

2025-2026 CURRICULUM UPDATE

Hey D-Groups!

It's hard to believe that it's already been a year since we began this intentional journey of discipleship together as a church family. Over the past year, in your individual life groups and as a broader community, we've got a taste of what it truly means to follow the way of Jesus. And as you've likely discovered, this journey is not always easy or straightforward. It's a wild ride, full of highs and lows, sometimes bumpy, sometimes delightful. But through it all, the Lord has been with you... through the Holy Spirit and your community of fellow believers. My prayer is that this second year in your D-Groups will draw you even closer to one another and deepen your relationship with Christ.

Last year, we started by exploring the basics of discipleship with *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer, before diving into the book of Colossians for a more focused study. The goal was to begin with broader, more passive learning (through the video series) and gradually move to more active, inductive Bible study (through the Colossians study). Regardless of where your group's discussions and curriculum led, I trust God was at work, shaping each of you into Christlikeness. After all, He is the Maker of disciples!

In addition to the teaching, our D-Groups were encouraged to live out the Scriptures by looking outward and putting our beliefs into action. Many of you engaged in outreach, by serving our local communities and supporting our global missionaries who are on the front lines of The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). My prayer is that God continues this good work through your groups in the year (years!) ahead.

My favourite Bible verse comes to mind, Ephesians 3:20-21 says:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Amen indeed. May the seeds of faith you sow in this season bear fruit in the generations to come! To God be the glory!

Looking ahead, as September marks the beginning of a new year for our church and D-Groups, I'm excited to share the curriculum we've planned. I'll be honest, it took a while to settle on a direction for this year. I had many ideas but nothing quite felt right until a simple conversation with one of our elders (thanks, Crystal!) helped everything fall into place. I'm constantly amazed at how God moves and speaks in and through His people. Praise be to Him! With that said, here's what you can expect for this year:

Year Two: The Practice of Discipleship

In the past year, we focused on gaining head knowledge about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This year, the word that resonates most with me is PRACTICE. It's not enough to just know what Scripture teaches; we are called to live it out. This is called lived theology; it's when our head, heart and hands connect. So then, what does it look like to be incarnational in our faith? How do we actively walk in obedience to God, as James challenges us?

My sermon on James' teaching James can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/live/g3ljkqrUyu8?feature=shared>

Sermon on teaching & practice by John Mark Comer (Practicing the Way):
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0lu3lDNLRPEwwMSmlch4kd?si=DsHz9pyETVCLPblzKM2qog>

This fall, we will continue to explore these questions through our upcoming Sunday sermon series on the book of Romans. And the good news is, we're not alone in this journey! God equips us for His Will through His Word, His Holy Spirit, and through the Body of Christ. In our case, that's our church, GoodTree, and our D-Groups.

Phase One: The Practice of Community

As such, we're going to kick off this fall by focusing on the practice of community. After the summer when many of our congregants have been disconnected due to vacations and other activities, it's a perfect time to come back together. We'll revisit what it means to live in community with one another. Also, this is a great opportunity to invite new people into your groups. Challenge yourself to reach out and bring others into this journey!

Once again, we'll start with a video series from Practicing the Way, which was well received by all our groups last year. This particular series on community has 4 sessions, each about 30 minutes long. There's also a supplementary podcast for deeper engagement between D-Group gatherings.

Phase Two: Crafting a Practice or Rule of Life

After completing the video series, we'll begin a book series that teaches us how to create a Rule of Life, a practice designed to help us intentionally shape our habits and rhythms to align with God's Will. D-Groups will go through the book, *Crafting a Rule of Life* by S. Macchia. Once your group is ready, the church will provide books as needed through your D-Guides.

Rhythm for the Year

We learned a lot from last year's rhythm, so this year we'll keep the curriculum limited to these two key phases to allow space and flexibility for outreach and serving opportunities, both within the church and in the broader community, as well as supporting our missionaries.

As always, D-Groups are free to go through the curriculum at your own pace, but we encourage you to complete the two phases within the year. Regular and consistent gatherings are crucial to maintaining momentum in your group. Remember, less isn't always more! 😊

Finally, whether you're a D-Guide (life group leader), a D-Group member, or a church attendee, we are all called to disciple others and be disciplined ourselves. This year, I challenge you to identify where/whom you're being disciplined by, and who you are discipling in turn. How can you step into leadership roles, not to be served, but to serve others? If you're unsure, talk to your D-Guides, our church elders, and/or pastors for guidance.

May God be glorified in everything we do...in our comings, goings, and gatherings!
Shalom,
Nahri.

FALL 2025 - SUMMER 2026 CURRICULUM DETAILS:

1. Video series: The Community Practice, by Practicing the Way

- Four 30 minute Sessions:
<https://www.practictheway.org/community>
- Rule of Life Podcast (4 episodes on Community):
<https://open.spotify.com/show/o8pHYEWdAJgGjpWTcVK9e3?si=993ffe2c1c50431b>

2. Book study: Crafting the Rule of Life, by Stephen Macchia

- Structure suggestion: Have participants read 1 chapter per week on their own then come together* to discuss what was read in small groups.
 - There are 12 chapters so it would theoretically take 12 sessions to complete the book using this format. By the end, everyone will have a complete rule of life.

*Suggestion: if your large group meets infrequently, consider pairing up into smaller pods so regular (ideally weekly) discussions can occur via phone/zoom call, email, text, chatroom, etc. OR, consider covering multiple chapters per meeting.

3. Outreach/serving opportunities:

- Local outreach (e.g. Baker House, Hope Mission, Operation Christmas Child)
- Community support (e.g. supporting/visiting our seniors and those in need)
- Evangelism (e.g. invite friends/neighbours for a bbq or activity)
- Church volunteering (e.g. Sunday service: welcoming committee, coffee & toast ministry, Children's ministry, scripture reading, prayer, fellowship food set-up/clean-up, etc.)

4. Missionary Support:

- Choose a global missionary to support (if your group hasn't already). Still yet to be supported: see "yellow" highlighted missionaries in this document (click "missionaries" tab on bottom of sheet):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yKv8RaZpGVg1NNN4FRKN2180nl3mo8r_A_RFe3uJ0eA/edit?gid=1759633513#gid=1759633513

- Liaise with, creatively support and pray for missionary
- Share about their missional work with the church and local community
- Consider organizing a short-term mission or joining/supporting (e.g. Fundraising for) the church's annual mission trip (e.g. El Salvador trip)

5. Community Building

- Joint gatherings with other D-Groups
- Reaching out to newcomers
- Inviting unplugged members to join D-Group
- Support & participate in churchwide events (eg. Gull Lake Retreat, Stampede Breakfast, etc)
- Consider creating and hosting new D-Groups as our groups expand & multiply