

D-GROUP INFORMATION



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Introduction

If you're reading this it's likely that you've arrived at this conclusion: our Master mandates that we make disciples.

You may not realize it, but even having this awareness puts you ahead of the game. For years, people all across the world have overlooked this essential command even though it speaks to our primary purpose for existence. As you become a voice for this very essential practice, you may find yourself isolated from others who do not understand the importance of intentionally investing their lives into others.

Below, we've listed three reasons why many people are not currently involved in making disciples. Our prayer is that, as you encounter others who may fall into one of these categories, you are able to lovingly lead them to a greater awareness of Christ's command. We're also mindful that you may have days where you fall into one of these categories as well. We do. We pray that you are as encouraged by these passages from God's Word as we have been throughout our disciple-making journeys.

1: DON'T KNOW

Over the last couple of years, we've encountered a great number of people who simply do not know of Christ's command to make disciples. Sure, they may be familiar with the term, but to them, discipleship ended with Jesus' investment into the twelve. For people in this category, it's important that we walk patiently with them through the Scriptures. Many times, these people come from a church background. Most have experienced some degree of success in the areas most of us have been trained to value (attendance, buildings, cash). Telling these people that they're wrong doesn't work. It takes time to reverse years of incomplete teaching.

In our experience, many in this category know the Scriptures well, but still find themselves somewhat going through the motions. Walking them through the Word, and pointing them to the life of Jesus opens their eyes to a new and more exhilarating way. When these people get a glimpse of how God wants to use them for His glory, they often become the people who are most passionate about His mission.

Sadly, still today many are stuck under teaching which either neglects or ignores Christ's call to make disciples. We are prayerful that what God has started within our ministry would ripple throughout our spheres of influence and be used by His Spirit to awaken others to this incredible opportunity. When that happens, it's not uncommon to hear something like, *"where has this been my whole life?"* or *"I grew up in church, why have I never heard this before?"* It is a thrilling thing for a person to find out God wants to involve them in His plan!

2: DON'T THINK THEY CAN BE USED

Many people, and maybe even some of you, are still struggling to wrap your mind around the idea that God wants to use you. Whether plagued by thoughts of your past or fearful about what might happen in the future, the thought that He wants to involve you in His mission makes your mind race. While some people might see this weakness as unhealthy, we believe it's a great place for a disciple-making journey to begin! In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Paul writes, *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

If the Apostle Paul struggled with his weaknesses, certainly we will as well. It's in recognizing that we're weak that God begins to work! The Scriptures give us a long list of unlikely examples: Moses was a murderer, David was an adulterer, Paul - the author of this passage - killed Christians. Brothers and sisters...there is hope for us. By God's grace we too can be used!

Remember, all He is calling you to do is bear the fruit. He promises to produce it as we abide in Him. If you're worried by your weaknesses, meditate on the promise of 1 Thessalonians 5:24 - *"He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."*

3: DON'T CARE

Sadly, many will hear and even understand Christ's command to be disciples who make disciples, but choose to ignore it because it interferes too much with their current way of life. Jesus was careful to caution all who would come after Him. In Luke 9:23, Jesus said: *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."* Then, in Luke 14, Jesus implores would-be followers to count the cost of coming after Him.

While God gives great grace for those in the first two categories, He is heartbroken by the disobedience of those in the third. The blessing of being saved is found in obedience. A.W. Tozer said, *"in the Scriptures, there is no such thing as salvation apart from obedience."* Jesus makes this clear in John 13:17 - *"If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."* James 4:17 says it this way - *"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."*

Make no mistake, we are accountable for what we know. Robby Gallaty once said, *"Jesus is not a liar. He will not say 'well done' unless we have done well."* Every person who's been saved is a steward of the Gospel. The wisest investment we can make, according to our Master, is to intentionally invest it into the lives of others. Regardless of which category you find yourself in today, know this: by God's grace you don't have to stay there! Take a moment right now to ask Him to help you. Surrender yourself to His Spirit and trust that He who calls is faithful. He will do it!

Commonly Asked Questions

WHAT IS A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP (OR D-GROUP)?

A D-Group is a small, same gender group of people meeting *at least* once a week in pursuit of Jesus. Together, a D-Group is learning to submit to the Lordship of Jesus so that they are increasingly made into His image and engaged in His mission.

WHAT'S MY ROLE AS A D-GROUP LEADER?

Like Paul, you're encouraging others to *follow you as you follow Christ*. Your goal isn't to reproduce yourself, but to allow the Spirit to work through you to form others into the image of Christ. D-Group Leaders are both shepherds and stewards of God's people.

WHERE DO I BEGIN?

Pray for wisdom (James 1:5) as it pertains to who should be in your D-Group. Be intentional in building relationships that can be leveraged into discipleship opportunities. Start doing now personally what you hope your group will do together corporately.

HOW DO I INVITE OTHERS INTO MY D-GROUP?

Look for people who are teachable! Jesus said simply, "*follow me.*" It was an invitation into His life. In the same way, invite others to share life with you. Remember: it's not as much about you teaching them as it is about you all learning together.

HOW MANY PEOPLE SHOULD BE IN MY D-GROUP?

Most D-Groups consist of a leader and 3-5 others of the same gender.

WHERE SHOULD WE MEET?

Feel free to meet in a public space so long as you can still share times of meaningful prayer and accountability together. Meeting outside the church helps people see that it's okay to read the Bible at a restaurant or to pray in public. It's also good to meet in homes, where biblical instruction should ideally start.

WHAT DOES OUR TIME TOGETHER LOOK LIKE?

Each meeting should include time for catching up (5-10 minutes), reading God's Word and sharing journal entries (40-45 minutes), praying together (15+ minutes), reviewing Scripture you've memorized together throughout the week (10 minutes), and engaging in accountability (10-15 minutes).

WHEN DO I SEND MY D-GROUP OUT?

Most D-Groups spend between 9-18 months together before multiplying. Because each D-Group member comes in with the expectation of expanding, some groups multiply faster than initially planned. When the marks of a disciple (walking in the Word, filled with the Spirit, and steadfast in prayer) are present, your group is ready to go!

Four Foundations For Every D-Group



ROOTED IN THE WORD

Every believer is on a journey; a journey on which we are progressively becoming less like the dead us and more like the living Christ (Romans 6). Jesus taught that this process was perpetuated through discipleship and powered by the Word of God. As we walk in the Word, we are repeatedly exposed to the person and work of Jesus. In this, the Holy Spirit helps us to see His presence in each passage. We're reminded that the entire narrative of Scripture centers on the story of the Gospel; namely, that we are sinful people, separated from a Holy God, and that we've been offered salvation by grace, through faith in the Son.

In John 17:17, Jesus prayed that all who followed Him would be continually sanctified (set apart) by these truths. This makes the Bible the basis for our spiritual growth and an absolutely essential element within any discipleship relationship.

Paul, who throughout his life placed great importance on making disciples, wrote to Timothy (one of his disciples) about the value of remaining rooted in the Word.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17 ESV)

From a young age, Timothy had been taught the Scriptures, and now, though a pastor, Paul is encouraging him to remain rooted in the Word. Stated simply, we never outgrow our need for the Scriptures!

As Paul writes, the Scriptures make us wise for salvation. This literally means that the Word of God is continually reminding us of our dependence upon the work of God that was carried out in Christ Jesus. Paul knew from personal experience (1 Timothy 1:12-17); the more one meditates upon the Scriptures, the more aware they become of their sin and the more appreciative they become of the Gospel.

Not only does the Word work in us, it also works through us. Paul points Timothy to the reality that the Scriptures are sufficient for every effort he might undertake. Long before commentaries, books, seminaries or podcasts, was the Word. While the Lord often uses other resources to help us gain clarity or guide our study, none of them are alone capable of carrying on God's work in the hearts of men. Continual sanctification comes only as we expose ourselves (and those we lead) to the timeless truths within His Word.

As you consider Christ's call to make disciples, understand that you've been given a textbook which is both tried and true. Every word was inspired by God and relates to His redemptive mission. As disciple-makers, we long to see God make His Word as real and relevant to others as it is to us. By spending time in the Scriptures, both personally and with our groups, the result is real growth – both deep and wide – which penetrates even the hardest of hearts for the glory of the Father. Acts 6:7 reminds us of this truth: *And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

As you begin your D-Group, commit to remaining rooted in the Word! Say with the psalmist, "Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path." Let each group meeting be guided by the Gospel story, growing together in the knowledge of His grace.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Here are three ways to keep your D-Group rooted in the Word:

F-260 Reading Plan

The F-260 is a 260-day reading plan from Replicate Ministries that presents the grand story of Scripture. This plan contains 5 weekly readings that range in length from 1 to 3 chapters a day. It is included in this packet (p 6-10) and conveniently located on the popular YouVersion Bible App as well.

HEAR Journals

HEAR Journals are a great way to engage in deeper study with your D-Group. This simple acronym serves as a guide for journaling through what you're reading in God's Word. Each week, D-Groups gather to discuss the *highlights* of what they've read, taking time to *explain*, *apply*, and *respond* to the truth of the Scriptures to their lives. See the attached HEAR Journal Guide (p 11) for additional details.

Scripture Memorization

Jesus modeled for us the importance of hiding God's Word in our hearts. In Matthew's gospel alone, Jesus made over 40 references to the Scriptures. The F-260 Reading Plan also offers a Scripture memory track that runs parallel with each week's readings. See the attached F-260 Reading Plan (p 6-10) for additional details.

F-260 Reading Plan

WEEK 1

Genesis 1 -2
Genesis 3-4
Genesis 6-7
Genesis 8-9
Job 1-2

Memory Verses:

Genesis 1:27
Hebrews 11:7

WEEK 2

Job 38-39
Job 40-42
Genesis 11-12
Genesis 15
Genesis 16-17

Memory Verses:

Hebrews 11:8-10; 11:6

WEEK 3

Genesis 18-19
Genesis 20-21
Genesis 22
Genesis 24
Genesis 25:19-34; 26

Memory Verses:

Romans 4:20-22
Hebrews 11:17-19

WEEK 4

Genesis 27-28
Genesis 29-30:24
Genesis 31-32
Genesis 33 & 35
Genesis 37

Memory Verses:

2 Corinthians 10:12
1 John 3:18

WEEK 5

Genesis 39-40
Genesis 41
Genesis 42-43
Genesis 44-45
Genesis 46-47

Memory Verses:

Ephesians 3:20-21
Romans 8:28-30

WEEK 6

Genesis 48-49
Genesis 50-Exodus 1
Exodus 2-3
Exodus 4-5
Exodus 6-7

Memory Verses:

Genesis 50:20
Hebrews 11:24-26

WEEK 7

Exodus 8-9
Exodus 10-11
Exodus 12
Exodus 13:17-14
Exodus 16-17

Memory Verses:

John 1:29

WEEK 8

Exodus 19-20
Exodus 24-25
Exodus 26-27
Exodus 28-29
Exodus 30-31

Memory Verses:

10 Commandments

WEEK 9

Exodus 32-33
Exodus 34-36:1
Exodus 40
Leviticus 8-9
Leviticus 16-17

Memory Verses:

Exodus 33:16
Matthew 22:37-39

WEEK 10

Leviticus 23
Leviticus 26
Numbers 11-12
Numbers 13-14
Numbers 16-17

Memory Verses:

Leviticus 26:13
Deuteronomy 31:7-8

WEEK 11

Numbers 20; 27:12-23
Numbers 34-35
Deuteronomy 1-2
Deuteronomy 3-4
Deuteronomy 6-7

Memory Verses:

Deuteronomy 4:7; 6: 4-9

WEEK 12

Deuteronomy 8-9
Deuteronomy 30-31
Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34
Joshua 1-2
Joshua 3-4

Memory Verses:

Joshua 1:8-9
Psalm 1:1-2

WEEK 13

Joshua 5:10-15; 6

Joshua 7-8

Joshua 23-24

Judges 2-3

Judges 4

Memory Verses:

Joshua 24:14-15

Judges 2:12

WEEK 14

Judges 6-7

Judges 13-14

Judges 15-16

Ruth 1-2

Ruth 3-4

Memory Verses:

Galatians 4:4-5

Psalms 19:14

WEEK 15

1 Samuel 1-2

1 Samuel 3; 8

1 Samuel 9-10

1 Samuel 13-14

1 Samuel 15-16

Memory Verses:

1 Samuel 15:22; 16:7

WEEK 16

1 Samuel 17-18

1 Samuel 19-20

1 Samuel 21-22

Psalms 22; 1 Samuel 24-25:1

1 Samuel 28; 31

Memory Verses:

1 Samuel 17:46-47

2 Timothy 4:17

WEEK 17

2 Samuel 1; 2:1-7

2 Samuel 3:1; 5; Psalms 23

2 Samuel 6-7

Psalms 18; 2 Samuel 9

2 Samuel 11-12

Memory Verses:

Psalms 23:1-3; 51:10-13

WEEK 18

Psalms 51

2 Samuel 24; Psalms 24

Psalms 1; 19

Psalms 103; 119:1-48

Psalms 119:49-128

Memory Verses:

Psalms 1:1-7; 119:7-11

WEEK 19

Psalms 119:129-176; 139

Psalms 148-150

1 Kings 2

1 Kings 3; 6

1 Kings 8; 9:1-9

Memory Verses:

Psalms 139:1-3; 139:15-16

WEEK 20

Proverbs 1-2

Proverbs 3-4

Proverbs 16-18

Proverbs 31

1 Kings 11-12

Memory Verses:

Proverbs 1:7; 3:5-6

WEEK 21

1 Kings 16:29-34; 17

1 Kings 18-19

1 Kings 21-22

2 Kings 2

2 Kings 5; 6:1-23

Memory Verses:

Psalms 63:1; 17:15

WEEK 22

Jonah 1-2

Jonah 3-4

Hosea 1-3

Amos 1:1; 9

Joel 1-3

Memory Verses:

Psalms 16:11

John 11:25-26

WEEK 23

Isaiah 6; 9

Isaiah 44-45

Isaiah 52-53

Isaiah 65-66

Micah 1; 4:6-13; 5

Memory Verses:

Isaiah 53:5-6

1 Peter 2:23-24

WEEK 24

2 Kings 17-18

2 Kings 19-21

2 Kings 22-23

Jeremiah 1-3:5

Jeremiah 25; 29

Memory Verses:

Proverbs 29:18

Jeremiah 1:15

WEEK 25

Jeremiah 31:31-40; 32-33
 Jeremiah 52; 2 Kings 24-25
 Ezekiel 1:1-3; 36:16-38; 37
 Daniel 1-2
 Daniel 3

Memory Verses:

Psalms 51:10

WEEK 26

Daniel 5-6
 Daniel 9-10; 12
 Ezra 1-2
 Ezra 3-4
 Ezra 5-6

Memory Verses:

Daniel 6:26-27; 9:19

WEEK 27

Zechariah 1:1-6; 2; 12
 Ezra 7-8
 Ezra 9-10
 Esther 1-2
 Esther 3-4

Memory Verses:

Zephaniah 3:17

WEEK 28

Esther 5-7
 Esther 8-10
 Nehemiah 1-2
 Nehemiah 3-4
 Nehemiah 5-6

Memory Verses:

Deuteronomy 29:29
 Psalms 101:3-4

WEEK 29

Nehemiah 7-8
 Nehemiah 9
 Nehemiah 10
 Nehemiah 11
 Nehemiah 12

Memory Verses:

Nehemiah 9:6
 Colossians 1:15-16

WEEK 30

Nehemiah 13
 Malachi 1
 Malachi 2
 Malachi 3
 Malachi 4

Memory Verses:

Psalms 51:17
 Colossians 1:19-20

WEEK 31

Luke 1
 Luke 2
 Matthew 1-2
 Mark 1
 John 1

Memory Verses:

John 1:1-2; 14

WEEK 32

Matthew 2-4
 Matthew 5
 Matthew 6
 Matthew 7
 Matthew 8

Memory Verses:

Matthew 5:16; 6:33

WEEK 33

Luke 9:10-62
 Mark 9-10
 Luke 12
 John 3-4
 Luke 14

Memory Verses:

Luke 14:26-27; 14:33

WEEK 34

John 6
 Matthew 19:16-30
 Luke 15-16
 Luke 17:11-37; 18
 Mark 10

Memory Verses:

Mark 10:45
 John 6:37

WEEK 35

John 11; Matthew 21:1-13
 John 13
 John 14-15
 John 16
 Matt 24

Memory Verses:

John 13:34-35; 15:4-5

WEEK 36

Matthew 24:1-46
 John 17
 Matthew 26:47-27:31
 Matthew 27:32-66; Luke
 23:26-56
 John 19

Memory Verses:

Luke 23:34
 John 17:3

WEEK 37

Mark 16; Matthew 28
 Luke 24
 John 20-21
 Matthew 28
 Acts 1

Memory Verses:

Matthew 28:18-20
 Acts 1:8

WEEK 38

Acts 2-3
 Acts 4-5
 Acts 6
 Acts 7
 Acts 8-9

Memory Verses:

Acts 2:42; 4:31

WEEK 39

Acts 10-11
 Acts 12
 Acts 13-14
 James 1-2
 James 3-5

Memory Verses:

James 1: 2-4; 2:17

WEEK 40

Acts 15-16
 Galatians 1-3
 Galatians 4-6
 Acts 17-18:17
 1 Thess. 1-2

Memory Verses:

Acts 17:11; 17:24-25

WEEK 41

1 Thess. 3-5
 2 Thess. 1-3
 Acts 18-19
 1 Cor. 1-2
 1 Cor. 3-4

Memory Verses:

1 Corinthians 1:18
 1 Thes. 5:23-24

WEEK 42

1 Cor. 4-5
 1 Cor. 6-7
 1 Cor. 8-9
 1 Cor. 10-11
 1 Cor. 12-14

Memory Verses:

1 Corinthians 10:13; 13:13

WEEK 43

1 Cor. 15-16
 2 Cor. 1-2
 2 Cor. 3-4
 2 Cor. 5-6
 2 Cor. 7-8

Memory Verses:

Romans 1:16-17
 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

WEEK 44

2 Cor. 9-10
 2 Cor. 11-13
 Romans 1-2; Acts 20:1-3
 Romans 3-4
 Romans 5-6

Memory Verses:

Romans 4:20-22; 5:1

WEEK 45

Romans 7-8
 Romans 9-10
 Romans 11-12
 Romans 13-14
 Romans 15-16

Memory Verses:

Romans 8:1; 12:1-2

WEEK 46

Acts 20-21
 Acts 22-23
 Acts 24-25
 Acts 26-27
 Acts 28

Memory Verses:

Acts 20:24
 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

WEEK 47

Colossians 1-2
 Colossians 3-4
 Ephesians 1-2
 Ephesians 3-4
 Ephesians 5-6

Memory Verses:

Ephesians 2:8-10
 Colossians 2:6-7

WEEK 48

Philippians 1-2
 Philippians 3-4
 Hebrews 1-2
 Hebrews 3-4
 Hebrews 5-6

Memory Verses:

Philippians 3:7-8
 Hebrews 4:14-16

WEEK 49

Hebrews 6-7

Hebrews 8-9

Hebrews 10

Hebrew 11

Hebrews 12

Memory Verses:

Galatians 2:19-20

2 Cor. 5:17

WEEK 50

1 Timothy 1-3

1 Timothy 4-6

2 Timothy 1-2

2 Timothy 3-4

1 Peter 1-2

Memory Verses:

2 Timothy 2:1-2; 2:15

WEEK 51

1 Peter 3-4

1 Peter 5; 1 John 1

1 John 2-3

1 John 4-5

Revelation 1

Memory Verses:

1 Peter 2:11

1 John 4:10-11

WEEK 52

Revelation 2

Revelation 3

Revelation 19:6-20

Revelation 21

Revelation 22

Memory Verses:

Revelation 3:19; 21:3-4

Sample HEAR Journal

READING: John 13

DATE: August 9, 2015

TITLE: To Love Is To Serve

HIGHLIGHT:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35 (ESV)

Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciple's feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. John 13:5 (ESV)

EXPLAIN:

Before Jesus spoke about sacrificial love, He showed it by washing the feet of His most faithful followers. By taking on a task deemed too dirty even for Hebrew slaves, Jesus provided them with a picture of what it really looked like to love. With this example fresh upon their minds, Jesus moved from illustration to instruction, teaching them that the same sacrificial love He had just shown them, they were now to show to others.

Significant in this story is the fact that Jesus washed the feet, not just of the men who would make up the leadership of His church, but also of Judas, the man who, moments later, would sell Him out for several pieces of silver. Although the weight of this wouldn't be felt until later, the disciples discovered, through His example, that real love doesn't recognize a face as 'friend' or 'foe', but instead, focuses on washing the feet of all for the glory of Jesus (by this all people will know that you are my disciples).

APPLY:

It's simple to string together our own definitions of love and feel as though we are doing His work, when in reality, we aren't. In this passage, Jesus made it clear that the depth of our love is revealed in the degree to which we serve. If we are to love others like our Lord we must leave the comfort of the table to take up the towel of sacrificial service. When we find ourselves at the feet of others we find ourselves near to Jesus!

RESPOND:

Lord Jesus, help me to love others as You have loved me. In the ultimate act of love, You offered Yourself on the cross in my place. Make me more mindful of the cross, that I might be moved to surrender my pride daily. May I decrease, so that You may increase and through Your Spirit fill me with the strength to serve others.



POWERED BY PRAYER

Andrew Murray once said, *"We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the Heavenly world, and can bring its power down to earth."* Prayer is the calling down of God's power on you and those around you. Consider the magnitude of this statement...because of the work of Christ, we have access to Heavenly empowerment which enables us to accomplish all that God has called us to do.

Consider, then, the ramifications of a walk with Christ that places little to no emphasis on prayer. If prayer is calling down God's power, and we don't treat it as such, what are we saying? In essence, we're saying to God: *I've got it all together. I'm capable. I'm in control.*

We all know that this isn't the case. As a matter of fact, we have *nothing* under control. A disciple who remains steadfast in prayer is submitting wholly to God in recognition that they are not capable of anything apart from the power of God. Jesus was very clear about how able we would be without Him. In John 15:5, He reminds His disciples, *"apart from me you can do nothing."* Prayer reveals our utter dependence upon Him.

Jesus, our Master, modeled this truth. It was not at all irregular for Jesus to spend an entire night in fellowship with His Father. He was strengthened from doing so. It kept His Father's will ever before Him. Jesus often rose early in the morning so that He could pray (Mark 1:35). Jesus prayed publicly to God on behalf of Lazarus (John 11:41-42) and before healing a person with a speech impediment (Mark 7:34-35). Even in the Garden of Gethsemane, mere moments from the cross, He was seeking the heart of His Father (Matthew 26).

If the sovereign Son of God was sought so desperately to employ this Heavenly power, how much more should we?

The first disciples saw this heart within their Teacher and were eager to learn from His example. Of all the wonderful works we read about in the pages of Scripture, only one – prayer – caused the disciples to seek out additional understanding (Luke 11). The chosen twelve never asked Jesus to teach them how to preach or perform miracles, but they did ask Him, *"Lord, teach us to pray."*

Upon this teaching the Church was established. Prayer was the first real action the disciples took while they were waiting on the coming Holy Spirit (Acts 1). Acts 1:14 says, *"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer."* If any one word captures the heart of being powered by prayer, it's *devotion* to it. Only prayer, calling down Heavenly power, would prepare them for the task at hand.

This dedication to prayer was a recognition of their dependence upon Him; a realization that they were powerless to accomplish the mission in their own strength.

When His disciples could do nothing but wait, they did what they saw their Master doing. They begin calling out for strength to act. They were ready, but not yet empowered. Disciples of Christ are still drawn to their knees when they perceive their weakness. We too can pray with expectation – a holy anticipation of Heavenly power. This commitment to prayer always precedes the work of God. Then and now, prayer unleashes the power of God to fulfill the promises of God. Like these first disciples, you may fight feelings of insufficiency. When you find yourself filled with fear and paralyzed by your powerlessness, do what Jesus' disciples did: pray.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Here are four ways to prioritize prayer in your D-Group:

Meaningful Times of Prayer

You may have said before, *"let me open us in a Word of prayer."* While any time spent in prayer is valuable, Jesus taught the importance of meaningful times of prayer. Make it a priority to spend time together with your D-Group in prayer. Rather than relegating prayer to an opening or closing act, allow for time within your meeting to intercede with and for one another.

Learning To Pray

In Luke 11, Jesus, in response to a question from one of His disciples, begins teaching on prayer. Their desire: *teach us to pray*. Most people want to believe prayer works, but they have no idea where to begin. This simple guide is a great starting point, straight from our Teacher, that will help your D-Group experience the power of prayer. See the attached Disciple's Prayer Guide (p 15) for additional details.

Prayer Journal

One of the best ways to prioritize prayer in your D-Group is to use a notebook or journal to keep track of needs. By writing down each request, you're more likely to remember it throughout the day. You'll also have a guide to refer back to during your times of prayer each day. Additionally, a prayer journal also allows you to track God's work within your D-Group as you celebrate answered prayers.

Takes Advantage of Technology

There are numerous free resources available that will help you and your D-Group develop greater consistency in your prayer lives. Some have found it helpful to use the calendar feature on their phones to set prayer reminders. Others use apps like Pocket Prayer Pro to track requests.

The Disciple's Prayer

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

MATTHEW 6:9-13 (ESV)

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Worship and adore Him.

Creator, Ruler, Protector, Provider, Redeemer, Sustainer

***"Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven."***

God's will be done.

My life, Family, Church, Church Staff, Government Leaders

"Give us this day our daily bread"

Trust God to meet your needs. Claim His promises.

Philippians 4:19 , 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Matthew 6: 25-34, Proverbs 3: 9,10

"And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"

Claim cleansing and forgiveness.

Acknowledge sin (1 John 1:9), Forsake sin (Proverbs 28:13),
Forgive others who've sinned against you (Matthew 6:14,15)

***"And do not lead us into temptation
but deliver us from the evil one."***

Thank God for victory over the enemy.

Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:8-10, James 4:7, 1 John 4:4

***"For yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen"***

Once again worship and adore Him.

I love you, Lord

I need you, Lord

I thank you, Lord

You are worthy

(adapted from Brainerd Baptist Church)



ACCOUNTABLE TO EACH OTHER

As D-Groups expose themselves to the Scriptures, sin inevitably rises to the surface as members see the ways in which they aren't like Christ. Together, D-Groups begin applying the truths of God's Word to their lives, walking in submission to the Lord and each other.

For real intimacy to be built, accountability must be present. Accountability allows us to be answerable to one another. It is sharing, openly and honestly, our struggles and successes in an atmosphere of trust. Once we begin to identify and understand our battles, we can repent and find relief from fighting on our own.

Mike Breen, talking about the necessity of accountability for change, wrote, *"Jesus created a highly inviting but highly challenging culture for His disciples to function and grow within."* He continues, *"Fundamentally, effective leadership is based upon an invitation to relationship and a challenge to change. A gifted disciple-maker is someone who invites people into a covenantal relationship with him or her, but challenges that person to live into his or her true identity in very direct yet graceful ways. Without both dynamics working together, you will not see people grow into the people God has created them to be."*

D-Groups offer members accountability by fostering intimacy and creating expectation.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Here are two ways to help your D-Group embrace accountability:

D-Group Covenant

A covenant is a promise made in the presence of God that can only be kept by the power of God. When your D-Group agrees to do certain things together, you're acknowledging your dependence upon Him and laying a foundation for accelerated spiritual growth. See the attached Sample D-Group Covenant (p 17) for additional details.

Accountability Questions

While not necessarily needed for every D-Group meeting, these basic accountability questions are designed to provide a helpful starting point for your group. Feel free to adapt these over time in order to better serve the needs of your D-Group. See the attached Sample Accountability Questions (p 17) for additional details.

Sample D-Group Covenant

As a D-Group, here are the six things we are committing to do together:

- We are fully committed to the Lord with the anticipation that we are entering into a season of accelerated spiritual transformation.
- We will be faithfully present for each group meeting unless providentially hindered.
- We will diligently read and journal through God's Word, coming ready to share weekly what God is teaching us in these times.
- We will submit to each other weekly in the spirit of accountability.
- We will pray for one another as we learn from the Master and live on mission together.
- We will remain continually aware that we are learning in order to teach and, by God's grace, commit to replicate this group with others upon the conclusion of this group.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Sample Accountability Questions

Here are some questions that will help us remain accountable to one another:

- Have you spent time in the Scriptures daily?
- Have you been reading and journaling the assigned passages?
- Have you been memorizing and reviewing the assigned verses daily?
- In what ways have you responded to what you've learned from God's Word?
- Have you taken time to intentionally invest in new relationships this week?
- Have you had an opportunity to share the Gospel with anyone this week?

D-Group Accountability Questions

Have you spent time in the Word and in prayer this week?

Have you shared the gospel, shared your story, or taken intentional steps toward that end by building a relationship with an unbeliever this week?

Have you spent quality time with your family this week?

Have you viewed, read, or listened to anything immoral this week?

Have you told any lies or half-truths to put yourself in a positive light before others?

Have you participated in any divisive behavior that has caused relational strain or damage this week?

What's God been teaching you this week? How can you live that out?

Are there any issues or situations in your life that you're having a difficult time trusting God for deliverance?



EXPECTED TO EXPAND

When calling His first disciples, Jesus not only invited them to share life with Him, but He gave them a glimpse of what was to come (Matthew 4:19). Mark 3 teaches that Jesus *"appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach."*

While they were *with Him*, they realized that Jesus was acutely aware of His *sentness*. John captures this truth in His gospel, reminding us over 25 times that Jesus was the Savior *sent* by God. Jesus found satisfaction in doing the will of the One who *sent* Him (John 4:34). Everything He taught (John 7:16) and did (John 6:38) stemmed from being *sent*.

Then, in John 20:21, Jesus did something spectacular. He said to His disciples, *"As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."* Of course this sending is captured in Matthew 28:19, when Jesus says, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

The Sent One had now *sent* them to join His Spirit in continuing this redemptive work. He started with *"come and follow"* so that they could eventually *"go and make."* We are here today because of their faithfulness and we too have been *sent* to live on mission.

As you begin this new D-Group, make multiplication the new norm. Challenge members to make a commitment to do with others what you will do with them. Remind them often that they are learning in order to teach (2 Timothy 2:2). Spend time praying for potential people they will invite to be part of their D-Group. Continually consider the power of personal discipleship and encourage them to cultivate relationships that can be leveraged into discipleship opportunities.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Here are two ways to prepare your D-Group for expansion:

Give The Group Away

Give each member of your D-Group a chance to lead the discussion from time to time. Let them learn in a safe environment what it looks like to lead a group.

Intentionally Invest In Others

Jesus didn't do anything by accident. Encourage your D-Group to add intentionality to every aspect of their lives, always on the lookout for opportunities to build relationships that could be leveraged for discipleship.

Recommended Resources

Growing Up

Robby Gallaty

Growing Up is a powerful resource for those seeking to be disciples who make disciples. You can find this and other helpful tools from Robby Gallaty at replicateministries.org.

The Master Plan of Evangelism

Robert Coleman

For more than forty years this classic, biblical look at evangelism has challenged and instructed over three million readers. Billy Graham once noted, "*Few books have had as great an impact on the cause of world evangelization in our generation as *The Master Plan of Evangelism*."*

Life Together

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups.

What Every Christian Ought To Know

Adrian Rogers

This resource provides readers with a well-organized, well-reasoned grasp of such topics as salvation, eternal security, prayer, the Holy Spirit, resisting temptation, finding God's will, as well as the authority of the Bible and how to understand it better. A valuable volume for new Christians and young disciples, it's also a suitably instructive resource for believers of all ages.

The Great Omission

Dallas Willard

This book calls believers to restore what should be the heart of Christianity—being active disciples of Jesus Christ. In the school of life, we are apprentices of the Teacher whose brilliance encourages us to rise above traditional church understanding and embrace the true meaning of discipleship.

The Complete Book on Discipleship

Bill Hull

Drawing from the best in discipleship literature as well as from his own extensive disciple making experience with The Navigators, Bill Hull pulls together all relevant topics in one comprehensive volume. Well-organized and fully indexed, you'll find included such topics as spiritual growth, transformation, spiritual disciplines, and discipleship in the local church.

- **The Bible Memory App (pro)** - With this app you can practice your memory verses by a typing exercise, voice recording/playback etc. Pro version recommended. Free version is great.
- **Replicate App** - the official app from Replicate for dgroup. F-260 readings and journaling can be done in the app.
- **Foundations book** - Readings and daily devotions with space to journal. The most recommended resource.
- Others?

Connect With Us

A STARTING POINT

The information contained in this packet is designed to be foundational, not final. Like you, we are still learning what it looks like to disciple others. Our goal is unity, not uniformity. Each D-Group will be different, that's the beauty of the Body of Christ! These four foundations are designed to serve as simple guidelines for each D-Group.

BE PATIENT WITH THE PROCESS

It has been said that discipleship is more like a crock pot than a microwave. Simply put, discipleship takes time. Jesus invested three years into twelve men. Don't rush the process.

JUST DO IT

G.K. Chesterton once said, *"Anything worth doing is worth doing badly."* Many people want to wait until they know more to start a D-Group...don't wait! The best time to be obedient is now.

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

We are here to help you as you begin this journey! Please connect with us often! Feel free to send us questions, thoughts, ideas, and stories as you embark on this disciple-making journey. If we can serve you in any way, please don't hesitate to let us know!

"Go therefore and make disciples..."