

8 Different Kinds of Discipleship Groups

I HAVE BEEN IN OR STARTED ALL 8 KINDS OF THESE SMALL GROUPS.
ANY GROUP IS BETTER THAN NOTHING, BUT I RECOMMEND THE D-LIFE
MODEL/STRATEGY BECAUSE IT IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU REACH YOUR
GOAL OF MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES.

What are the goals you have for the small group you are starting?

1. **Fellowship** – we want to build closer, deeper friendships.
2. **Prayer** – we want to feel that we can lower our protective walls, be real and pray for others and be prayed for.
3. **Personal Bible study** – we want to help every person in our group to develop a personal habit of reading the Bible at home and sharing what they learned.
4. **Serve Others** – we want to serve others as a group using our time and talents
5. **Learn** – we want to use the most effective ways to learn, grow, and follow Christ.
6. **Multiply** – we want to multiply group leaders, disciples and groups.

These are 8 of the most common kinds of small groups

1. **Prayer and Fellowship** – talk about what is going on in your lives, share prayer requests and pray for one another.
2. **Support Group** – addiction recovery, divorce recovery, grief support, cancer support, special needs family members, depression and anxiety support, etc.
3. **Discuss last Sunday's sermon** – have 5-8 discussion questions prepared to talk about the scripture passage the pastor talked about last Sunday.
4. **Teacher gives a Bible study talk** – a lecture. The teacher prepares several hours during the week and tells the group some of the things he/she learned.

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5. **Read and Discuss a Book** – everyone in the group purchases a book, reads one chapter a week and discusses it each week in their group meeting.
6. **Workbook to Fill Out** – each person does a chapter each week in a workbook that tells you what Bible verse to read and asks you a questions about the verse.
7. **Watch a Video** – the group watches a video either online or on a DVD and then talks about what the speaker said.
8. **D-Life** – see the details on the following pages. This could be the most effective kind of group to help you reach your goals.

D-Life Small Groups

- ▶ Dr. Bill Wilks has designed a workshop to explain this small group strategy. To calendar this workshop at your church or find out about a workshop to attend in your area go to www.LiveTheDLife.com
- ▶ D-Life groups are Biblical, missional and reproduceable.
- ▶ Every week your D-Group will do these things:
 1. Each group member will read 5 Bible chapters during the week (one chapter a day for 5 days) at home before they come.
 2. You will share prayer requests and pray for one another.
 3. Everyone will share something that stood out to them in the chapters they read at home.
 4. Everyone will practice being a leader by leading a small part of the group meeting every week.
 5. Each group will do a service project together every other month.

D-Life Small Groups

6. Each week, someone will paraphrase the passage in their words. Then someone else will read the same Bible verses out loud.
 7. At the end of a year of meeting together, at least one person will leave the group to start a new group and invite 4 to 8 people to be in his/her new group. The remaining members of the old group can continue to meet year after year as long as they choose. Each year the group will prayerfully send someone to start a new group.
- ▶ Group members can be Christians or unchurched friends.
 - ▶ They can be members of your church or members of another church.
 - ▶ They can be all female, all male or a mixture. They can all be close in age or a mixture of ages.
 - ▶ Each group has a leader, but not a “teacher”. Learning is built on the individual study during the week and discussion when you meet.



For more information about D-Groups
using the D-Life model, see our website for Mid-
State Baptist Association and the power point

“You Can Start A D-Group
For Your Church”