



PROVISION CHURCH

D-Groups

At Provision Church, we encourage everyone to be a part of a Life Group and to be a part of a D-Group. It is our hope that every person is either leading or participating in both. This is where we live up to our mission, in an even greater way, of “making disciples who make disciples.”

What is a D-Group?

A D-Group is a gender-specific closed group of 3 to 5 believers (including the leader) who meet together weekly for the purpose of accelerated spiritual transformation.

The time period to meet is normally about 12-18 months. A person joins the D-Group by *invitation* only, with most groups being formed out of relationships from their Life Groups.

A D-Group is different from Life Groups. The main purpose is for believers to go deeper in their walk with Christ. The result will be disciples who make disciples. Each one that takes part has an understanding up front that at the end of the 12-18 months, they are to multiply by taking on 3-4 people themselves to disciple in the same way.

How do I find a D-Group?

If you would like to be in a D-Group, you first need to join a Life Group. If you currently are in one, talk to the teacher or leader for more information on a D-Group, or talk to the Discipleship Pastor.

How do I lead a D-Group?

The only requirement for leading a D-Group is that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ that is intentionally seeking after Him. You do not have to be a polished teacher or scholar. You just need to lead a group from a position of humility. Be like the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1 – “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

As a D-Group leader, you do set the tone for the group. Lead with humility, but at the same time with accountability to each person. Encourage everyone to continue in his or her time of reading God’s Word, always being prepared for the group meeting. Hold strong that everyone is memorizing the Scripture verses, reading their Bible passages and preparing the H.E.A.R. journals each week. Be sure to lead by example.

How do I choose disciples?

1) Pray about whom God would have you ask.

2) Approach and invite.

-Be sure that your group consists of people who are faithful, available and teachable.

-As you approach someone, do not ask him or her, “Would you like for me to disciple you?” That may come across wrong. Ask them, “Would you be interested in studying the Bible, memorizing Scripture, and praying together?”

3) Covenant with them to be committed and accountable to each other for 12-18 months each week and committed that they will replicate at the end by finding 3-5 people of their own to disciple.

What resources are available to use?

We recommend the F-260 Bible reading plan, which covers the entire meta-narrative of Scripture through 5 weekly readings (with weekends off). You can purchase this in a resource called *Foundations* through Lifeway or Amazon. We have copies of this that you can look over and get familiar with before purchasing.

How many people should be in the group?

Because accountability works well in a smaller setting, the ideal size of a disciple-making group is 3 to 5 – you and 2 to 4 other people. We recommend that you do not have more than 5, and remember that a one-on-one relationship is not ideal.

Where should we meet?

Find a meeting place away from the church. Restaurants, coffee shops, bookstores, diners, and homes are all good options. Meeting outside the church in the community encourages your group members to publicize their faith, teaching them it is okay to read the Bible at a restaurant or pray in public. Be sure to select a place that is convenient to all group members.

How often should we meet?

Ideally, you should meet once a week for about an hour to an hour and a half. You can meet more frequently, but it is important that you meet at least once a week. This schedule does not prohibit those you are discipling from calling you throughout the week or coming by for counsel when needed. It is important to remember that discipleship is about the relationship between you and your group members, not about checking a requirement box. Disciple-making is a way of life, not a program.

Is there an attendance requirement?

Absolutely yes, and it is not negotiable. The first time you meet with a potential group, be sure to explain the disciple-making covenant with them. Since you will be spending your lives together for the next twelve to eighteen months, you want to know if they are committed. Some people will not agree to do this and will change their mind. That is okay. Allow potential disciples to opt out of the group on the front end after understanding the expectations spelled out in the disciple-making covenant. Remember, you are looking for people who want to be discipled, people who have a desire to grow and learn. An unwillingness to commit reveals that they are not ready to be in a D-Group.

Should I disciple unbelievers?

In order to be discipled, you have to be a disciple of Christ. The entire group needs to be born-again believers seeking to grow in righteousness. We recommend that at the very first meeting, to ask each person to share his or her testimony with the others. You can also ask them to explain the gospel. This will help you in determining if all people are ready to continue with the group. (For help, see the *Spiritual Journey Inventory*)

What do D-Group meetings look like?

The following is an easy order to follow to keep you on task each week:

--Prayer

--Intentional conversations

- Briefly share highs and lows of the week
- Share celebrations and praises

--Scripture memory verses of the week

- Everyone quotes the Scripture
- Different person to start each week

--Share HEAR journals (see intro of Foundations book for more detail)

- Highlight
- Explain
- Apply
- Respond

--Accountability

- Spend a few moments asking questions and keeping each other accountable.
- All accountability should be saturated with grace, not legalism.
- You can't expect what you don't inspect.

--Prayer requests and closing prayer

--Actions steps for the next week

**After several months, be sure to let each member have a time at leading the group as a whole. This will help in preparing them to lead others.

How do I challenge my D-Group to memorize Scripture?

The best way to do this is to hold your group accountable each week to reciting the verses to one another. Let someone different start each week, but every person needs to be given an opportunity to show that they have memorized the Scripture for the week. Make it a priority to all.

When should I ask someone to leave the D-Group?

This is one of those tough questions that no one wants to deal with, but unfortunately there may be times in which you have to be prepared to ask someone to step away from your group. Always approach someone with much humility and grace in any of these cases.

- Not a teachable spirit
- Not faithful in attending meetings
- Not completing assigned work
- Not putting in the kind of effort required, such as not taking part in discussion each week.
- They are living a lifestyle of blatant and unrepentant sin, etc. Be sure to approach them as given in Matthew 18.

What if I don't know the answer to a question?

There should never be any pressure at all to know everything. None of us know everything or we would be God. We all should seek to be life-long learners so if we do not have an answer, just admit that you don't know it, but commit to finding it out. Go to one of the pastors, or another spiritual leader, to be able to help you. Study and find the answer through the Scriptures. That way God uses that time to impress it upon your heart.

When do I send out disciples to make disciples?

From the beginning of initiating the group, the expectation of every person should be to multiply. Your group will be meeting for 12 to 18 months and then the expectation should be that every member would start a group of their own, which will start a group of their own. Give each person several opportunities throughout the life span of the church to lead the group to experience what it is like to lead. Some groups will want to stay together longer because of the close bond that they have developed or for the mere fact of staying comfortable. Push forward encouraging them in forming other groups, reminding them of the goal.



D-Group Covenant

I will commit to the following expectations:

I pledge myself fully to the Lord with the anticipation that I am entering a time of accelerated spiritual transformation.

I will meet with my D-Group for approximately one and a half hours every week, unless providentially hindered.

I will complete all assignments on a weekly basis before my D-Group meeting, in order to contribute to the discussion.

I will contribute to an atmosphere of confidentiality, honesty, and transparency for the edification of others in the group as well as my own spiritual growth.

I will pray every week for the other men/women who are on the discipleship journey with me.

I will begin praying about replicating the discipleship process upon completion of this group.

Signed Mentee _____

Signed Mentor _____

Date _____



D-Group Leader

Job Description

The D-Group Leader is responsible for continuing to disciple a gender-specific closed group of 3 to 4 believers who meet together weekly for 12 to 18 months for the purpose of accelerated spiritual transformation.

- A. Prayerfully initiate the group
 - a. Initiate a meeting to discover interest.
 - b. Schedule weekly group meetings (time, date and place) according to the consensus of the group.
- B. Help to disciple the group
 - a. Coordinate each meeting to include the order of action each week for accelerated transformation.
--(See "What do D-Group meetings look like?" in D-Group FAQ's.)
 - b. Be available to your group throughout the week to talk through any questions, problems or prayer concerns.
- C. Plan with the Life Group Team.
 - a. Attend scheduled Team Huddles and LG Planning Times.
 - b. Communicate regularly with your LG leader on how the group is progressing throughout the 12 to 18 month life span.

*Responsible to their Life Group Leader.

***Sample H.E.A.R. Journal**

Read: Philippians 4:10-13

Date: 11-1-17

H (Highlight) – *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Philippians 4:13

E (Explain) – Paul was telling the church at Philippi that he has discovered the secret of contentment. No matter the situation in Paul’s life, he realized that Christ was all he needed, and Christ was the one who strengthened him to persevere through difficult times.

A (Apply) – In my life, I will experience many ups and downs. My contentment is not found in circumstances. Rather, it is based on my relationship with Jesus Christ. Only Jesus gives me the strength I need to be content in every circumstance of life.

R (Respond) – Lord Jesus, please help me as I strive to be content in You. Through Your strength, I can make it through any situation I must face.

*Gallaty, Robby with Randall Collins; *Growing Up: How to be a disciple who makes disciples*; p. 185

***Spiritual Journey Inventory**

Use these questions in your D-Group to get acquainted with each other.

1. After coming to the Lord, I finally understood _____.
2. The closest I have felt to God in my life was _____.
3. The farthest I felt from God was _____.
4. If I could change one incident in my life it would be _____.
Why?
5. One incident in my life that I would never change would be _____.
Why?
6. The turning point in my relationship with God was _____.
Why?

*Gallaty, Robby with Randall Collins; *Growing Up: How to be a disciple who makes disciples*;
p. 183