

The next 9 to 15 months will be an exciting time as we enter a season of spiritual transformation. The D-Group environment encourages us to engage with God's Word and His people in a way that most of us never have before. As His Spirit works in our lives, it creates a passion to help others experience the same thing. This Starter Guide will help our group start strong! (The leader should have a Starter Guide, Leader Guide, and Journal Options. Each member should have a Participant Guide and Journal Options.)

Week 1: Getting Started

Welcome to week one! Today's meeting will look different than our normal weeks. We'll focus on getting to know one another, setting expectations, and committing to one another for this season.

Get to Know One Another

Below is a list of questions to discuss as a group. You most likely will not have time to go through all of them, so choose 1-2 and spend half of your meeting time (about 30 minutes) discussing them.

- Share a 2-3 minute version of your testimony.
- Tell us about your family, work, and personal hobbies.
- How has God been working in your life in this season?
- What is one thing you are excited or intrigued by right now?
- Feel free to ask any questions to help your members get to know one another!
- **Note:** *In future meetings, you can spend more time getting to know one another. A great way to do this is by asking a different member to share their story in 5-7 minutes each week.*

Set Expectations

It's important that we all have the same expectations for this group. Let's look below at the differences between a D-Group and a Small Group, as well as what is unique about a D-Group.

What's the Difference?

D-GROUP

- > gender-specific, closed group of 2-5 people who begin together at the same time
- > community, accountability, and accelerated discipleship
 - > consists of believers who desire to go deeper with others
- > group discussion focused on common Scripture reading

SMALL GROUP

- > open group of 5-15 people (gender-specific and mixed, different seasons and stages)
- > community, discipleship, and outreach
 - > mixture of believers and those curious about God
- > facilitator leads using sermon discussion guides



**BOTH based on
Acts 2:42-47**



What is a D-Group?

WEEKLY INPUT

- > Accountability
- > Daily Bible Reading
- > Responding to God's Word
- > Discipleship Discussions
- > Praying for One Another

LIFETIME OUTPUT

- > Go with Gospel Love
- > Share God's Truth
- > Commit to the Kingdom
Future of Others



**LIFE
TRANSFORMATION**



What Will We Do?

"Have nothing to do with pointless and silly myths. Rather, train yourself in godliness. For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

We train in godliness by weekly committing to:

- o Accountability
- o Daily Bible Reading
- o Responding to God's Word
- o Discipleship Discussions
- o Praying for One Another

Which of these are you currently doing well? Which do you need to grow in the most?

What Will God Do?

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

"For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

Each of these passages speak to how the Holy Spirit uses God's Word to change our lives. Though we commit to the disciplines above, it is not our effort that changes us, but the Holy Spirit through His Word. The disciplines provide room in our lives for God to work.

What Will Happen?

As we allow the Word of God to work in our lives, we will see its impact in what Jesus demonstrated all effective disciple-makers do:

Go with Gospel Love

- Disciple makers pursue to love those they disciple in the same way Jesus would love them. This love is self-less and helps others see their true identity as a treasured child of God.

Share God's Truth

- Disciple makers teach those they disciple to live obedient to God's Word. Obedience is a key indicator that we trust God, and have surrendered to His leadership in our lives. Disciple makers understand that God's Word is the life-giving truth that sets us free.

Commit to Their Kingdom Future

- Disciple makers walk selflessly with those they disciple to help them multiply the Kingdom of God. They make sacrifices where necessary to see followers grow and mature and fulfill God's loving design and purpose for their lives.

What Is Your Commitment?

Over the next 9 to 15 months, we will do our best to ...

- Commit fully to the Lord during this time with anticipation that this will be a season of spiritual transformation.
- Commit to meeting weekly for about 60 minutes with the group for the next 9-15 months. When absent, share my responses to God's Word and prayer requests.
- Commit to the weekly inputs, including reading Scripture 5 days per week and responding in writing a few times per week.
- Commit to an environment of confidentiality, honesty, and transparency.
- Commit to praying for those far from God on a weekly basis.
- Commit to praying about leading a D-group in the future.

This Week

Choose the Bible reading plan your group will use and begin reading (the 12 week plan is a great one to start with). We will begin reading Scripture together this week. Day 1 of each week on the 12 week reading plan is Monday and the weekends are to catch up on the readings if needed. Respond in your notebook to your favorite reading this week, using some of the "Reflection" and "Response" questions in your Participant Guide.

Week 2: D-Group Rhythm

Begin today's meeting with prayer and having each person share a "high" and "low" from their week.

Every week we will follow the same rhythm that includes each of the weekly inputs. The example below is meant to be a helpful guide for us. *Ultimately, the pace and content of the conversation is set by the leader's discernment, the length of our D-Group meeting, and the amount of people in our group.*

Normal D-Group Rhythm

**The times are suggestions. As your group grows together, you may adjust times as desired.*

- Small talk/catch up (5 mins.)
 - You can be more structured in this time and have each person share their “high” and “low” of the week.
- Start with silence & prayer (5 mins.)
 - By beginning our time with silence and prayer, we focus ourselves on listening to God, and this posture is carried with us as we begin prayerful conversation together.
- Discipleship/Accountability questions (15 mins.)
 - *Have each person answer at least one of the questions in a complete way. Ask any follow up questions or continue the conversation if needed outside of the group time.*
- Share what was learned through reading & responding to God’s Word (25-30 mins.)
 - Which of your readings and responses stood out most to you this week and what are you doing about it?
- Share prayer requests and pray for one another (10 mins.)
 - *Finish the time by having each person share something specific and personal that the group can pray for in less than 60 seconds. Then have someone immediately pray for that person. This ensures that your group spends more time praying than sharing!*

Responding to God’s Word

Responding to God’s Word in writing (journaling) is a great discipline because it helps you retain more of what you read. During each D-Group meeting, each person will share one of their responses to God’s Word from the previous week.

We suggest that you respond to God’s Word in writing (journal) at least three days each week. However, the goal with this discipline, as with others, is to improve as time goes on. Consider how often you currently journal and start with “+1” of that. So, if you have never responded in writing, try to do it one or two times each week. If you journal occasionally, try to do it three times each week. The hope is that as you get more comfortable with this and experience its benefits, you will want to increase the number throughout the year.

Let’s take a few moments to look at how we can respond to God’s Word. The first way is to simply answer some or all of the questions in the “Reflection” and “Response” section of your Participant Guide. If you prefer more formal journaling options, we have those available as well! Let’s look at the Journal Options resource together. *(Give a few minutes for members to review this resource and answer any questions they may have.)*

Once you identify what your application is, you can finish your response to God’s Word by asking, “How should I respond to this application in my relationships and/or situations this week?”

For the rest of today’s meeting, have each person share their response from last week’s reading.

When we meet together next week, each person will share a response from their favorite reading, using any of the response options shared above.

This Week

Continue reading and responding to God’s Word. Next week we will begin doing everything on our meeting agenda, including asking the Discipleship/Accountability questions. See you next week!

Transition to the Leader Guide’s/Participant Guide’s “Meeting Agenda” starting next week.