

Recommended Formats for Group Meetings

Below are the formats we recommend for the Discipleship Curriculum and Devotional Commentaries.

1) Discipleship Curriculum

Prior to Group Meetings:

Participants are encouraged to read the assigned chapter and answer the discussion questions before coming to group meetings.

During Group Meetings:

The following are general recommendations for the flow of group meetings. Please see the box “Leader Guides” for specific recommendations for each chapter.

Welcome

Summarize the content of the assigned chapter. The Group Leaders may choose to use the teaching video provided in the Leader Guide (averaging about 20 minutes in length) or provide their own summary. The goal of these videos is to provide a shortened version of the chapter for three primary reasons:

- Repetition helps in learning.
- Some people learn better by hearing than reading.
- It’s helpful to provide a reminder of the reading as a way of leaning into the time of discussion.

Allow for Group Discussion based on the discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

Go over any necessary assignments for the following group meeting.

Include a worship element. Recommended worship songs are in the Leader Guides.

Pray for the group or allow for a time of group prayer.

2) Devotional Commentaries

The primary goal of the devotional commentaries is to help believers grow in their relationship with God through verse by verse Bible reading. This can be joined to a large group teaching component as well as small group discussion as noted below:

Personal Devotional Time

The devotional readings are designed to provide five daily readings a week. Most of the devotionals will take 5 to 10 minutes to read.

Large Group Teaching

The devotional guides can be used in conjunction with the large-group teaching ministry of the church. Church leaders are read the daily devotions and prayerfully consider which passages to use for the large group teaching.

Small Group Discussion

We recommend that small group discussion be based on the large group teaching. Therefore, we encourage the teaching team to produce discussion questions that accompany their lessons.