

Discipleship Groups at Oakwood

What is a Discipleship Group?

A D-Group is a small, same-gender group of 2-4 people that meets together on a regular basis for 12-24 months for the purpose of challenging each other to grow in key areas of the Christian life along Oakwood's discipleship pathway. These groups emphasize a culture of obedience to the commands of Christ by way of loving accountability, intentional training, and soul-strengthening prayer. In order to accomplish this goal, the D-Groups follow the **Three-Thirds Method**:

- **LOOKING BACK: Accountability** (20 mins): recalling successes and failures at loving and obeying the Lord.
- **LOOKING UP: Training** (20 mins); focused training by way of a resource to cultivate deeper love for Christ and greater commitment to obey His commands.
- **LOOKING FORWARD: Application** (20 mins) making clear heart commitments that lead to concrete plans for obedience to the Lord in the week ahead.



How is a D-Group different from a Community Group or Bible study?



Community Groups are primarily designed for building **friendships** and experiencing supportive care within the Body of Christ. Bible studies are great for deepening our knowledge of Scripture to inform our way of living. Yet an essential ingredient for discipleship is often lacking: **accountability** and the expectation of obedience. The smaller size and Three Thirds format of a D-Group makes it ideal for intensive discipleship. D-Groups are **intentionality** groups in which 2-3 followers of Jesus commit to “spur one another on to love and good deeds.”

How long should a D-Group last?

D-Groups are seasonal commitments based on a personal felt-need for spiritual growth. Generally D-Groups will last 12-18 months in order to contribute to the **reproduction of leaders** in pursuit of a **multiplying movement of disciplemaking**. Some D-Groups might be ready to multiply in just 6 months, while others might continue meeting for 3 years - depending on the leading of the Spirit related to the needs of those involved. There could be a desire for increased missional fervency and fruitfulness or a desire to simply increase one's love for the Lord. There are many topics a D-Group might address, yet all D-Groups emphasize clear movement along Oakwood's discipleship pathway. D-Groups will gather under the commitment to intentionally work through a resource that addresses their felt-need for spiritual growth. Once they finish that resource, they can decide if they'd like to commit to a new resource for continued growth and accountability.

Who leads the D-Group?

It is important for each D-Group to have a Leader - someone who can own the vision of the D-Group and help direct it towards that end. They will facilitate the meetings and model the intentionality and obedience the D-Group desires. Part of the expectation is that D-Groups become a fertile field for the development of new leaders at Oakwood. As more and more people begin meeting together in D-Groups to address the felt-needs of discipleship, our hope is that new leaders will emerge to lead new D-Groups. We believe this simple and organic method of building disciplemakers will multiply its effects at Oakwood and into our surrounding community.

What resources should our D-Group use?

Your D-Group should agree together on a resource (book, online study, RightNow Media resource, etc) that helps each person move toward being a better disciple of Jesus or disciple-maker for Jesus. Oakwood's Discipleship Pathway (see below) helps break this down into noticeable steps we each can take towards this end. There are many great resources, but we've listed below several recommendations according to each base (or step) that most needs addressing in your life. If you'd like additional resource ideas, please contact Jason or Darin.

Love God

- *Habits of Grace*, by David Mathis
- *A Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster
- *Disciplines of Grace* by Jerry Bridges
- *Awe*, by Paul Tripp
- *Prayer*, by Tim Keller
- *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Holiness of God*, by R.C. Sproul



Grow in Christ

- *Momentum*, by Colin Smith
- *Open the Bible*, by Colin Smith
- *The Purpose Driven Life*, by Rick Warren
- *The Hole in Our Holiness*, by Kevin Deyoung
- *Victory Over the Darkness*, by Neil Anderson
- *Family Discipleship*, by Matt Chandler & Adam Griffin
- *The Cost of Discipleship*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *Respectable Sins*, by Jerry Bridges
- *The Pursuit of Holiness*, by Jerry Bridges

Serve the Church

- *Find your Place* by Rob Wegner
- *The Purpose Driven Church*, by Rick Warren
- *Don't Waste Your Life*, by John Piper
- *Spiritual Gifts: What They Are and Why They Matter*, by Thomas Schreiner
- *Gaining by Losing*, by J.D. Greear
- *Gentle and Lowly*, by Dane Ortlund

Reach the World

- *God Space*, by Doug Pollock
- *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, by Robert E. Coleman
- *Let the Nations Be Glad*, by John Piper
- *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, by J.I. Packer
- *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*, by Rosaria Butterfield
- *Evangelism as Exiles*, by Elliot Clark
- *The Soul Winner*, by Charles Spurgeon
- *Expository Apologetics*, by Voddie Baucham