

What is a D-Group?

D-Group is simply short for *discipleship group*. These small groups exist to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to "go and make disciples." D-groups are highly relational and intentional about each member growing as a disciple of Jesus. We recommend all D-groups stay small (3-4 people is ideal) and of the same gender. It is best for groups to meet weekly, if possible, but many of our groups adopt different schedules to accommodate their members. Meetings typically last one to one and a half hours and involve accountability and care in the three main components of how a Christian's life is oriented:

UPWARD toward God in holiness, love, and obedience

AROUND toward other believers in community

OUT on mission with God to reach the lost

While keeping this focus, D-groups often lead to close friendships and doing life together.

However, it is expected from the outset that the group will not remain the same over time.

D-groups emphasize multiplication, since one of the goals is to fulfill Jesus' command by equipping every member of the church as a disciple-maker. The members of the group learn the rhythm of walking with two or three other believers for a season of time, making themselves accountable and giving others that same encouragement and accountability (typically about a year). The hope is that each member will then be ready and equipped to form his or her own new group, walking with two or three others as they seek to follow Jesus.

How do D-Groups differ from small groups?

Church small groups have been, and continue to be, a blessing to the church. They do, however, typically lean toward one of four Christian disciplines: caring, being, doing, or learning. Life Church affirms that all of these things are good and needed in the church. Because of that, we certainly do not discourage the formation of small groups. There is a component of discipleship in each of them, but typically, they miss the wholistic emphasis by focusing on only one component, and they lack the vision to multiply. For example, we believe Bible studies are wonderful. They help us to know the word of God and interpret it correctly, which in turn, aids in our discipleship. Knowing the word of God, however, is only a part of what it means to be a disciple. There is a bigger vision we must see for a believer's life. Therefore, we do not simply start Bible studies, even though the Bible is certainly studied at D-groups. In short, we are seeking to make well-rounded disciples of Jesus who are obeying all that He has commanded. We believe accomplishing this takes close relationship and intentionality which is what we aim for in D-groups.