

# What is a Discipleship Group?

## Purpose

The purpose of a D-Group is to provide a **context** in which intentional discipleship can fruitfully occur.

Discipleship is at the **very core** of what we are called to do and be as followers of Christ. A disciple is focused on “learning Christ”—learning to live with all of who they are (intellect, emotions, actions) in vital relationship with all of who Jesus is—and leading others to do the same. Learning to live as disciples, and making disciples of Jesus is our highest privilege and central calling, and is worthy of our **intentional, long-term investment**.

## Key Elements

A D-group is a group of **3-4 men or women**, who are **hungry** to know Jesus and committed to growing as his disciples in all areas of their lives. Though each D-Group will take on a different flavor, based on the leader and makeup of the group, every D-Group shares the same “DNA”, marked by these **4 key elements**:

- **Bible:** D-Groups do not follow a curriculum but immerse themselves in the Bible. The Bible sets the agenda and direction for all of our discipleship.
- **Obedience:** The focus of D-groups is concrete obedience to Jesus as Lord. Every week, after reflecting on the Scripture and the Lord's work in our lives, groups surface some form of the question, "What is the Lord telling you to do, and what are you going to do about it?"
- **Openness:** The posture that groups seek to have is open and honest where members share their struggles, fears, and idols, and also their hopes and victories. This kind of openness is met with encouragement, safety, and care from the leaders and other members.
- **Mission:** The orientation of D-Groups is outward-focused. These groups don't exist for the sake their members only. While individual spiritual growth is the inevitable by-product of these groups, that growth is meant for the blessing of others, with our love of God spilling over into love of others, fitting us to be better friends, employees, spouses, children, and neighbors.

Lastly, D-groups are unique in their explicit intent to **multiply**. After roughly a year's time, members actively and prayerfully aim to multiply, and start new groups of their own, investing in other people with the same investment they've received.

## **Details & Commitment**

Your prospective leader will explain the specific details of his/her group (start date, meeting times, etc), but you can expect:

- To sign a covenant at the beginning of the year committing yourselves to investing in your own growth as a disciple and to investing in the other members of your group
- To read a significant amount of Scripture each week
- To show up to meet weekly with the members of your group
- To be open, honest, and supportive of the members of your group, both during the weekly meetings and in between as well
- To give serious thought and prayer to multiplication at the end of the year

## **Counting the Cost**

Your prospective leader will help you think through what it will cost you to be a part of a group like this in the next year. It is worth thinking through and praying about at the outset, before diving into the commitment. The investment is worth it!