

OUR VISION FOR *D-GROUPS*

Our vision and purpose for Discipleship Groups, or D-GROUPS, is to develop students who are becoming disciples who make disciples. Our example in this, of course, is Jesus. His model of discipleship is simply put (from the book, "Growing Up" by Robby Galaty):

- Jesus ministered while the disciples watched. (Matthew 5-7; Mark 1)
- Jesus progressed to allowing the disciples to assist Him in ministry. (John 6:1-13)
- The disciples ministered, and Jesus assisted them. (Mark 9)
- Jesus observed as the disciples ministered to others. (Luke 10:1-17)

The goal of discipleship is to fulfill the mission of God—the mission of Kingdom growth and expansion—not just behavioral modification. For a discipler, it is telling someone to follow you as you follow Christ. It is not about having all the answers, but rather learning alongside one another and pushing each other to grow to look more like Christ on a day-to-day basis. We see Scripture clearly outline aspects of discipleship in the verses below:

- Philippians 3:17: "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us."
- 1 Corinthians 4:16-17: "I urge you, then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church." (Paul [discipler] to Timothy [disciple])
- 1 Corinthians 11:1: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."
- Hebrews 13:7: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."
- Philippians 4:8-9: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."
- Matthew 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age."

OUR VISION FOR *D-GROUPS*

D-GROUPS is NOT another form of or outlet for Sunday School type teaching/learning:

- D-GROUPS are closed groups, rather than open. You must sign up and commit instead of showing up and jumping in.
- The purpose of the D-GROUP is for each member of each group to grow deeper in their personal relationship with Christ.
- This is not a lecture-style meeting time, but rather a time for group discussion and growth where both the disciplers and the disciples share their lives with one another.

We hope that you can see our heart behind this new ministry opportunity and that you will join us as we walk toward being a Student Ministry full of disciples that make disciples, just as Scripture emphasizes in so many ways.

D-GROUPS *INFORMATION*

We are so excited about beginning this great ministry opportunity on September 7!

D-GROUPS are small discipleship groups for 6th-12th grade students that will meet each Sunday night from 6-7:15pm throughout the entire 2025-2026 school year. They will convene in the Student Building, but our hope is that eventually groups will be able to meet off campus (i.e. coffee shops, over dinner, in a living room setting, etc.) upon approval by either the student ministry staff (Jody, Jack, Megan, and Adam) or on a case-by-case basis. If you are serious about growing in your relationship with Christ, then these groups will offer:

- **Small Group Interaction.** D-GROUPS will generally consist of 4-6 students (no more than 8), and 1-2 leaders. The groups will be divided by grade and gender (10th grade girls, 6th grade boys, etc.)
- **Relationships.** You will have the opportunity to build friendships in the name of Jesus Christ—with your peers in your group, as well as with your godly leader(s). Each group will have an adult leader, a college leader, or a combination of both.
- **Bible Study.** While you will be expected to have a daily Quiet Time with the Lord, D-GROUPS provide you with additional opportunities and materials for studying the Bible and growing in your relationship with the Lord each week. Each group will receive curriculum that their group will be studying that year that is designed for that age group and, in some cases, gender. This curriculum should last each group through at least most of the year. After a group completes the assigned curriculum, each leader/group may decide on additional curriculum to study for the remainder of the year, but it must be approved by the Student Staff first.
- **Accountability.** D-GROUPS will offer you the opportunity of accountability in your Christian walk. Since you will be meeting with the same group each week, you will grow to trust and open up to the members of your group over the coming weeks.
- **Prayer.** You will be provided with a consistent group of believers to pray with and for. You will be able to share and trust your group with any prayer needs you have, and pray for your members who share their prayer needs with you.
- **Fun.** D-GROUPS will provide you with some of your best Student Ministry memories! Not only will you be meeting weekly for Bible Study, prayer, accountability, etc., but you will also have the opportunity to spend additional time together doing other fun activities!

A signed covenant is required for participation in D-GROUPS. Read over them on the Covenants page and complete the covenant **before** D-GROUPS begin to meet on September 7.