



FOR THE **GOSPEL**. FOR THE **CITY**. FOR THE **WORLD**.

6 STEPS TO YOUR NEW D-GROUP

Here are 6 steps to move from participating in a D Group to leading a D Group. The best part is, leading a D Group means inviting others to follow Jesus with you. You can do this. Let's get started.

1. PRAY AND SEEK



- Look for people to grow with you
- Start Sticky: First year groups are encouraged to find people they already enjoy or they already share a rhythm of life with.
- Pray with your group
 - The next page is for you to record every name every person in your group is pursuing for their next group.
 - Great moment to have with your existing group.

GROUP EXERCISE



In the **navy box**, write the names of people you think you should invite into your next D Group.

In the **green boxes**, write the names of those your fellow group members are planning to ask so that you can pray for them by name.

MY POTENTIAL DGROUP:

CURRENT MEMBER: _____

CURRENT MEMBER: _____

CURRENT MEMBER: _____

CURRENT MEMBER: _____

2. TRUST THE PROCESS

- There may be fear of starting a new group. Talk and pray through your concerns with your group. Some of the following fears are common:
 - Theology: I don't know if God has called me to multiply.
 - Community: I don't want to leave my current group.
 - Practical: I don't know how to multiply and start a new group.
 - Qualification: I don't feel qualified to lead others.
 - Availability: I don't feel like I have the time to lead others.
 - People: I don't know who I would invite.
- Move past the things that have kept you from making disciples in the past.
 - Read and discuss the following with your current group:
 - Read each of these three verses: Genesis 12:1-3, Matthew 28:16-20, and 2 Timothy 2:1-2.
 - All throughout the Bible, we see our identity as “sent people”. God never intended for the Gospel to stop with us, but for us to take it to others. As believers, we launch out of the comforts of our current community to create a place where new people can experience the same blessings we have. Jesus left his heavenly community to come to earth to save us. The disciples left their community in Jerusalem to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. And most likely someone in your life left the comfort of their community to invest in you. We now have the privilege to join this movement as we provide the same life-changing community to others that we have received from this group.

3. ASK THE RIGHT PEOPLE THE RIGHT WAY

- There will not be a list of people signing up for a program. You will have to bravely follow the Spirit to find people for your group.
- Look for people of F.A.I.T.H.

FAITHFUL

- You want to invite this person to your group because they already show consistency in their walk with the Lord. A Discipleship Group is not the place to prove faithfulness, it is something we invite them into as a result of their faithfulness.
- Ask the question, “Are they being faithful where they are right now?” They are likely to be found on volunteer teams and they rarely miss time with their small group. A faithful person doesn't necessarily know what the Christian life is all about, but they know they are all about the Christian life.

AVAILABLE

- Before you invite someone to your group make sure they actually have the margin in their schedule to commit! Availability is the characteristic that has all but wrecked one of my groups in the past. Really great people can unintentionally ruin a group if their hectic schedule causes them to be inconsistent with their attendance.

- If someone's schedule just won't allow it this year, that's okay! You're not saying "No" to them, just "Not right now." Do your best to pick a consistent time to meet and make sure your potential members can make it happen each week.

INTENTIONAL

- Intentional people know that being formed into the image of Christ does not happen by accident! We're looking for people that see the purpose of a D-Group and want to participate so they can intentionally work on their spiritual growth. This is really a matter of setting the right expectations on the front end. Invite people that want to be there for a purpose!

TEACHABLE

- I shouldn't pick favorites, but if I could only pick one quality this would be the one. A teachable spirit is such a joy to work with! As Pastor Robby has said many times, "You won't learn anything until you admit you don't know everything." If an individual is teachable then the other four characteristics will improve naturally. Be looking for the person that is willing to take critique, asks good questions and listens before they speak.

HUNGRY

- A principle of therapy applies to our conversation: You can't want it for the other person. If you are hungry for someone else to grow spiritually but they aren't hungry themselves, you're going to find yourself scrolling through gifs under the heading "Banging Head Against Wall".
- On the flipside, I like to think of this as the contagious quality. Hungry people make other hungry people hungrier! Hungry people feed off of each other. (See what I did there?) This person's enthusiasm for God will rub off on the others in your group and cause you all to want more and more of His Word.
- As a sidenote, when you are looking for the people to invite to your group next year double check that you possess all these qualities too! Maybe even do an inventory of them with your current group near the end of the year.
- As you search for your next group members, you're going to know a person of F.A.I.T.H. when you see them. Ask the Lord to reveal those people to you and enjoy your time learning and growing together!
- "What you win them with, you win them to." People are joining your group based off your summary of its purpose and description. Your invitation sets their expectation. Therefore, if we give an incomplete picture of a D-Group, we can expect an incomplete commitment from the group. Only ask them to be a part of what you can deliver on. Which is not to come learn from you, but to come grow with you.

This document may help communicate clarity:

- The following overview may be helpful in explaining the commitment and goal of a D Group to a potential participant.
- This season we hope to multiply more Immanuel members into discipling relationships. Please consider other Immanuel family first, but you are not limited to IBC members. The goal is to follow through on the great commission. Make disciples who make disciples no matter what.

DGROUP

OVERVIEW

WHAT IS A DGROUP ?

A D-Group is a gender-specific, closed group of 3-5 believers that meet weekly for 12-18 months for accelerated spiritual transformation.

WHAT TO EXPECT ?

This image shows what D-Group members commit to weekly in their personal life (**weekly disciplines + weekly meeting**) and how God will grow them in five different areas over the next 12-18 months (**MARCS of a Disciple**).

WEEKLY DISCIPLINES

Scripture memory
Bible Reading (F26o & NT26o)
H.E.A.R Journal
Accountability
Prayer

WEEKLY DISCIPLINES (*weekly input*)



MARCS OF A DISCIPLE

Missional
Accountable
Reproducible
Communal
Scriptural

MARCS OF A DISCIPLE (*lifetime output*)

WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT?

- Give yourself fully to the Lord during this time as you anticipate a season of accelerated spiritual transformation.
- Meet weekly as a D-Group (60-90 minutes).
- When unable, you will stay involved through sharing H.E.A.R. Journals and prayer requests.
- Commit to the five weekly disciplines (Bible Reading, H.E.A.R. Journals, Scripture Memory, Accountability, and Prayer.)
- Contribute to a group atmosphere of confidentiality, honesty, and transparency.
- Pray weekly for fellow D-Group members and those in your life who don't know Jesus.
- Pray and look for those in your life who you could invite into your new D-Group once this current group multiplies.

WHEN WILL WE MEET?

START DATE:

____ / ____ / ____

LOCATION:

WEEKLY MEETING:

at ____: ____

4. CELEBRATE WITH YOUR EXISTING GROUP

- Celebrate and commission one another as God provides new friends for the journey.
- Remember: The good you are experiencing in your group is waiting to be experienced by others. Starting new groups is always the goal. You can do this!

5. REGISTER YOUR D GROUP

- Go to IBCLR.ORG under the resources link and select D Groups
- Halfway down the page you will see a button saying “Register Your D Group”
- Fill out the form so we can pray, equip, and encourage you along the way.

6. GET STARTED

- Revisit the D Group starter Guide we provided you at training.
- Remember it's about the people, not the process.
 - Use the tools we give you but don't be legalistic about them
 - Start slow so people feel equipped on the new journey
 - Remember what they experience is what they will reproduce
 - Transformation, not information, is the goal
 - Enjoy the journey
 - Stay in touch!



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