



## **GETTING STARTED**

### **WHAT IS A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP?**

A Discipleship Group (DG) is a small group of people (3-4, same gender) committed to intentionally walking with one another to trust and follow Jesus in obedience.

The aim of a DG is that with the help of the Holy Spirit and one another, we would:

1. Grow deeper in love and obedience to God, becoming more like the one we follow - Jesus.
2. Multiply DGs by making disciples and starting new DGs with new followers of Jesus.

Specifically, through time in a Discipleship Group, you should see growth in:

1. Christian Community: Growth in authentic, honest, sharpening community.
2. The Word: Growth in discipline, understanding, and the ability to handle the Word of God.
3. Prayer: Growth in active prayer with God and trusting the Lord without ceasing.
4. Obedience: Growth in active obedience in all ways and in the fruit of the Spirit.
5. Multiplication: Growth in leading people to life in Jesus and making new disciples.

### **HOW TO GET STARTED WITH A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP**

1. Determine a time when you can all meet together regularly.
2. Pick a start and end date for your discipleship group to give a time period for everyone to commit to.
3. Meet together for the first time to get to know everyone, share your stories of how you came to trust Christ, and determine what you're going to focus on in the Bible going forward.

\*Suggested resources and plans for Discipleship Groups can be found at [austinflifechurch.com/disciple](http://austinflifechurch.com/disciple)

### **HOW LONG SHOULD A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP LAST?**

There is no set length of time. Each group could look a little different. However we suggest setting a specific a time period, and then reassessing with what is best for everyone and to always include new Believers at the table of a DG. If the DG wants to keep going, or take a break and then pick it back up, that is great. We just always want to remember we are meant to make disciples and multiply, so starting a new group for and with new followers of Jesus should always be on the table and something we are working towards.

### **HOW DO WE MULTIPLY DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS?**

1. Have multiplication as a goal from the beginning. Let everyone know up front that our aim is always to make disciples and start new DGs with new followers of Jesus, which may, and probably will, mean starting new DGs at some point to include new disciples of Jesus.
2. If / When you lead someone to life in Jesus, invite them into your DG if there is room, start a new DG with them, or help connect them to a new DG. The important thing is to walk with a new follower of Jesus to grow as a disciple.
3. Share with your DG specific names of people you are thinking of starting a new group with, and pray for them regularly.
4. Take the initiative to invite new members from your Community Group / Austin Life into a DG with you.
5. Let your CG leader know if you have space in your DG or are looking to start a new one.