



TECHNOLOGY TIPS & TOOLS

Many homes are filled with technology but we often miss opportunities to use it to enhance our small group experience. Technology can be a valuable visual tool to keep everyone on the same page during your group discussions. Below are some ways you can leverage technology for different types of studies as well as specific instructions to help you connect it all together.

BOOK STUDIES



Kindle App

When reading books as a group, this app is helpful for reviewing the leader's highlights using the My Notebook function and the Popular Highlights function within the app. These provide a quick way to review the reading prior to your discussion. Also being able to jump to specific pages during discussion allows everyone to visually see what's being discussed (especially when people forget their books)



Camera

If you're using a study book that's not available in electronic format, you can take a picture of the questions and show them on the TV screen for your discussion. When group members see the questions you're discussing, it can make for a more active discussion, rather than having the questions read to them multiple times. NOTE: To honor copyright laws, pictures shouldn't be distributed to others.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE STUDY



YouVersion Bible App

One of the best benefits of this app is being able to use the same translation when you read together. Showing this on the screen, especially as you break down and talk about specific Scriptures, focuses the discussion and keeps everyone on the same page.

RIGHTNOW MEDIA



RightNowMedia.org

This app/site is a must for small group leaders because it's the "Netflix for Small Groups." There are so many great video studies and connecting & displaying them is a breeze with this app. Visit connectionpointe.org/rightnowmedia for more info or to sign up for your free account.



PDFs For Questions

Most of the series on RightNow Media have leader guides that can be purchased for a nominal fee. These can be displayed onscreen to enhance discussion, similar to the camera app.

SERMON STUDY



PDF Study Guides

Just like the PDFs mentioned above, sermon study guides can be pulled up onscreen and discussed rather than printing copies for everyone in the group. You can find the study guide at connectionpointe.org/sermons.

PRAYER TIME



Operationworld.org

You might choose to enhance your prayer time by showing a 2-3 minute prayer video from operationworld.org. This site shares specific ways to pray for people in different countries. Linking an Internet-enabled device to your TV can allow the group to view these types of videos or other sites you might want to highlight.



Note Apps: Evernote & Notes

The Notes app or an app like Evernote can be used to capture prayer requests and quickly send them to the group afterward. Questions can also be typed in these apps and shown on the screen.

USING THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

If you have a TV with an HDMI input connection and a tablet/smart phone/computer, that's a great start. However, to make this work, you will need to purchase an HDMI cable and possibly an adapter.

If you have a new iPad/iPhone with a Thunderbolt connector, you would purchase an adapter and an HDMI cable that is long enough for you to sit comfortably away from the TV when you lead small group. If you have a computer with an HDMI connection, you only need the HDMI cable. If you have a different device, a quick Internet search should lead you to the cable you need. For more information you can visit tomsguide.com/us/tv-connector-adapter-guide,news-18345.html

