

## DISCIPLESHIP TIME BASICS

Whether it's one-on-one or in a group setting, our pattern for discipleship remains the same. Below is a simple 4-step guide to how to spend intentional time together as disciples.

### **1. Catch Up** *man to man*

Goal: Build Relationships

Time: 5-15 minutes

Simply put, this is a time for individuals of a group to relationally connect and begin talking with each other. This can happen organically as people are walking in the room, or it can be more structured with the Group Leader prompting conversation when needed.

We must relate to our brothers/sisters before we come into the presence of God as a group. If we neglect this, the group will not reach its highest level, and the gathering will end on a low note. Discipleship will be very slow and awkward.

\*Adding to this relational element, the group's bonding outside of the dedicated discipleship time adds to the intimacy and connectedness of the group. Finding times to eat together and hang out all adds to the discipleship time and later to the outreach of the group.

### **2. Prayer** *man to God*

Goal: Bond Relationships

Time: 5-10 minutes

When the prayer time is poorly planned and the leader has not been in touch with Christ, the momentum of the group will spiritually flatline. When this happens, the group does not sense the presence or the power of Christ as they should, and the ability to be in tune with the Holy Spirit is diminished. The time of building up falls flat. Discipleship cannot be God-centered since He has not been touched by the leader or group members. Therefore, the leader and the group members must make time with God throughout the week a priority. Without having been heated (time with God throughout the week), iron cannot be sharpened/shaped (during a time of accountability with other believers). *This is an awkward sentence...consider revising.*

### **3. Discipleship** *God to man*

**Goal:** Working Relationships

**Time:** 30-45

If the group leader has decided to use the group for just teaching, random discussion, hangout time, and not discipleship, then the effectiveness of God's life-changing Word is absent. Scripture must be at the center of Discipleship as it is the keyway in which God communicates to us. If this is absent, then there is no building up each other in the truth. This group ends at a low level. They are not bonded to one another by the truth. Such groups run out of gas after a while.

Practically this is where material based groups fall short. Instead of spending time diving together into God's Word, groups dive into the writer of the material's words. Studying through a book/passage of scripture together or simply sharing about our time with God are more effective ways to ensure that the time together will be centered on God's Word.

### **4. Share the Vision** *believer to unbeliever*

**Goal:** Believer to Unbeliever

**Time:** 5-10 minutes

The natural outcome of discipleship is evangelism. When a group tries to function without any 'SHARING' or it tries to go on without reaching, moving, or changing the result is a cease in Discipleship. Without a vision for reaching others for Christ, the group will ossify or dry-up. The body of Christ is called to SHARE with the lost world. If it refuses to do so, it should question whether it is truly His body.

The average group has a 2-year life cycle at which point it either successfully multiplies or loses momentum because of a failure in one of the above areas. The group leaders must always be on the lookout for future group leaders and begin encouraging them in that direction.

## EXPECTED GROUP TIMELINE

Time Wks	1-4 Weeks	6-10 Weeks	12-14 Weeks	16-24 Weeks	26-29 Weeks
<b>Group Life</b>	History Giving Getting Acquainted	Affirming Congealing	Goal Setting Community	Outreach	Multiplying
<b>Aim</b>	Building Relationships	Bonding Relationships	Working out Relationships	Calling Revealing our Relationships	Risk to Go

### Paradigms:

1. Multiplication
  - a. The Goal of discipleship is multiplication this means that
2. Relationship Types: All Groups are seasonal
  - a. Situational
  - b. Seasonal
  - c. Life-Long
3. Connection Outside of Group Time
  - a. God and group members
  - b. Group members to each other

### Leader Responsibilities

- Weekly, remind group members of group time: This can be a text message or email that checks in on each group member
- Keep the focus during group time. Make sure the four necessary areas of the group time are occurring each meeting.
- Identify and look for future group leaders.
- Schedule outside time together.
- Recruit new people to the group.