

DNA – FAQs

What is a DNA group?

A group that ideally consists of 4 people—men with men, women with women—who meet together weekly for accountability and to encourage one another in Pequea’s goal to be disciples and make disciples.

What does DNA stand for?

DNA is an acronym that reminds us of three key components of discipleship: Discover, Nurture, and Act. We want to discover and get to know God better through time spent studying the Bible, nurture loving relationships with those we come in contact, and act in obedience to how God wants us to live. All of this is accomplished in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit.

Who can be in a DNA group?

Anyone who has committed his or her life to Jesus and claims Him as Lord and Savior, can be in a DNA group.

Who should the DNA group consist of?

Ideally, a DNA group will be made up of four people from a variety of walks of life and ages. This prevents people from only knowing those in the same stage of life as they are and promotes learning from others who are not like one another.

What is the commitment to being in a DNA group?

Members commit to meet weekly, faithfully read their Bibles, pray for one another and for those who don’t yet know Jesus, and honestly answer the six accountability questions.

Why do DNA groups meet weekly?

It is important to meet often for encouragement and accountability. Hebrews 3:13 states, “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” (NIV) If a group met less often than weekly and had to miss a week, there would be a large gap of time between meetings. Since a DNA group is an important part of each member’s spiritual growth, meeting weekly is best.

What if I can’t make our regularly scheduled DNA?

One of the benefits of only having 4 people in each group is the flexibility it provides. If one person knows in advance they cannot attend a regularly scheduled meeting, they can let the others know and another time can be scheduled within the same week. If another time cannot be scheduled, then the other three people can still meet for accountability and encouragement.

What do groups do each week?

Every week each person will share what they have learned through their study of the scripture passage, answer the six accountability questions, and have a time of prayer. This usually takes between one and a half to two hours.

What are the accountability questions?

Have you been faithful in Bible reading? Have you been loving, honoring, understanding, and generous in your important relationships? Have you shown love in words and actions to those who do not yet know Christ? Have you repented in obedience to the Spirit's conviction? Have you prayed faithfully for your group, important relationships, and friends who have not yet put their faith in Jesus? Is there something specific you want held accountable to for the upcoming week?

Who leads a DNA group?

Since a DNA group is a peer-to-peer accountability group, there is not a formal leader. However, to help with organization there is always a facilitator. The facilitator helps direct discussion, keep the group moving through the accountability questions in a timely manner, and coordinate meeting times. After a few months, the facilitating duties should be passed on to another member of the group, so every person gets an opportunity to facilitate.

Is there a study plan that all DNA groups follow?

Each DNA group decides what part of the Bible they will study together. Many groups have found it helpful to cover one chapter per week in most books of the Bible. A group may consider covering three to five chapters in longer, historical books of the Bible.

Is this all a DNA group does?

While meeting together weekly is of prime importance, a DNA group should strive to get to know one another through other activities. Getting families together periodically for meals, fun social events, or serving the church or community are excellent ways to build into one another. The primary goal through any activity should be to encourage one another in the faith and bring the gospel to bear in all aspects of our lives.

How long does a DNA group stay together?

A DNA group remains together for one year, September to August. Every September a member will either begin a new DNA group or move to a different group to get to know and serve other members of the Pequea church body.

Why do groups multiply each year?

One goal of a DNA group is for each member to grow spiritually and mature to a place where you can replicate the process with others. By starting a group or moving to a new group, you will be challenged spiritually by new people who will have input into your life as you do in theirs. The friendships you develop in each DNA group will hopefully continue after you transition to a new group.

How do I know if I'm ready to begin a new group?

There is not a clear answer to this question. After a year of meeting together with other faithful brothers or sisters, many will be ready to start a new group. Since DNA groups are peer-to-peer and not teacher-to-student, it is not difficult to be a facilitator. If you are unsure about beginning a group, talk to someone else in the group whom you trust and ask them to be honest about your readiness to begin a DNA group. Other times, someone in your group may ask you to stay in a new group with them. In this case, it may be helpful to remain with that person for another year before beginning a new group.