

COREGROUPS

Discipleship Groups called “Core Groups” at [Multiply] build faithful disciples of Jesus who make disciples. Many discipleship programs have become more about information than transformation, and they are much too complex for most disciples to use with others. Core Groups champion the axiom “simplify to multiply.” They are simple enough for non-professionals to facilitate so that participants learn to walk closer with Jesus daily as they obey him by grace. These micro Core Groups also integrate easily into a local church’s other ministries or groups.

How does a Core Group work? One person selects several of the questions and facilitates the sharing time when the group meets. Each person answers the questions transparently in an environment of grace and confidentiality as you meet regularly. Core Groups are intended to be high-challenge, relational, gender specific, and small in size (triads or quads).

Each participant will need to have a personal plan for Bible reading with reflection that is used between meetings. This will allow all to come to the group ready to share what they believe the Lord has already been teaching them. That’s important to remember, since this group is not designed to be a Bible study to merely acquire more information. Rather, it is a group used to develop self-feeding disciples, where participants encourage each other to practice applying Scripture in daily obedience to Jesus, empowered by the Spirit and motivated by the gospel of grace.

The [SOAP Journaling](#) method is highly recommended to help Core Groups members engage with Jesus daily as they read and Core Groups study the Bible between meetings. SOAP provides a useful format for any follower of Christ to better apply Scripture, whether one is new to the faith or further along in their walk. It’s also simple to pass on to others. For those looking for a Bible reading plan, consider [A Chapter A Day - NT Reading Plan](#), [Bible Reading Plan - OT & NT](#), [spend time with Jesus in the Gospels for a month](#), or other plans at [esv.org](#).

Core Group questions can be used by those following different Bible reading plans and when group members are doing Bible studies outside the Core Group. One will notice that questions are clustered under the central commands of Jesus. This is to reinforce actual obedience to Christ by loyal disciples, rather than just passively acquiring more knowledge and calling it discipleship. The questions included here can be used as stated or modified for different cultural contexts. Pray and start Core Groups if you want to build faithful disciples who make disciples!

Steps to start Core Groups:

1. Invite a few others to become a Core Group after clarifying expectations.
2. Ensure group members have Core Group Questions, a Bible reading plan, & grasp the SOAP journaling method.
3. Use the first meeting to bond relationally by sharing your personal stories.
4. Person starting the Core Group selects several questions & facilitates sharing times for a few meetings.
5. Allow other Core Group members to facilitate the sharing times so all get practice leading the group.
6. Help multiply more Core Groups using optional approaches:
 - Show & Send to Multiply – model how to facilitate a Core Group then send a person out to start a new Core Group.
 - Grow, Show, & Multiply – keep inviting others to a Core Group until it grows to 6 or more, model facilitating, then multiply into two Core Groups.

COREGROUP - Questions

Believe the gospel and follow Jesus

Mk 1:14-17; Jn 15:1-8; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Mt 28:18-20

- What do you believe Jesus has been highlighting to you from your regular Bible reading or study? What's been your response? Have you been consistent with your Bible reading plan lately?
- How's your daily heart connection with Jesus and prayer life been recently?
- How has the good news about God's grace to you through Jesus been encouraging your heart lately? Which truth is most encouraging?
- Has anyone or anything become a "heart idol" lately that's competing with Jesus for your affections? (e.g. status, work, money, possessions, a relationship, sex, image, man-pleasing, control, etc.). Do you need to repent, discuss, or seek further help with this?
- Have you tried to self-medicate recently to fill your emptiness, deal with anxiety, or numb your emotional pain? (e.g. too much...drink, food, shopping, drugs, etc.). Do you need to repent, discuss, or seek further help with this?

Share the gospel and help others follow Jesus

Mk 1:14-17; Jn 15:1-8; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Mt 28:18-20

- Reaching Unbelievers: How have you been connecting socially or serving others who don't believe in Jesus yet? Have you had any opportunities lately to learn their story? Tell your story? Share the gospel story? What are some possible next steps you can take to help others meet Jesus?
- Starting Core Groups: Are there others that God may be calling you to intentionally help grow as followers of Jesus? Who do you know that would benefit from being part of a Core Group? What are some possible next steps for you to help others grow in a Core Group?

Love God and Love People

Mt 22:34-40; Jn 13:34-35; 1 Jn 4:10-11

- Have any of God's attributes or works ignited your heart lately with awe, gratitude, delight, or praise?
- What could you steward more faithfully or generously to express love back to God? (e.g. money, possession, abilities, work, time, family life, relationships, etc.)
- How are you doing lately to actively show love or respect to your most significant relationships? (e.g. spouse, family, church community, your boss, coworkers, friends, neighbors, etc.)
- What have you been doing to help people thrive in the church and world?
- What are you doing to demonstrate love for people who are under-resourced, those with less status, or victims of injustice?

Close your time by praying for one another!