

VI. HOW TO GET STARTED READING A BOOK WITH SOMEONE

- Be brave and look for opportunities.
- Be brave and be willing to make the suggestion.
- Ask for input if you wish, but be willing to make the selection for your friend.
- Remember your own encouragement and want that for others.

Next Week? Encouraging Missions and Evangelism.

Core Seminars—Discipling Class 8: Christian Books in Discipling



I. WHY USE CHRISTIAN BOOKS IN DISCIPLING?

- It is enormously beneficial for Christians to converse with one another about spiritual things.
- Reading a Christian book is like having a conversation with a person who cannot be with you in person.
- It is prideful to think that we can discover for ourselves all the truth from the Scriptures.
- You have a limited amount of time.

II. HOW TO READ A BOOK

- Read a book with pencil in hand. Mark the book up!
- Argue with the author! Have a conversation with the author.
- Read a book in two different ways.
 - Read it for yourself.
 - Read looking for specific points of conversation for you and the disciple.

- Ask good questions (and record them in your margins).
- Don't ask "What does the author say?" This is not a book review, nor is it a test to check their comprehension.
- Apply the book to the person's life, their thinking, their heart.
- Keep a consistent schedule.
- What should be in your discussion?
- As you read, make summary notes about each chapter.
- A chance to practice—from Piper's *The Pleasures of God*:

So when we say that God loves his Son, we are not talking about a love that is self-denying, sacrificial, or merciful. We are talking about a love of delight and pleasure. God is not stooping to pity the undeserving when he loves the Son. That is how God loves us. It is not how he loves his Son. He is well-pleased with his Son. His soul delights in the Son! When he looks at his Son he enjoys and admires and cherishes and prizes and relishes what he sees. The first great pleasure of God is his pleasure in the Son.

III. CHOOSING A BOOK

- Two kinds of books that you can pick to read with a disciple—doctrinal and devotional.
- The book that you choose for the person you are discipling will depend largely on his or her need and interests.
- Be careful not to choose books based solely on the title.
- Pick books by author, not by title.

IV. THINGS TO READ OTHER THAN BOOKS.

It is sometimes beneficial to read things besides books. Examples include: confession of faith; read articles, either from Christian sources or just from secular magazines; secular news magazines and newspaper editorials; etc.

V. GOOD CHRISTIAN BOOKS

Nine Marks of a Healthy Church, Mark Dever
Call to Spiritual Reformation, D.A. Carson
Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health, Don Whitney
The Pleasures of God, John Piper
Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life, Don Whitney
What is the Gospel, Greg Gilbert
What is a Healthy Church Member, Thabiti Anyabwile