



Selecting Your Topics and Books

We've created modules around some of the most important subjects in a woman's life. You have options for virtually every major role or responsibility we have. Now the question is "Which ones will I use with my mentees?"

Before you do ANYTHING, pray. Pray over this list of topics and ask, "Lord, what would You have me discuss with these younger women You have given me?" Listen for His leading. Even though every theme is Biblical and will involve Truth from His word, we believe He cares specifically about YOUR ladies and your group. So He may give you clear guidance that you didn't expect.

Here are some thoughts that might help you with your decision.

- 1. Recommended by Titus2 Mentoring Women:** We highly recommend this 12 month track...it's "tried and true" in that it has been used for over five years with women. We've seen incredible life change in both the women who have been mentored AND in the mentors. In a year, the women have time to really get to know each other and to know you. The topics we recommend we feel are important for the woman who's committed to living a life fully surrendered to the Lord and living out His purposes for her.
- 2. From your "well"** – Review the themes and answer these questions as you consider each...
 - Has God led me to a specific topic as I prayed over them?
 - Have I *experienced God* in this area of my life? For example, if you've not yet experienced God's involvement in your finances, then don't pick the stewardship theme. "You can't export what you don't have," as the saying goes.
 - Am I interested in this theme myself? If you are not, you'll have to "manufacture energy" for it. Be a little selfish as you pick the themes. This is a place where you definitely want to play from your strengths.
 - Do I have a *burden* for this theme? For example, if your personal experience has taught you important lessons about motherhood, whether you think you are a great mom or not, then that burden may be the Lord leading you to "go deep" on motherhood with your women.
- 3. Match to your available time** – While Titus2 believes a year is the optimum time for a mentoring small group to last, you may choose to commit to a longer or shorter period of time. We suggest you prioritize the options from high to low and pick the topics that you have available months for. Some mentors have chosen our recommended track and then

chosen to extend their “season” and add additional themes.

4. **Collaborate** – If you really want to be “democratic”, you might have your first session, get input from your ladies, and then choose your topics. On one hand, allowing them to participate in the choice may lead them to be more committed to the plan. “People tend to be more committed to their plans than to yours.” On the other hand, we “older, wiser” women might understand better what they need and not necessarily always giving in to just what they want. Where else will these younger women be challenged?

Selecting and buying your books

When you realize that the average American reads 2.4 books per year (and that includes supermarket novels), you begin to grasp the potential impact that reading one solid, Christian book per month can have on a woman. And reading books in a high accountability context is more like graduate school than reading by the pool...knowing that you’re going to apply the contents of the book to your personal life, be held accountable for learning the key takeaways, and have a conversation with your mentor and your group about the book...all make the learning experience really rich. Reading this way is like being remotely mentored by the author himself, since you’re getting his highest and best learning on the subject of the book.

In each topic, we will recommend the book that we’ve had the most and best experience with. If there’s a book that you’ve read that you want to use, feel free. The best mentors share from their own “well” of knowledge and experience, so using a book that really spoke to you is better than using a book that we recommend or that you’ve never heard of.

Don’t be alarmed if you haven’t read the book(s) we recommend. Most people haven’t. The wonderful thing about mentoring for the first time is all the learning that you’ll experience. Your women aren’t going to expect you to be an expert in every topic you take on. Be honest with them...admitting, “Hey, I’m learning right along with you,” and then do it.

Three Commandments regarding books

1. You must know next month’s topic and insure that your women have their books thirty days before that session. Buying your books and having them in advance of your session is critical!!!
2. Using the Titus2 Mentoring Amazon Store will insure a low price, dependable delivery, and support our ministry.
3. You must determine from the beginning how your women want their books, who is going to pay for them, and how the money will work.

Here are your choices, along with the pros and cons for each...

Choice 1 - The mentor buys all the books. Thirty days before your next session, go to **Amazon.com** and order the book that you’ll be assigning next time. In essence you’ll have to always be sixty days ahead in your planning and ordering books.

Pros - You KNOW that you’ll have the books in hand ready to assign and hand out at your next session. There’ll be no excuses from your women like “I forgot to order the

book,” or “It took so long for the book to come in, I didn’t have time to finish it.” Another “pro” is that the women SEE your investment in them as you give them this valuable book every month at no charge to them.

Cons - It’s expensive for you and it isn’t tax deductible.

Choice 2 – The mentor buys the books, but has the mentees reimburse her. This can be done all up front or each month. In some cases, you or one of your women may already own a copy of one of your chosen books. Thus, money is saved by not buying that extra copy.

Pros - The mentor isn’t out of pocket for a ton of books. She still keeps control of the ordering process and thus KNOWS that the books will be there to be assigned. The mentees have an investment as they pay for their books as opposed to having them given to them.

Cons - It’s more complicated. Determining who owes who how much and keeping up with the money can be a distraction.

Choice 3 – The mentees buy their own books. For this to work, the mentor must make a **strong pronouncement**, both at the beginning of the season and at every session, that obtaining and reading the next book is the mentee’s responsibility. Once the topics and books have been chosen, the mentor must communicate the books and the month’s they will be read in, keeping in mind that the books have to be in the hands of the mentees thirty days prior to the session when they’ll be discussed. The mentor will strongly remind the mentees a month in advance of the upcoming book and the requirement that it be obtained, read, and netted out prior to the session.

Pros - Simplicity for the mentor. She publishes the list of books and the timing in which they are to be read, and she’s (kinda) done. All she must do is get the book for herself and read it prior to the session. Managing reimbursement for books is non-existent. It’s cheaper for the mentor. Individuals can buy the book, borrow the book, check it out from the library, buy in ebook form, etc.

Cons - The mentor has no control. The sessions can be really ineffective if one or more of the mentees didn’t get around to buying and/or reading the book. Excuse for not getting the homework done is a lot harder to overcome when the mentee is responsible for obtaining his own books.

Based on our experience, we recommend choice 1 or choice 2. There’s too much at stake for your group to trust your busy mentees to buy their own books and to do so with enough lead time to receive them, read them, and net them out. The accountability, both spoken and unspoken, that comes when a mentor physically hands the book to the mentee, looks her in the eye, and says “We’re counting on you to read this before we get back together”...well, *it just works.*