

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

Picking your food at a restaurant is not always the easiest thing to do. There are lots of choices on the menu, and many may sound good. You need to look through the description of each item though to see if it suits you, yet, even then, the choice may not be clear. Often times it can feel like picking a Bible study for your small group is like picking food at a restaurant, though you often have far less of a menu to help you along in your choice. This document, with it's 3 questions, will hopefully add to your menu, so to speak, when you and your group look to pick your next bible study.

1: IS IT PURPOSEFUL?

Does the study...

- grow your understanding of God and the Scripture?
 - his glory, his character, his mission, his ways ?
- Grow our understanding of ourselves in light of the Scripture?
- Provide good application for daily life ?
- Address the particular needs of your group?
 - Biblical literacy?
 - Biblical living?



2: IS IT PROFITABLE?

The Word of God is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training. Does the study...

- Require that I have an open Bible in front of me?
- Put me in God's Word? Every day? Five days a week? More? Less?
- Ask me questions that are rooted in the text? Does it...
 - carefully observe the text.? What does it say? Does it help identify genre, grammar, context, and figures of speech?
 - interpret the text? What did this mean to the people to whom it was originally written? How can that same message translate in time and culture today?
 - respond to the text. Now that I know this, what should I do?
- Ask questions about God and what he's doing, or about me and what I'm feeling?
- Use words and phrases that can be understood by believer and unbeliever alike?

3: DOES IT POINT TO JESUS?

Jesus and His Gospel are the thread that weaves through the whole of Scripture. Does the study...

- Major on the majors, and minor on the minors? Does it point to Jesus and the saving truth of His Gospel?
- help me better understand the forgiveness, healing, redemption, grace, and hope that are ours in Jesus?

YOU STILL NEED TO EAT YOUR CHOICE...

Those are three expanded questions to help you choose from the menu of studies that are available. In the end though, whatever choice you make, just like with food from a menu, you'll have to bite and see if the choice was a good one.

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