungry for deeper theology, needing encouragement, struggling with trust, etc.)
2. **What spiritual practices or habits would you love to see your group grow in?**
(Prayer, Bible reading, community, service, etc.)

Group Dynamics

3. **What has your group engaged with most in past studies?**
(Story-based studies, verse-by-verse, topical, video-driven, etc.)
4. **Are there any topics or styles that haven't resonated well? Why?**
5. **What's the energy level and emotional tone of your group right now?**
(Are they weary, excited, disconnected, craving connection?)

Practical Considerations

6. **How much homework is your group willing to do outside of group meetings?**
(Do they need low-prep content or are they ready for more in-depth commitment?)
7. **Do you have a balance of newer believers and seasoned Christians in your group?**
(Helps gauge study depth.)

Discerning Direction



8. Is there a specific need or struggle people in your group have mentioned lately?
9. Has God placed any particular scripture, theme, or burden on your heart as a leader?
10. What's something your group has never studied before that might stretch them?

Choosing Curriculum Based on the Group Life Cycle

Where a group is in their life cycle can be a determining factor in determining what kind of study would be a good fit.

Takeoff: Getting Started

Group Stage: People are just beginning to connect. There's excitement, but also a bit of uncertainty.

Curriculum Focus:

- **Connection & Foundations:** Choose studies that help people **open up, share stories, and build trust.**
- **Short & Simple:** Keep studies **light, easy to understand,** and applicable to everyday life.
- **Topics:** Community, belonging, basics of faith, grace, identity in Christ.

Great Options:

- "Life Together" style resources
- Short video-based studies with built-in discussion prompts
- Enneagram/Personality studies (to get to know one another)

Goal: Build relational glue. People should leave thinking, *"I like these people. I want to come back."*

Flight: Growing & Deepening

Group Stage: The group feels like "home." They're open, engaged, and ready for more.

Curriculum Focus:

- **Challenge & Depth:** Choose content that encourages **spiritual growth, personal transformation, and accountability.**
- **Scripture-Based:** This is a good time to dive deeper into the Bible or a book of the Bible.
- **Life-Relevant Topics:** Marriage, parenting, prayer, dealing with anxiety, purpose.

Great Options:



GROUPS

- Study guides with homework
- Thematic Bible studies
- Studies that introduce spiritual practices (prayer, fasting, generosity)

Goal: Encourage maturity. People should think, *“I’m growing here. I’m becoming more like Jesus.”*



Landing: Preparing to Multiply

Group Stage: The group is strong but starting to plateau—or too large. It’s time to consider making room for others.

Curriculum Focus:

- **Vision & Mission:** Choose studies that remind people **why groups matter**, the call to **make disciples**, and the importance of **multiplication**.
- **Leadership Development:** Consider doing a **leadership-focused or gifts-based** study that helps identify future leaders.
- **Unity & Sentness:** Studies that help people process *change* and *God’s calling* together.

Great Options:

- Studies on spiritual gifts or calling
- Multiplication-focused series (like “Ending Well”)
- Studies on the early church (Acts) or the Great Commission

Goal: Shift the mindset. People should think, *“This isn’t just for me—God can use me to reach others.”*

Getting Group Input

- Involving the group in the decision of what to study fosters a sense of ownership, engagement, and spiritual curiosity among group members. When people feel heard and valued, they are more likely to show up consistently and participate meaningfully.
- Getting input also helps ensure that the chosen study meets the current needs and interests of the group.
- Offer 2–3 curated options that fit the group’s life cycle stage and spiritual direction, rather than leaving the decision completely open-ended. Present these options in a group meeting or via a simple poll, then ask thoughtful follow-up questions like, “What are you most needing in this season?” or “What’s helped you grow the most in past studies?” This approach invites collaboration while still providing clear leadership and direction.

