



START D-GROUPS AT YOUR CHURCH

People read the Bible at home, they discuss it in their group, and they work as a team to do a service project to help someone else.

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1. What are some common problems that churches face in trying to help people grow spiritually?

1. It's Hard to Start a Habit of Reading the Bible

Most of us welcome help to create good habits. We want to have a better diet, or better exercise habits, or something that helps us to spend less and save more.

Most Christians want to read their Bible more, but it isn't always easy to develop that habit.

The default habit for many is to depend on the preacher and the Sunday School teacher to talk about the Bible each week.

So, one thing we want to do is use groups to help people develop a plan to read the Bible at home.

1. What are some common problems that churches face in trying to help people grow spiritually?

2. Lecture vs Discussion

People learn better when they are engaged.

Discussion is more engaging than lecture.

When we teach a Bible study class, we tend to repeat part of what we saw teachers do when we were in grade school and think that a one-hour lecture is the best way to give lots of good information in a short amount of time.

Making a Bible study mostly a lecture isn't best. It isn't the best way to learn, it doesn't engage people and it doesn't give people a reason to read the Bible for themselves.

1. What are some common problems that churches face in trying to help people grow spiritually?

3. A Shortage of Leaders

When we don't engage people and help them grow spiritually, we end up with a shortage of leaders.

When we have a shortage of leaders, we don't start new groups and reach new people.

Church members who get stuck in their growth sometime "feel" like they can't pray, can't share the gospel, can't teach the Bible, can't be a deacon, can't go on a mission trip, and can't explain their faith to family and friends. They don't feel qualified to be a leader.

1. What are some common problems that churches face in trying to help people grow spiritually?

4. We Don't Use Teamwork When We Serve

All Christians serve people probably on a daily basis – their family, co-workers and their customers.

But some serving projects can be done easier with a team than they can with just one person. It's more fun with five, ten or more people.

When we don't work as a team, we miss the opportunity to model serving to others. The next, younger generation learns a lot by watching the example of older Christians in the church.

1. What are some common problems that churches face in trying to help people grow spiritually?

5. We Could Do A Better Job Praying for People

There is power in praying for one another. We don't always do a good job at this.

When 50, 100, or 200 people come to church on Sunday, there are many people with hurts and needs and unspoken requests.

Until a person gets into a small group of 5 to 10 people, there is often not an opportunity to share a prayer request and be prayed for.

1. What are some common problems that churches face in trying to help people grow spiritually?

6. We Are Friendly But We Aren't Friends

The average guest at a church makes up their mind in the first few minutes about whether they will come back. We may say hello and give guests a bulletin, but we don't always do a good job at truly being welcoming in either Sunday School or the worship service.

Many people who join a church don't keep attending for long if they don't form real friendships. We have to be intentional.

Attending a worship service with a room full of people isn't the same thing as friendship.

1. Be A Follower of Christ in Community

Acts 2:42,46

The devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. ... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together ... but let us encourage one another

2. What are the Biblical commands and strategies we want to follow?

2. What are the Biblical commands and strategies we want to follow?

2. Be A Student of God's Word

2 Timothy 2:15

... a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:17

... so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. What are the Biblical commands and strategies we want to follow?

3. Pray For One Another

James 5:16

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

I Thessalonians 5:17

... pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2. What are the Biblical commands and strategies we want to follow?

4. Make Disciples Who Make Disciples

Matthew 28:19

Therefore, go and make disciples ...

II Timothy 2:2

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2. What are the Biblical commands and strategies we want to follow?

5. Serve Others

Matthew 5:13,14,16

You are the salt of the earth...

You are the light of the world ...

Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds ...

Matthew 6:3

But when you give to the needy ...

Matthew 10:8

Freely you have received, freely give.

3. What can we do in our Bible study group that helps people grow, helps start new groups, reaches new people, trains new leaders, serves people in our community, and makes disciples who make disciples.

1. D-Group Strategy Part One: Read 1 Chapter A Day for 5 Days At Home

Each member of your D-Group (3 to 8 people) has this homework assignment:

- Each group member will read the same 5 chapters (Matthew 1-5), one chapter a day.
- After you read a chapter, write down a thought or a verse that stands out to you from that chapter. For example:
 - A sin to confess, a promise to claim, attitude to change, command to obey, or example to follow
- The next week Matthew 6-10 and so forth.
- By reading 5 chapters a week, your D-Group will read through the New Testament in one year.

3. What can we do in our Bible study group that helps people grow, helps start new groups, reaches new people, trains new leaders, serves people in our community, and makes disciples who make disciples.

2. D-Group Strategy Part Two: Weekly Group Meeting Where Everyone Shares Leadership

During the hour and a half you meet, each person in your group will take part of the leadership for your meeting. Rotate leadership duties every week.

Leader 1

“What were you thankful for last week?”

“What was stressful last week?”

“How can we pray for you today?”

“Does anyone need our help? How can we help?”

Lead in prayer.

Leader 2

“Were you able to read your five chapters last week?”

Go around the circle “What was something that stood out to you in chapter 1? Then go around for all the other chapters.

3. What can we do in our Bible study group that helps people grow, helps start new groups, reaches new people, trains new leaders, serves people in our community, and makes disciples who make disciples.

2. D-Group Strategy Part Two: Weekly Group Meeting Where Everyone Shares Leadership

Leader 3

Last week I was asked to study a key passage (a story or passage from one of the five chapters everyone read) and tell the story to our group by memory in my own words.

- Tell the story

Leader 4

Read the key passage from the Bible out loud.

3. What can we do in our Bible study group that helps people grow, helps start new groups, reaches new people, trains new leaders, serves people in our community, and makes disciples who make disciples.

2. D-Group Strategy Part Two: Weekly Group Meeting Where Everyone Shares Leadership

Leader 5

Lead your group to discuss the key passage by asking 4 questions and giving everyone in the group time to comment at least once.

- 1) What can we learn about God in this passage?
- 2) What can we learn about people in this passage?
- 3) Is there anyone in this passage you can identify with? Why?
- 4) From the things you learned in this passage, what is something you want God to do in your life? Something you want to be great at?

If you want to create and ask additional questions related to this passage, you can always do so.

3. What can we do in our Bible study group that helps people grow, helps start new groups, reaches new people, trains new leaders, serves people in our community, and makes disciples who make disciples.

3. D-Group Strategy Part Three: A Short Service Project 6 Times a Year (Every other month)

Leader 6

Talk about the plans every week – who, what, when, where and why – for your next service project that your group will do together. Make plans if they need to be made. If the plans are finished, then just remind the group each week of the project coming up and how everyone can help. Group members are always welcome to invite family and friends to come help with the project as well.

Your D-Group will do one short service project (1-2 hours?) every other month (about 6 in a year).

3. What can we do in our Bible study group that helps people grow, helps start new groups, reaches new people, trains new leaders, serves people in our community, and makes disciples who make disciples.

4. D-Group Strategy Part Four: At The End of a Year, At Least One Person From Your D-Group Will Start A New Group and Invite 3 to 7 Church Members, Friends and Relatives

- If every group started a new group after a year, then 1 group becomes 2, then 4, then 8, then 16 and so on.
- Except for the one person who left, all the other group members are welcome to stay with their present group year after year as desired.
- If 1 group does 6 service projects, 2 would do 12 projects, 4 = 24 projects, 8 = 48 projects, 16 = 96 projects

As multiplication happens, more groups are started, more people are becoming leaders, more service projects are being done and more people are reading the Bible and being prayed for every week.

When Jesus said to go and make disciples, he was beginning a life-on-life process that could continue from generation to generation.

The strategy Jesus taught his disciples was to follow Him, let the Holy Spirit transform their life and become fishers of men.

He taught them to share the gospel and invest their life in people – to disciple someone so that they can also become a disciple-maker.

I Thessalonians 2:8

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”