

ROADGROUPS

FAMILY ON MISSION TOGETHER



Worshippers | Family | Disciples | Ambassadors

ROAD GROUP
LEADER'S GUIDE

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Before endeavoring to describe what a Road Group looks like, we need to begin by explaining why we have groups at all. Though many churches make use of small groups, they are not directly commanded or even indirectly implied by Scripture. In other words, small groups are not a required for a church to be a church.

Small groups become the natural and necessary solution to what Scripture does expect from the church and its leaders. We find three important reasons to have some form of small groups:

NEED FOR GOSPEL LEADERSHIP: Scripture makes it clear that leaders will be held accountable to God for the flock that they shepherd. This applies not only to what they teach, but to how they shepherd the needs of those in their care. Unfortunately, elders are not gifted with ESP. As such, they must raise up leaders and build structures in order to know, understand, and minister to the diverse needs of a growing community like Damascus Road.

NEED FOR GOSPEL EQUIPPING: In other words, the elder board cannot effectively and efficiently shepherd a flock of this size without better organization. Just as any church should not be polarized around the teaching of one pastor, churches should not be dependent on a small group of elders or one pastor to minister to all of their needs directly and personally. This is neither wise nor Biblical. Attempts to pastor this way will result in overlooked needs and overwhelmed pastors. Road Groups are a tool designed to help the elders live out the teaching of Ephesians 4.11 whereby they equip the saints to minister to one another.

NEED FOR GOSPEL COMMUNITY: Churches often struggle with a lack of balance between the church as a public assembly and the church as mutually dependent family. This usually results in a wrong assumption that “church” is what happens on Sundays. While this an essential part of a true church’s identity in the gospel, the assembly alone does is not an environment where men and women can actively live out gospel community—Road Groups afford us the opportunity for brothers and sister to “gospel” one another personally and intentionally as the church on a smaller scale.

Names are important. In Scripture, names speak to the essence of character. Every church names their groups something different. Whether they are called small groups, missional communities, tribes, or life groups, they are all working to accomplish the same thing—***gospel community***. The name of our groups is consistent with the name of our church and reminds us groups are not intended to remain static—they exist as places to grow in spiritual maturity. Getting in a car together and never moving is just waiting in a parking lot, and it's lame. Getting in a car with family on a road trip is an adventure where you grow together while moving toward a destination.

We use the R.O.A.D. acronym as an effective tool to explain the essential qualities of Road Groups:

Relational – Provides opportunity to be family

Jesus saves individuals and makes them part of a new family. We are one body, one family, one church. Groups exist to build relationships within the family of God. Our groups serve as the primary connecting point outside of our corporate gatherings for those in and outside of our church community. Preaching, music, and environment can draw people into a church gathering, but relationships are where people begin to belong as family. ROAD groups become the smaller manifestation of the larger gospel community that exists at Damascus Road Church).

One **A**nother – Provides opportunity for obedience

Gospel Community is one of God's tools for sanctification. We believe this one of the reasons why God commands us to love "one another"—we not only need love, but we need to love. Without a commitment to live in community, one might find it difficult to fulfill God's commands. At the same time, as larger assembly on Sunday mornings it is nearly impossible to fulfill these commands. Road Groups exist as an environment to encourage obedience to these commands for the glory of God and our joy. Some of these commands include:

- *Love one another: John 13.34-35, 15.12-13, 15.17, Romans 13.8, 1Thessalonians. 4.9, Hebrews 13.1, 1Peter 1.22, 4.8, 1John 3.11, 3.23, 4.7, 4.11-12, 2John 1.5*
- *Devoted to one another: Romans 12.10*
- *Honor one another: Romans 12.10*
- *Live in harmony with one another: Romans 12.16, 1Thess. 5.13, 1Peter 3.8*
- *Stop passing judgment on one another: Romans 14.13*
- *Accept one another: Romans 15.7*
- *Instruct one another: Romans 15.14, Col. 3.16*
- *Greet one another w/ Holy Kiss: Romans 16.16 (1Cor 16.20, 2Cor 13.12, 1Peter 5.14)*
- *Agree with one another: 1Corinthians 1.10*
- *Wait for each other: 1Corinthians 11.33*
- *Have equal concern for each other: 1Corinthians 12.25*
- *Serve one another: Galatians 5.13*
- *Do not provoke or envy one another: Galatians 5.26*
- *Carry each other's burdens: Galatians 6.2*
- *Bear with one another: Ephesians 4.2, Colossians 3.13*
- *Be compassionate with one another: Ephesians 4.32*
- *Forgive one another: Ephesians 4.32. Colossians 3.13*
- *Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, spiritual songs: Ephesians 5.19*
- *Submit to one another: Ephesians 5.21*
- *Do not lie to each other: Colossians 3.9*
- *Encourage one another: 1Thessalonians 4.8, 5.11, Hebrews 3.13, 10.25*
- *Build up each other: 1Thessalonians 5.11*
- *Spur one another on toward love and good deeds: Hebrews 10.24*
- *Do not give up meeting together: Hebrews.25*
- *Do not slander one another: James 4.11*
- *Clothe yourself with humility toward one another: 1Peter 5.5*
- *Be kind to one another: 1Thessalonians 5.15*
- *Don't grumble against one another: James 5.9*
- *Confess your sins to each other: James 5.16*
- *Pray for each other: James 5.16*

***D*iscipleship – Provides opportunity for sanctification**

As brothers and sisters gather together, our groups discuss **gospel truth** and to learn how to live more like Jesus. Disciples grow as

learners and are deployed as *missionaries*. Primarily groups will focus on sermon-based content where text/subjects preached on Sunday can be processed and applied more specifically in group discussions. Occasionally groups will work through material specific to missional priorities of our church or the needs of specific groups. Even though many would not consider this “formal” discipleship, the groups do possess a leader who is intentionally praying for and speaking to their group on a regular basis. In time, relationships are built that will allow for deeper spiritual growth, mutual shepherding, and commitment to mission.

THE MODEL

Road Groups are designed to embody our mission and exemplify each of our core values (*Gospel Truth, Gospel Community, Gospel Living*). Essentially, members of Damascus Road gathering in ROAD Groups to more effectively live out Jesus’ command to live in community. The essential elements of ROAD Groups are modeled after the early church’s example found in the book of Acts:

Acts 2.42-47 | ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1. Devotion to Apostle’s teaching
2. Devotion to Lord’s Supper
3. Devotion to Worship together in Temple
4. Devotion to Fellowship Together in homes
5. Devotion to hospitality
6. Devotion to prayer
7. Devotion to those in need

THE FORMAT

All Road Groups will organize and function according to the provided guidelines. Where the guidelines do not provide a specific form, there is freedom to contextualize your group to its unique culture and/or needs (location, worship, food, order, etc.).

1. **Lead & Apprentice:** Each group will have a lead couple and should have an apprentice couple. The apprentice will serve as a substitute to facilitate the group if the leader is absent. In the short term, this individual will learn how to administer a group so they can launch their own group at some point in the future.
2. **Home & Hospitality:** Groups will be hosted by in a home, which may or may not be the lead or apprentice couple. The host will ensure the environment is prepared before every meeting and Christian hospitality is observed for everyone.
3. **Size & Shape:** Effective groups should be no smaller than 6 and no larger than 16 adults. The groups have the freedom to determine whether to include children in their gatherings or not.
4. **Time & Date:** Groups are expected to gather weekly. Weekly gatherings are the most effective way to be consistent and to develop deeper relationships. It's recommended that each group meeting should last around 1 ½-2 hours (flexible). The specific day and time of the week will vary depending on the needs and location of the group.
5. **Calendar & Breaks:** Groups will meet in three consecutive 10-week sessions, with scheduled breaks at Christmas, at Easter, and through Summer. Terms will be determined at the beginning of each calendar year and govern all groups. During the "breaks" individuals will have time to join another group.
6. **Study & Sermons:** The content of the groups will be based on the study guides/group questions accompanying the sermon series. Groups occasionally desiring to deviate from sermon or church wide studies will discuss specific content with an elder with exceptions being granted on a limited case by case basis.

7. **Mission & Service:** Each group should commit to perform gospel work somewhere in the community. This is an intentional effort to be the “scattered” church, and work as a team on mission. This can occur through one of three ways:
 - a. *Serve at a local ministry (Contact provided by leadership)*
 - b. *Partner with a national or international ministry to support or serve*
 - c. *Launch a unique ministry to reach a specific need (Guided by DRC)*

8. **New & Old:** The Gospel is an ongoing invitation for people to join and grow as a family. This means new people are encouraged to join established groups where it can be easier to join a conversation “already in progress” or seek to launch/join a new group where the people gathering are also new. We do encourage groups to stay together for long seasons. Some will reproduce meaning groups will have people leave, others will stay, and more new people will join. “Old” people need to be committed to welcoming those who are “new” while “new” people can learn and integrate to the culture of our church from people who have been part of our family longer. We desire for all people to have deep relationships and responsibilities, commitment to others growing to know, trust, and enjoy them.

9. **Shepherds & Sheep:** The groups should become the main source of giving and receiving ministry at our church. Counseling, material, theological, and other needs will be funneled through the groups before they are presented to an elder or pastor. This format is intended to encourage living out our priesthood as believers.

10. **Noisy Sheep & Goats:** These groups will allow us to listen and dialogue about pressing issues in the church. Through group leaders we will be able to address more people with one voice. Additionally, groups will also allow the leadership to maintain a pulse on current needs, questions, or concerns coming from the flock.

¹² But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

James 5.12

We agree that our Road Group will be...

- **A place people want to come to:**
Every group needs to foster a welcoming atmosphere for the churched, never-churched, and over-churches. While in one sense these groups are evangelistic in nature, they should also not confuse or offend those outside of our community. We want people to desire fellowship and not feel obligated to participate.
- **A place to depend on and commit to:**
Every group’s success will depend on individual commitment to not only give their time to gather, but also to share their heart. This commitment will be easier if, from the beginning, all members adopt the mentality that they are not committing to an event or program, but to a group of people. Developing relationships we can depend on and be depended on are difficult and will require self-discipline.
- **A place where people learn:**
Every group should strive to learn more about living out the gospel. The nature and content of some groups will make this learning more or less overt. The Bible is clear that healthy fellowship and community is rooted in the truth of the gospel: “I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge...” Eph. 3:17-19
- **A place where people feel safe to share:**
Every group will exist as a safe place to share your struggles, confess your sins, and expect to be pointed to Jesus. Granted, this type of sharing and safety will only occur after relationships have become more intimate. In order for sharing to even be

possible, we must also recognize our tendencies to forget how sinful we all are and become prideful (1Tim 1.15). We are all sinners and we must remind everyone that “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...” Rom. 8:1; “Confess your sins to one another....” James 5:16

- **A place of Rejoicing & of Sorrow:**

Every group should function as a genuine community who both laughs and cries together. The Bible says that families celebrate grace and calls us to “Rejoice with those who rejoice...” Rom.12:15. At the same time, authentic relationships are never eternally “happy”. We must also be quick to listen and sympathize with another’s struggles, and respond with compassion and prayer, and if you can, practical help to meet the need.

- **A place to eat, sing, and worship:**

Every group, regardless of content and format, is called to worship God and glorify him in ALL that we do. Whether we eat or drink, we are to do so in way that makes much of God as we avoid self-indulgence. We worship God by enjoying one another and God’s good gifts (new people, food, art, etc.) “Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate....” Luke 15.

- **A place to serve together on mission:**

Every group will serve the greater community outside of the church. Together, the group will choose a mission to actively participate in and live out the gospel practically. This should not be motivated by a desire to meet a required standard, but by a desire to partner together in gospel work AND to glorify a loving God through gracious acts of love towards the needy.

ROAD GROUP LEADER QUALIFICATIONS

ROAD Group leaders are on the frontline of ministry and mission, essential to the health and effectiveness of our church as a family of families on mission together. Healthy churches have healthy leaders.

Healthy Leaders are Qualified Leaders:

1 Timothy 3:8-13 | ⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Healthy Leaders are Exemplary Leaders:

ROAD GROUP Leaders will lead others in the church by example; either positively (encouraging greater faithfulness) or negatively (discouraging healthy rhythms among our membership). Our leaders will commit to be exemplary in the following rhythms:

GATHER | My journey in Christ will be evident through my regular participation in the corporate worship services, and involvement in a community group (: Acts 2:42-47; Heb10:23-25)

GIVE | I will strive to properly manage the resources God has given me, including my time, body, gifts and talents, attitudes, finances and possessions (Eph. 5:15-18; Romans 12:1-2; Eph. 4:1-16; Gal. 5:22-26; Proverbs 3:9-10). This includes regular giving to Damascus Road Church that is sacrificial and cheerful (2 Cor 8& 9).

GROW | I will endeavor to maintain a close relationship with the Lord through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of the other spiritual disciplines. (Ps 119:97, 105)

GO ON MISSION | I commit to using the spiritual gift(s) God has given me for the building up of the church, both at Damascus Road and universally (1 Peter. 4:10-11; Romans 12:108; 1 Cor. 12: 7-13).

HOW TO START A NEW GROUP

With a desire to have 80% of our church involved in ROAD groups, we will need new groups launched specifically for new people. Every group needs leadership. New groups are launched by covenanted members who possess a desire and a competence to lead. As they begin to lead, they will be coached by another group leader or a pastor. The five basic requirements include:

How to start leading a group

1. Become a Covenanted member of the church
2. Participate for a minimum 6 months as member of the family of Damascus Road Church (Exceptions Approved by Elders)
3. Demonstrate a record of sacrificial commitment to the family at Damascus Road Church
4. Possess a proven capacity to lead or facilitate
5. Willingly sign the covenant and commit to coaching

How to start organizing group

1. Contact Road Group Deacon to express desire to lead a group
2. Upon Approval, identify apprentice couple
3. Identify host couple
4. Determine Format of Group and submit information to Deacon of Groups:
 - *Who is the leader?*
 - *Who is the Co-Leader/Apprentice?*
 - *Where is the group hosted?*
 - *What day of the week?*
 - *What time of day?*

- *Is the group open or closed?*
 - *Are children a part of this group?*
5. Attend First Road Group Training (See Leadership Manual)
 6. Commit to scheduled leadership meetings
 7. Announce Launch of Group publicly through Road Group Deacon

How to start first gathering

1. Pray about who God might want in your group.
2. Recruit 2-3 couples through personal invitation
3. Ask those couples to recruit one couple.
4. Determine together the first meeting date, time, and location
5. Prior to first gathering, plan for Christian hospitality and provide all that is needed amongst the leader and host.
6. Facilitate the first meeting as a “meet and greet” and use it as opportunity to explain purpose of Road Groups
7. Discuss plans for future groups (roles, food, service, etc.)
8. Enroll all members on Planning Center and contact your group members the first week through Planning Center.
9. Review the Road Group Checklist regularly
10. Pray

LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

It is always easier to follow than it is to lead, to watch rather than participate. God does not call the best qualified, most educated, or those people whom we would expect should lead. He calls the average, the ordinary, and even the reluctant to willingly be fools and take faith-filled steps as missionaries to our world.

Your decision to lead is a step of faith and God is pleased that you are willing to take it, especially if you are unsure of your ability to lead. We must not ask WHO AM I, as Moses did, for obedience and ability is never a matter of who we are. Rather, we must humbly admit our weaknesses, recognize who we are not and declare our dependence upon WHO GOD IS as we follow his call.

“Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God...”

2Corinthians 3.4-5.

As the leader of the Road Group, you will have several responsibilities. While it is our hope that you enjoy your group, we also want you to recognize that you are a servant to this group. Even though the group may view you simply as a facilitator, we view your **primary role as a shepherd**. In a very real sense, you will be pastoring the members of your group, leading them, protecting them, and loving them. Additionally, there will be some administrative responsibilities that will allow the group to function most effectively—but these are secondary.

Shepherding

As a Shepherd, you will have the responsibility to act just as our “Good Shepherd” Jesus did in being the Prophet, Priest, and King of the group. As a King, you will need to assess the needs of each individual in your group and give guidance to those individuals. This will require you work as a Priest, where you enter into relationship with the individuals (over time) to identify their joys and

sorrows. It is a labor of love that will be rewarding as you hear about growth and rejoice over God's blessing. It will also prove very tiring emotionally and physically for, there will be times, you will have to act as Prophet to your group and speak difficult truths in love. As you minister to your members directly, and indirectly you should be praying for them regularly.

Sharing, or "One-Anothering"

At the core of being a good shepherd is getting people to share about their lives. The format and content of some Road Groups will make this more natural than others. As the leader, you will have to determine the most effective way for your group. Effective sharing, as Keller notes, is prompted by the following question: "***What work of power and grace does Christ wish to do in our hearts right now?***" How this is asked is up to you. But the question includes two facets of fellowship:

- a. Sharing what God is doing in our own hearts (convicting, encouraging, creating repentance and faith)
- b. Pursuing others in a love agenda.

This love agenda is about "sharing" one another's lives actively. Do not forget the "one-another" commands of scripture paint a rich, organic portrait of activity: "Serve one another, carry one another's burdens, be devoted to one another, submit to one another, accept one another, honor one another up, greet one another, be of the same mind with one another..."

Administrating and Training

The administrative responsibilities will require that you plan for your group before they meet. Planning ahead of time will ensure the time you are together is organized and fruitful-thus creating an environment that people desire to return to. There will also be regular planning meetings to help you facilitate your groups through various sermons ideas. The key to administrating effectively is communication. Keep your group informed of changes and reminded of upcoming meetings.

Providing Future Direction

The final responsibility of leaders is to identify the “next steps” for your members. This includes keeping track of their attendance and gauging where they are in their spiritual growth. As you learn about your group over the next several weeks, you should learn where everyone is in their spiritual journey towards maturity. There are those who may want to continue to meet as a group or one-on-one. There are those whom you may choose to disciple. There are those who may need to be encouraged to take a membership class or another type of group—help them make that decision. Finally, there are others who should be leading groups themselves. Encourage those members in your group who are qualified and/or passionate to do so.

SUMMARY: leaders are expected to do the following:

1. *Prepare and lead* the meeting
2. *Attend* all training meetings
3. *Facilitate* the spiritual and material needs of the group
4. *Communicate* special needs to overseeing elder
5. *Track* weekly attendance and *gauge* spiritual growth

HOST/APPRENTICE RESPONSIBILITIES

The host and/or apprentice are learning how to lead. This is not a passive endeavor. Watch, listen, ask questions, and take opportunities to lead. As you learn, know that you possess the following responsibilities in helping to foster an environment conducive to Gospel Community:

1. Provide a clean, comfortable, home environment
2. Provide a warm and friendly environment
3. Provide organization for food
4. Provide support for the leader
5. Provide plan for service

ROAD Group Leader Checklist (as you gather)

- ✓ Are you **enjoying** leading your Road Group? Why? Why not?
- ✓ Are you **shepherding** your group or are you leading it only?
- ✓ Are you regularly **communicating** with the members of your Road Group for the purpose of reminders and encouragement?
- ✓ Are you regularly **praying** for the members of your current Road Group?
- ✓ Do you have a **desire** to see the members of your group living out of the Gospel?
- ✓ Are you learning to talk less and **facilitate**/listen more by asking good questions of the group?
- ✓ Are your **questions** directed to the hearts of your group members (as well as your own heart?)
- ✓ Are you **responding** with compassion, patience, and the hope of the Gospel (i.e., an ambassador for Christ, and not trying to force change?)
- ✓ Are you encouraging/modeling **flexibility** and a welcoming attitude in your group towards new attendees?
- ✓ Are you identifying potential group **leaders** and how your group might plant other groups if it becomes too large?

ANSWERS TO TEN COMMON OBJECTIONS

OBJ#1: Meeting every week is too difficult, especially for families with children.

ANS#1: We make time for what is important to us—and our children see it. Groups should be designed to benefit, even include, the entire family. This is simply a matter of priority. Your involvement in a group will be dictated by your conviction of the value of Gospel Community for both you and your family. Meeting every week ensures deeper relationships, stronger connections, and a consistent “one-anothering”, especially if a week is missed.

OBJ#2: Building groups through established relationships will perpetuate cliques in the community.

ANS#2: The truth is that we have plenty of physical openings in groups, but we have fewer emotional openings in our lives. We cannot be connected in deep relationships with everyone and attempting to do so will quickly overload everyone. It takes time, energy, and commitment to build meaningful relationships that can be as transparent as the gospel requires. Splitting, dividing, or otherwise restructuring groups every 10 weeks will ensure one thing—that the relationships we do have will remain surface level. This format is not about maintaining ideal cliques, but living in the reality of what healthy relationships require.

OBJ#3: New people will not be able to get into groups.

ANS#3: Most “new people” come with a pre-existing relational connection with someone. We expect that person to help their new friend assimilate into a group. If they are brand new, we do not want them to be thrown into a community that already exists. This can be uncomfortable for the new person as well as disruptive to the dynamic of the group because new people have different relational needs, expectations, and even capacities.. The one thing that new people have in common is that they are new. As we love on new people through a

welcoming environment and Christian fellowship, we will point them toward new groups designed for new people. “New Groups” will be offered each quarter in an effort to make community accessible to visitors and/or new attendees.

OBJ#4: I am never fed by small groups.

ANS#4: Didn't you stop being fed when you were a toddler? We understand the need to grow. But this is not a passive activity. A tremendous amount of growth comes from living the gospel, not just listening to it, from serving others, not just waiting for them to serve you.

OBJ#5: I don't like small groups.

ANS#5: Why do you feel that way? Know that this is not something we are forcing members to do, rather, we are strongly encouraging them to participate. We believe this is essential to our personal and corporate health as believers. If you do not feel that way, then do not participate. The last thing anyone wants to be is in relationship with someone who is forced, guilty, or otherwise coerced into joining a group. This kind of person will never share their heart. If you choose not to participate, please don't hesitate to ask any of the following:

- Where can I meet people in this church?
 - How do I get to know people at this church?
 - Where can I pray for others in this church?
 - Where can I get prayer in this church?
 - Are there any studies offered at this church?
 - Why do I feel alone at this church?
-

OBJ#6: I don't have time for community, I am working on surviving.

ANS#6: You misunderstand the nature of and need for Gospel Community. Without true biblical community, it is difficult to survive and impossible to thrive in life.

OBJ#7: Every small group I've ever been in has failed.

ANS#7: Why do you feel this way? What do you consider failure? One thing is certain and worthy of meditation, you were one common denominator in every failed small group you've been in. Instead of asking questions about the form of, or people in the group, why not ask some hard questions about your own heart and commitment?

OBJ#8: I like groups that are more/less of a Bible study.

ANS#8: Each group has a different flavor. Some groups will be more relationship-centric, while others are more teaching-centric. Sometimes you can find a group that fits your preferences perfectly; most times you will have to make compromises. When you begin to understand that the groups are more about people than they are about function, your choice will be easier.

OBJ#9: These groups are not like other churches.

ANS#9: We are Damascus Road Church. We are careful not to build a church whose identity and mission amounts to little more than people's personal preferences. There are several things, biblically, that all churches must do. Small groups are not one of them (neither is youth ministry, men's ministry, etc.). Our groups are designed to fit the context of our church, our mission, and our community.

OBJ#10: I don't like my group.

ANS#10: Maybe your group doesn't like you! It is not against the "law" to change groups after 10 weeks, but try to commit and not make it a regular practice to "date" perpetually.

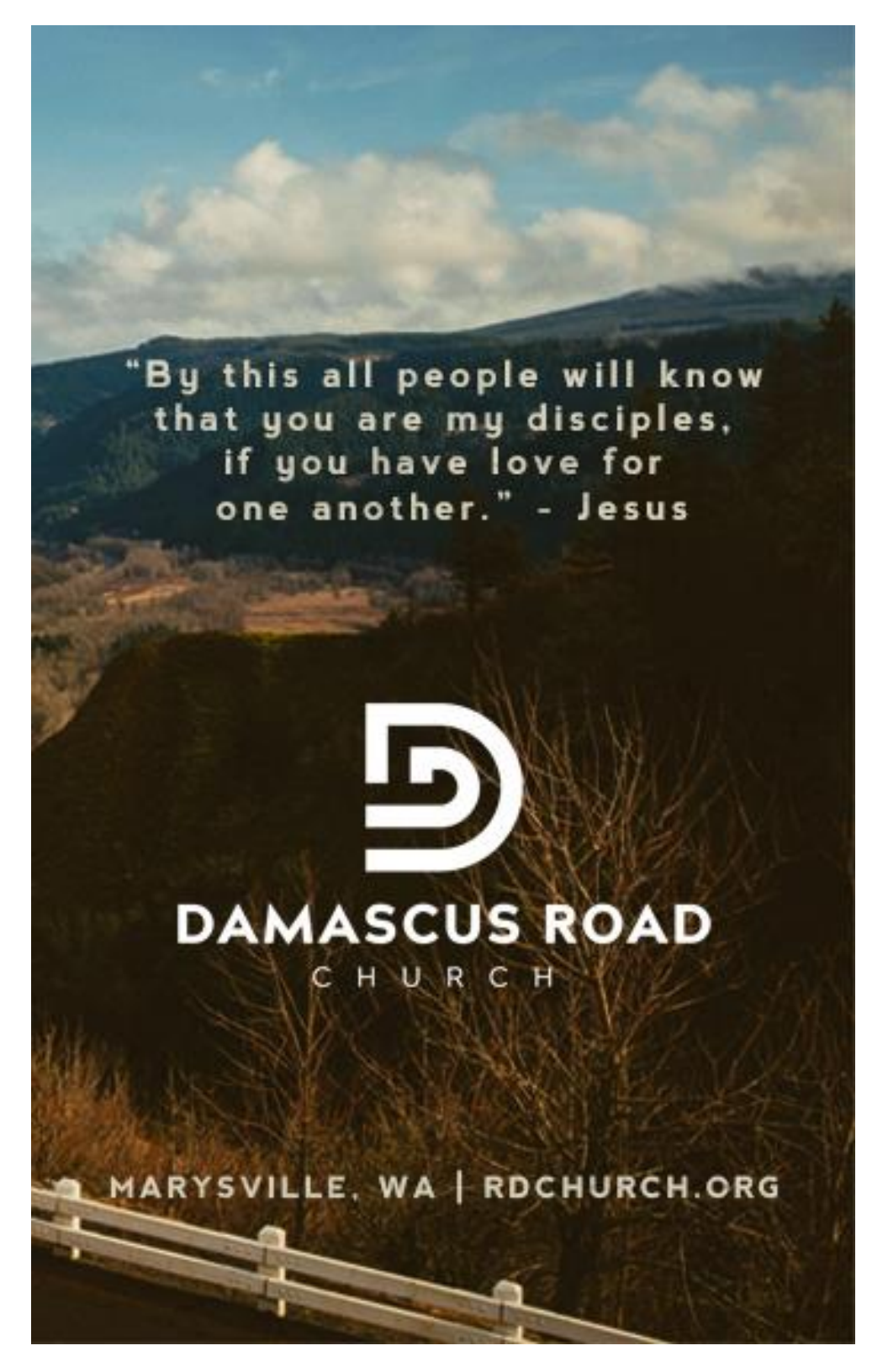
CONCLUSION

Martin Luther said that, “*the cross is the test of everything in the Christian life.*” Long before Luther, the Apostle Paul knew this to be true, and declared “*I resolve to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified.*”

It is the same for us today: we live and progress in the Christian life by believing and thinking deeply about the Gospel. It is this story that we must learn to tell again and again, in a variety of ways and with numerous examples; for it is the one story that generates new life, fuels our faith and gives us hope and strength to love in the realities of everyday life.

Your Road Group is a wonderful place to see your life story, and the stories of others (with all its failures, moments of peace, struggles and victories), as a vital part of the greater Gospel story of Christ. That is because God does not intend or desire for us to experience life alone. In fact, we believe God has designed change, growth, and ultimately the ushering in of His new Kingdom, to happen in community.

If you have any questions, weather personal or practical please feel free to email life@rdchurch.org.

A scenic landscape featuring a valley with trees and fields, surrounded by mountains under a blue sky with scattered clouds. In the foreground, a white wooden fence runs across the bottom of the frame.

“By this all people will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love for
one another.” - Jesus



DAMASCUS ROAD
C H U R C H

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