

SPRING 2024 GROWTH GROUP OVERVIEW

Spring 2024 includes three distinct content sections; the Spring Church-Wide, a March section, and an April/May section.

The Spring Church-Wide will start at the end of January, which gives you time to take a break after Christmas. The church-wide is of variable length, depending on how your group wants to navigate it. After the church-wide wraps up, you should be able to do a series in March and another in April/May. Below are our suggestions on what content to use during each section in the spring.

JANUARYDECEMBER 31 – JANUARY 14

Our Suggestion: Take Time Off

We suggest your group take these weeks off so that you, as the leader can rest and so that your group members can get a short break after the chaos of the Christmas season. If your group really wants to get together, consider gathering to do something fun together.

SPRING CHURCH-WIDE

JANUARY 21 – MARCH 3 THEME: BOOK OF THE BIBLE

Our Suggestion: <u>Titus by Chip Ingram</u> (7 weeks)

The Spring Church-Wide will be covering the book of Titus. Our first suggestion is that you use Chip Ingram's Titus series on RightNow Media to help lead your group through a discussion on Titus. This Titus series is 7 weeks long and has a provided leader guide.

Alternate Suggestion: <u>Titus by Mike Ackerman</u> (5 weeks)

This option is a little drier but offers useful content for groups that are seeking something more informational in nature. The provided leader guide gives a few questions to get your group discussion, but you will need to supplement it with additional questions.

A Book Suggestion: Titus for You by Tim Chester

If your group prefers to read rather than watch, this book provides a way for your group to learn about Titus and discuss it together. Each chapter has suggestion discussion questions at the end.

A Study Guide Suggestion: Titus - The Good Life

This option requires your group to all have a copy of the study guide. They will need to read the assigned passage and answer the questions in the study guide before coming to the group meeting. At the group meeting, you can discuss what people learned by talking through the study guides questions together.

MARCH

MARCH 10 – 31 THEME: SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Our Suggestion: Just Ask by J.D. Greear (2 weeks)

Do you run to prayer—or run away from it? How would you describe your prayer life? In this two-session series, learn how to overcome your hesitations and insecurities about praying. Pastor J.D. Greear explores the way Jesus taught us to pray and how he approached prayer to his Father. See how Jesus encourages us to pray often, boldly, and with expectation.

A Second Suggestion on Prayer: The Prayer Course by Pete Grieg (8 weeks)

This great series on prayer takes participants through the Lord's Prayer and teaches the different elements of prayer that Jesus encourages to embrace in his teaching. If your group uses this option it will take you into April and possibly May.

A Lenten Option: He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado (5 weeks)

This 5-week series by Max Lucado examines 5 separate ways that Jesus' death on the cross is an unimaginable gift to humanity. It helps prepares our hearts for Easter and is a great way to help us think more deeply about the importance of Jesus' incarnation, death, and resurrection.

A Book: Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools

This book gives its readers a great introduction to developing a deep and meaningful prayer life. It is written in an accessible format. Group leaders will need to figure out a plan for discussing this book as it does not have a study guide that accompanies it.

APRIL/MAY

APRIL 7 – MAY 26 THEME: RELATIONSHIPS/BOOK OF THE BIBLE

The make-up of your group will change the way you approach these two months. Starting the first week in May we will be doing a sermon series on parenting (It applies to more than parenting but does have a parenting focus). For groups that have parents, this is a great time to do a parenting series. You can either take a few weeks off in April and then start a parenting series along with the May sermon series OR you can start one of the parenting series in the middle of April and run it through May. If a parenting series does not work for your group, consider doing the 1 Peter series.

Parenting Suggestion #1: Intentional Parenting by Doug Fields (5 weeks)

You are the greatest influence on the life of your child (no matter their age)! This series takes you through 10 helpful ways of living with your kids that help you be intentional about helping your kids form a strong faith and character. This series is 5 weeks long. If you would like to do this series, please let pastorjames.bryde@4fcc.org know so he can buy you a leader guide.

Parenting Suggestion #2: Talking With Your Kids About Jesus by Natasha Crain (6 weeks)

Homes where deep and meaningful faith conversations happen regularly aren't the product of lucky parents. They're the product of intentional parents who believe nothing is more important than raising kids to know and love Jesus. In this six-session series, author Natasha Crain offers parents tools and encouragement for creating conversations that help clarify who Jesus is, why he matters, and how kids can live impacted by their faith in him. If your group plans to use this content, please let pastorjames.bryde@4fcc.org know so he can buy you a leader guide.

A Parenting Book: Family Discipleship by Matt Chandler

This book presents a simple format for families to use to help create intentional discipleship in their homes. It is short, easy to read, and easy to discuss in a group setting.

Our Suggestion: 1 Peter by Kyle Idelman (7 weeks)

For groups that want an option on a topic other than parenting, this 7-week series on 1 Peter is a great one. Kyle Idleman helps participants study the book of 1st Peter. 1st Peter helps us think about how we as God's people can live out our faith in a world that looks nothing like the promised perfect kingdom. We end us seeing the importance of our lifestyle in regard to our witness to the world.