

## DNA Groups

In our mission of making disciples (the calling of Jesus on all our lives), we need a variety of structures of relationships to make disciples effectively. Simplistically, you could say that our focus points in three directions:

- UP - Need an upward focus on who God is and what He has done (GATHER)
- IN - Need inward transformation – and helping one another go through transformation (GROW)
- OUT - Need relationships with others and with the World (GO)

In entering this mission, Jesus told us we will be entering a war zone – so there is great need to encourage and build up one another (Heb. 10:24-25).

For example, disciples are going to get tired, forget who they are doing this for and why they are pursuing this, lose motivation, etc. because of the corruption of the world and lies of the enemy. So disciples need the Gospel proclaimed to remind them of the truth – “He died for me, so I am called to live for Him” - to get back on mission together. We all need the Gospel pressed into the heart to remind us that Jesus has purchased our adoption so we have the unchanging love of the Father; and Jesus has purchased the Spirit – God’s ongoing presence to empower us to love.

A disciple is someone increasingly submitting all of life to the empowering presence and Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Jesus applies to all our needs. As a church we want to immerse you into a Gospel context with 3 layers of Gospel care: Larger gatherings (such as Sunday gatherings), Gospel Community gatherings, and DNA groups.

There is a communal nature to discipleship. It can’t be done simply in a larger gathering a few hours a week, but in life on life on mission together – loving one another in everyday life in the midst of a broken world. (John 13:15)

DNA (Discover – Nurture – Act) groups (3-5 individuals of the same sex) – focus on the GROW – (IN) – as even the Gospel Community gatherings, though smaller, are limited.

- **Discover** who God is and what He has done
- **Nurture** one another with the Gospel
- **Act** in accordance with what the Spirit is calling them to do.

There is not one leader in a DNA group. Rather everyone is taking responsibility to disciple the others (Gospel Shepherding).

## **DISCOVER**

In the Discover phase of your time together, a good starting place is to read Scripture (I would suggest the Scripture we are going through as a church family in our larger gatherings - trusting that God has us in that passage for a reason).

Discover - read a portion of Scripture, observe, reflect, and ask the following:

- 1 Who is God? (i.e. What has God revealed about Himself in this passage?)
- 2 What has He done?
- 3 Who are we? (our new identity)
- 4 How do we live?

This will help us discover truth and remind us of truth.

## **NURTURE**

This is a time to shepherd one another with and in the Gospel.

Give about 10-20 min for each person to talk through what God has been saying to them through the Scriptures, in prayer, and in the circumstances of life (observe, reflect, discuss); and then talk through how they will respond (plan, account, act). These are acts of repentance and belief.

In the discussion you can ask: What is God saying to you? Where are you having difficulty believing what God is teaching you? Where do you need to respond in repentance and faith in Jesus? etc.

Listening to the Spirit should lead to a plan and accountability: What are you going to do about it and who are you going to tell?

## **ACT**

The final phase is to *act*; to actually live out and apply what we believe God is showing us. To set out on a new kingdom direction as a result of repentance and faith. True belief always leads to action.

Then we GO back OUT into community on mission.

When you come together again, you need to follow-up with one another to hear the stories of everyday mission, and hopefully celebrate what God has done or is doing (or a time of pressing in the gospel for repentance and faith - new mercies, and new discoveries, because it's a new day!) This is like a missionary coming back on furlough – telling the stories of success and failure and seeking the prayers and wisdom of fellow missionaries in the Way.