

Discipleship Groups

At New Life Church, we celebrate the gifts & growth of everyone in the church (1 Corinthians 12:27). We aim to have a discipling culture of **contribution over consumerism, development over delivery, and the presence of God over programs**. *Discipleship Groups are designed to facilitate learning and living the Discipleship Pathway by practicing Hearing from God, Obeying God, and doing that With others (the "HOW").* Through this, we hope members will be equipped and grow in the lifestyles of following Jesus for their lifetime. The structure of leadership, coaching, and group facilitation has been shaped to invite individual ownership of one's faith and personal needs, while having the opportunity to grow close with a small group of others for mutual discipleship.

Basics

Size: 3 to 5, with multiplication at 6 members generally no quicker than once a semester

Participation: Anyone in a Home Group can join a D Group if they are a believer, have a professed desire to grow in relationship with Jesus, a commitment to meeting weekly, a commitment to help and be helped in following through on next steps, commitment to a Bible reading plan determined together as a group, and a willingness to share openly about life and faith with those in their group.

Coaching: Each group has a "point person" who connects with a coach for direction, accountability, and to ask questions. This coach is available to every member of the group but meets regularly with the point person. This could be as little as 30 minutes every other week.

Facilitation: To start, the point person will facilitate the group time (explained below). However, the point person will model/teach others in the group how to facilitate. Once comfortable, other members of the group can rotate with the point person to facilitate the conversation for that week. This includes taking time to pray and prepare for the meeting ahead of time. By sharing the skill of Discipleship Group facilitation, our groups can more easily multiply once they reach capacity.

The Weekly Meeting

The purpose of a Discipleship Group is to learn and live the Discipleship Pathway by practicing the HOW (Hearing from God, Obeying God, With others). As such, there is flexibility in how one engages with the HOW. However, below is a template you could use. The key is that all of this goes back to the Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:29-31, Luke 10:27) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). We ultimately organize D Groups as a tool to help us love God, love others, and make disciples.

General framework of the weekly time

1/3 of the time authentically catching up

1/3 of the time reflecting on Scripture from your reading plan

1/3 of the time praying and reflecting on the ongoing actions in the Discipleship Pathway and then sharing answer to the questions: How is God getting my attention on one of these areas (or another not on the DPath)? What is one action step I want to take this week? Is there a way that I want to include others in my action step (doing it together, asking for prayer, etc.)?