Bible Study Selection – General Information

The study of God's Word is of utmost importance. God speaks to us through His Word which offers us the pleasure of knowing Him. Time spent in Bible study provides the means of salvation and the means to walk out our faith. PWOC should be about offering quality Bible studies.

In selecting Bible studies, consider the following:

Coordinate the Calendar with the President and the 2nd VP-Programs

Determine how many class periods you will have each semester. Figure out when you will begin and end each semester, taking into account the local school schedule as this will certainly affect childcare needs. Look for school breaks and holidays which fall on PWOC meeting days.

- Know how many weeks you will be meeting for Bible study (excluding Kick-off, Programs and taking turns with Nursery/Childwatch/Watchcare)
- Compare the number of "class" weeks with the number of lessons in the Bible study and make sure they are within a week's time. This keeps teachers from having to cram in two lessons into one week, or having to create extra lesson plans from scratch.
- If your classes take turns being responsible for childcare and hospitality clean-up (such as SOS – Serving Our Sisters, or a similar acronym), be sure to count those against the total number of classes to be taught.
- If possible, allow one week for an introductory class where ladies meet each other, get their books, and address all points in the *How to Organize Your First Day of Class* (document TT-05).

A summary timeline with an *Ordering Books Flow Chart* (document BSS-3) is available for you to customize. Also, check out the document addressing *Summer Sessions* (BSS-4) along with one on *Evening Studies* (BSS-5) should you be interested.

All classes should be designed with the same number of weeks. (Sample scenario: All classes will have 1 week for Kick-off, 2 weeks for SOS, 1 week for Program, and 1 week for the first day of class. As a result, a 17 week semester turns into 12 weeks of lessons in the class room.)

- For a video series, will you have 6 video lessons and 6 discussion lessons?
- Make sure that an appropriate amount of material will fit the allotted time. For example, can a Beth Moore video series fit in a 75 min. class time?
- Poor planning here generates large problems later.
- A great study without enough time isn't a great study!

Consider a Needs Assessment Survey

Needs assessment surveys are one way to take the "spiritual temperature" of your group and to identify spiritual growth needs. Ideally, ask ladies to complete the survey prior to the middle of the semester so that you will have enough time to complete the entire Bible study selection process. If you have a week or two, perhaps ask women to pray about and to ponder their responses before completing the survey.

While it is appropriate to consider studies based on the needs and interests of your PWOC ladies, it is vital to listen to the Lord's leading as well. While the women can tell you what their "felt needs" are, only the Lord knows how to address the deeper needs of their hearts. A sample *Needs Assessment Survey* (document BSS-6) can be modified for your installation.

Demographics of the body

- Deployed
- Young moms
- Nearing retirement
- Active duty

Variety

- Amount of homework
- Topical
- Inductive
- New believers vs. mature believers
- Small PWOC – one kind this semester, different kind next semester

Consider these types of studies:

Books of the Bible
Inductive – such as Precepts or One-Year Bible
Basics of Christianity
Video Studies
Topical – Parenting, Marriage, Lifestyle Management, Women's Concerns, Prayer, Evangelism

Browse Bookstores and Catalogs

Assemble notes on a variety of Bible study materials. Give yourself time to examine Bible studies and the teacher guides. There are a number of considerations such as the following.

- Glance through the entire book.
- Ask "Is this book an excellent Bible study?" since great Christian books do not automatically make great Bible studies.
- Evaluate the study as to how much homework is required, how much preparation the teacher will need, and whether the material falls under the broad Protestant umbrella.
- Consider the cost of the book, a teacher guide and any DVDs.
- Read online reviews.
- Consider the publisher – check for tone and Biblical accuracy.
- Consider the people who endorse or comment on the study's jacket or cover.

Consider the Layout of the Building in Which You Meet

Evaluate the rooms which are available for Bible study and estimate how many ladies can comfortably fit in that space. See which rooms have accessories such as white

boards and TVs with DVD players. If you lack classrooms, think “outside the box” and consider using the kitchen, sanctuary entrance, altar area, or even a large closet.

Ask Others to Form a Team to Help You

Consider asking others to offer input. Proverbs 19 exhorts us to listen to counsel so that we may be wise. Women who have been at the installation for an extended time and women with relevant backgrounds and training can be among your resources. Be sure to review the Spiritual Life position notebook AARs to see what studies have been offered in the recent past.

Pray, Pray, Pray

Pray alone and pray with others that the Lord would show you the specific needs of the women in your PWOC. Keep the process covered in prayer.

Problems and Concerns

If you face a challenging situation, be sure to alert your President. The rest of the Executive Board, along with the PWOC Chaplain, may have suggestions. The Titus II board member is also another excellent resource. Perhaps you could connect with another 1VP of Spiritual Life at a different installation.