

Group Discussion Content Options

Four buckets for Word-centered content to facilitate group discussions:

1. Bible Study
2. Sermon Discussion
3. Right Now Media Studies
4. Christian Books

Below is more detailed information regarding each of these content options.

Bible Study:

Groups can directly walk through passages of Scripture and books of the Bible together. There are numerous ways as to how to do this, but here are three ideas:

Format #1:

- Walk through a book of the Bible by reading a portion of Scripture out loud.
- Give group members five minutes or so to meditate on it personally and jot a few insights or questions down.
- Then, answer each of the following three questions about your passage: (*Come up with as many answers as possible to each question.*)
 1. **God**: What does this passage teach us about God?
 2. **Man**: What does this passage teach us about fallen, sinful humanity? (*Our struggles, etc.*)
 3. **Obey**: How do we need to obey based on this passage? (*How we think, feel, what we love, etc.*)

Format #2:

- Have group members read around a portion of Scripture before coming to group and take notes on observations, questions, what stuck out, etc.
- Then discuss that text at group. This format allows for group members to be prepared to participate in the discussion more.
- A simple way to facilitate this discussion is to ask each group member to share at least one highlights that stuck out to them.

Format #3:

- Use a Bible study workbook such as the *Knowing the Bible* series published by Crossway and edited by J. I. Packer as a tool for people to walk through during the week or to give suggested discussion questions to passages you read in group.

Sermon Discussion:

- Take your own good notes during the sermon.
- Read the passage together as a group.
- Review the main points of the sermon for your group.
- General Questions to Ask:
 - What was one thing that stuck out to you from the message or passage?
 - What is one thing we learn about God (his character and his ways)?
 - Where, how, and why do we struggle to live in the way this text reveals we should?
 - What is one example of what obedience to the passage of Scripture or message topic could look like?
 - What is one way the Holy Spirit is prompting you to change or walk in obedience in response?

**A good tip would be for leaders to send the group a link to the sermon midweek before the group meeting to ensure people who missed Sunday watch it.*

Right Now Media:

Right Now Media is like a "Netflix-style" video library of Bible Studies, Courses, Christian children's programming, etc., that Northstar subscribes to for our body to use.

- Go to <https://northstarknox.com/group-leader-central> to set up your free Right Now Media Profile. (Anyone in your group is also welcome to set up their own profile for personal use, so feel free to share this with them.)
- You can select content that walks through books of the Bible or content that is based on a specific topic.
- Any content that is tagged as a "Right Now Media Original" comes with a free leader guide and participant handouts with discussion questions.
- Right Now Media also has a free mobile app that you can use to download and play videos on-the-go.

Christian Books:

- Select a Christian book on a specific topic and assign one chapter per week to read for homework.
- Ask group members to mark key insights in their books to aid in their recall during the discussion time.
- Facilitate the discussion by asking each group member, "What was one thing that stuck out to you in this chapter?"
- Because not all pastors/authors/theologians are equally trustworthy or in equal agreement with the beliefs of Northstar Church on different issues, please inform the staff person over groups about what book you are considering using for your group study.

See below for a list of recommended book titles based on topic:**General Theology:**

- The Explicit Gospel by Matt Chandler
- Delighting in the Trinity by Michael Reeves
- Knowing God by J. I. Packer
- None Like Him by Jen Wilkin
- Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart by J. D. Greear
- Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortlund
- Deeper by Dane Ortlund

Spiritual Growth, Discipleship, and Formation:

- How to Grow by Darryl Dash
- The Common Rule by Justin Whitmel Earley
- Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald Whitney
- Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health by Donald Whitney
- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality by Pete Scazzero
- The Body Teaches the Soul by Justin Whittle Earley
- A Short Guide to Spiritual Disciplines by Mason King
- Multiply by Francis Chan
- A Praying Life by Paul E. Miller
- Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools by Tyler Staton
- The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer

Understanding the Bible:

- Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin (It's a good resource for men, too!)
- 30 Days to Understanding the Bible: Unlock the Scriptures in 15 minutes a Day by Max Anders
- Core 52: A 15-Minute Daily Guide to Build Your Bible IQ in a Year by Mark Moore
- 40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible by Robert L. Plummer

Marriage and Singleness:

- When Sinners Say "I Do" by Dave Harvey
- Marriage by Paul Tripp
- The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller
- I Still Do by Dave Harvey
- Not Yet Married: The Pursuit of Joy in Singleness and Dating by Marshall Segal
- Single, Dating, Engaged, Married by Ben Stuart

Parenting:

- Habits of the Household by Justin Whitmel Earley
- Parenting by Paul Tripp
- The Disciple-Making Parent by Chap Bettis
- Family Discipleship by Matt Chandler and Adam Griffin

Missions/Personal Evangelism:

- The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission by John Dickson
- The Art of Neighboring by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon
- Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out by D. Scott Hildreth and Steven A. McKinion
- B.L.E.S.S. 5 Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor and Change the World by Dave Ferguson and Jon Ferguson
- When Helping Hurts by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- Radical by David Platt

Apologetics:

- Can We Trust the Gospels? by Peter J. Williams
- Why I Trust the Bible by William D. Mounce
- The Reason for God by Timothy Keller
- Confronting Christianity by Rebecca McLaughlin
- Mama Bear Apologetics by Hillary Morgan Ferrer

Suffering:

- Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering by Timothy Keller
- Suffering by Paul Tripp

Work:

- Every Good Endeavor by Timothy Keller