

# For the Small Group Leader



**W**hen we meet as Christians, we do so in fellowship with each other, caring for and responding to each other's changing needs. But we also meet for the purpose of growth and training (Col. 1:9-12): growing in our knowledge of God, strengthening our faith, and training each other to be better able to serve and encourage others with the Word of God.

One of the ways you care for the members of your group is by thoughtfully planning the year's program—i.e. where you are leading your group and how to get there.

So what do you choose? What constitutes a healthy diet of small group study? We suggest a "60/25/25" approach:

- 50% of the study time available spent in expositional Bible study, i.e. working through a NT or OT book;
- 25% spent doing different kinds of studies, such as topical or character studies, or reading a Christian book; and
- 25% spent doing practical ministry training—such as a course in evangelism, or how to follow-up new Christians, or training for some other aspect of Christian service. (Note: You're not giving up the Bible in this training—there's lots of Bible content in Matthias Media courses.)

This 60/25/25 approach ensures that your learning is directed by your study of the Scriptures, and that you keep in mind the aim of serving others and spreading the gospel by training each other in these tasks.

On our web site, we've put some sample yearly plans for different kinds of groups.

Remember though, your group is made up of individuals. They are not necessarily all at the same stage of Christian development. The majority of your group may be mature Christians who need to be stretched and trained. But there may be one or two who actually need some basic follow-up to establish them more firmly in the fundamentals. That's where you need to be proactive as a leader and cater not just for the group as a whole, but perhaps meet one-to-one with some of those group members that need some extra help.

Conversely, not all your group members may be quite ready to do training, such as in how to lead a small group themselves. But it might be good for you to meet with the one or two who are ready for that, and train them so that they can share the leadership with you for a few months and then start their own new group.

If you haven't done so already, why not pause now and think about the people in your group. Ask God to give you wisdom to discern where they are up to in their Christian life, and how to cater for their growth. It might even make for a very interesting conversation to talk to them individually about it.