

DISCIPLESHIP

groups

Making Disciples & Disciple Makers

A 40-week study of
THE NEW TESTAMENT

Written for Huntington First Baptist Church
August 2022 - May 2023

PHILOSOPHY FOR READING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Reading the New Testament might sound daunting! In 40 weeks, it will only take about 6 chapters per week (260 total chapters).

So, for the next 40 weeks, you will only be concentrating on about 1 chapter per day. That is very doable! And at the end of this school year, you will have carefully read and studied each chapter of the New Testament. That will be a rich experience!

We organized the material, so that you will alternate between reading the 4 gospels and the rest of the letters and books. This will give you variety of reading and help you come back to the story of Jesus often! Here is how the reading is broken down.

<u>NT Book</u>	<u>Chapters</u>
Matthew	28
Acts	28
Romans	16
Mark	16
1 Corinthians	16
2 Corinthians	13
Galatians	6
Ephesians	6
Luke	24
Philippians	4
Colossians	4
1 Thessalonians	5
2 Thessalonians	3

<u>NT Book</u>	<u>Chapters</u>
1 Timothy	6
2 Timothy	4
Titus	3
Philemon	1
Hebrews	13
John	21
James	5
1 Peter	5
2 Peter	3
1 John	5
2 John	1
3 John	1
Jude	1
Revelation	22

INTRODUCTION TO D-GROUPS

So what is a D-Group? Why is it necessary? And what does it do? The “D” in D-Group stands for “discipleship,” so the simple answer is that a D-Group is a Discipleship Group. If we look at the big picture, Jesus commissioned the church to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). That is why the church exists. The question for the church today is, “How do we make disciples?”

Robby Gallaty defines discipleship as “intentionally equipping believers with the Word of God through accountable relationships empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to replicate faithful followers of Christ.”¹ D-Groups are designed to do just that.

First, D-Groups intentionally equip believers. D-Groups have a set training program that is very purposeful. Discipleship is not left to chance. Many times in the church today we do a number of things and hope the end result is disciples being made. D-Groups are an intensive, focused, 40-week program to grow disciples. D-Groups are made up of believers who are willing to be accountable, faithful and teachable.

Secondly, D-Groups focus on the Bible, however a D-Group is not a Life Group or a Bible Study group. D-Groups are in addition to our church’s worship times and Life Group times. Specifically, D-Groups develop the daily discipline of being in God’s word and allowing God to speak to you individually. Each week members will have five Scripture passages to read and one verse to memorize. A daily journal is provided within this book for members to write down their daily time in God’s word.

Thirdly, D-Groups are characterized by accountable relationships. The D-Groups are kept to between 3-5 men or women so that the interaction may be as personal and confidential as possible. D-Groups are designed so that members share their journey of growth together. Accountability within the group is necessary to facilitate that growth. Members are held accountable to their daily time in the Scriptures, to memorization of the verse of the week, to prayer and to evangelism. D-Groups meet once a week for an hour to an hour and a half at a place and time that is convenient to its members.

Fourthly, D-Groups depend upon the Holy Spirit to do His work of transformation in the members’ lives. Prayer is a central part of D-Groups, as members open their lives to the activity of God.

Lastly, multiplication is the goal of the D-Groups in that after the prescribed time of meeting together members will then replicate the process with a group of their own. Discipleship is not complete until members are making disciples who are making disciples.

¹Robby Gallaty. *Growing Up: How To Be A Disciple Who Makes Disciples.*

WEEK 1

Welcome to your D-Group! This is the first of 40 weekly gatherings for your D-Group. The goal this week is to cover the Introduction & Disciple Making Covenant.

This week we will also talk about the expected method to read the daily Bible Passages. For now, we won't go into much detail, but each week there are 5 daily Bible readings. These readings are meant to be used as devotionals each morning or evening. Each group member will read the verses, answer the questions and seek to hear from God about what the passage means and how it applies to their life. Those verses will be the center point of discussion in the weekly meeting.

The verses that are in "Week 2" are the verses that will be covered at the 2nd Meeting. This book covers the entire New Testament. Most days will just be one chapter and some will be 2 chapters. By the end of the year, you will have carefully studied the entire New Testament!

These D-Groups should be a place where there is discussion of who God is, who God has made us to be, and how we are living out our faith in God. They are a safe place for community, vulnerability, prayer and confession. These group members are your brothers or sisters in the faith. Lean on them when you need it. Hold them up when they need it. Use this group to strengthen your walk with God, so that you can go and do the same for others!

Here is an outline for how each weekly meeting should look.

Normal Weekly Meeting

- Catch Up
 - Hear about each other's week and personal lives briefly
- Discuss Scriptures & Journals
 - Spend time talking about what God taught you and how it applies to your life.
- Accountability Questions
 - Be honest with each other about points of accountability.
- Prayer
 - Have each person pray specifically for each other in the group and other prayer requests.

DISCIPLE MAKING COVENANT²

I will commit to the following expectations:

1. I pledge myself fully to the Lord with the anticipation that I am entering a time of accelerated spiritual transformation.
2. I will meet with my D-Group for approximately one and one-half hours every week, unless providentially hindered.
3. I will complete all assignments on a weekly basis before my D-Group meeting, in order to contribute to the discussion.
4. I will contribute to an atmosphere of confidentiality, honesty, and transparency for the edification of others in the group as well as my own spiritual growth.
5. I will pray every week for the other men/women who are on the discipleship journey with me.
6. I will begin praying about replicating the discipleship process upon completion of this group.

Signed (Mentee): _____

Signed (Mentor): _____

Date: _____

² This Disciple Making covenant has been adapted from the book *Growing Up* by Robby Gallaty.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS³

Each week, our D-Group will spend time holding each other accountable to living out a Christ-like faith. We know that left to ourselves, we will hide our sin and refuse to acknowledge our areas of weakness. We need each other to expose sin in our lives and to help us repent of that sin.

Be prepared each week to answer the following questions. In this way, D-Groups hold members accountable to their spiritual disciplines, evangelism and purity. Remember D-Groups must be characterized by honesty, transparency and confidentiality. Accountability is essential for spiritual transformation.

Here is a list of possible questions to ask each other each week. These are not exhaustive. Your group may want to add a specific area of accountability to the list of questions. That is perfectly acceptable and encouraged!

1. Have you spent time in the Word and in prayer this week?
2. Have you shared the gospel or your testimony with an unbeliever this week?
3. Have you spent quality time with your family this week?
4. Have you viewed anything immoral or had lustful thoughts or actions this week?
5. Have you told any lies, any half-truths, or gossiped this week?
6. Have you participated in anything unethical this week?
7. Have you lied about any of your answers today?

James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Proverbs 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Psalms 32:3 - For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

³ These accountability questions were adapted from the book *Growing Up* by Robby Gallaty.

WEEK 2 MEETING**Prayer Requests****Scripture Memory**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ***Matthew 5:16 (ESV)***

Accountability Questions

- Have you spent time in the Word and in prayer this week?
- Have you shared the gospel or your testimony with an unbeliever this week?
- Have you spent quality time with your family this week?
- Have you viewed anything immoral or had lustful thoughts or actions this week?
- Have you told any lies, any half-truths, or gossiped this week?
- Have you participated in anything unethical this week?
- Have you lied about any of your answers today?

MATTHEW 1

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Write 5 observations about the text: facts or statements about God, the characters, dialogue, questions, repeated statements, key words or phrases, conflict, resolution, teaching points, etc.

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WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Think about these: What does this teach us about God? About humanity? About the world? Write a 1 or 2 sentence summary and make it simple enough to explain to someone else.

HOW DOES THE TEXT APPLY TO MY LIFE?

Think about these: What does God want me to do? What does God want me to believe?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK - MATTHEW 5:16

MATTHEW 2

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Write 5 observations about the text: facts or statements about God, the characters, dialogue, questions, repeated statements, key words or phrases, conflict, resolution, teaching points, etc.

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WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Think about these: What does this teach us about God? About humanity? About the world? Write a 1 or 2 sentence summary and make it simple enough to explain to someone else.

HOW DOES THE TEXT APPLY TO MY LIFE?

Think about these: What does God want me to do? What does God want me to believe?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK - MATTHEW 5:16

MATTHEW 3

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Write 5 observations about the text: facts or statements about God, the characters, dialogue, questions, repeated statements, key words or phrases, conflict, resolution, teaching points, etc.

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WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Think about these: What does this teach us about God? About humanity? About the world? Write a 1 or 2 sentence summary and make it simple enough to explain to someone else.

HOW DOES THE TEXT APPLY TO MY LIFE?

Think about these: What does God want me to do? What does God want me to believe?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK - MATTHEW 5:16

MATTHEW 4 & 5

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Write 5 observations about the text: facts or statements about God, the characters, dialogue, questions, repeated statements, key words or phrases, conflict, resolution, teaching points, etc.

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WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Think about these: What does this teach us about God? About humanity? About the world? Write a 1 or 2 sentence summary and make it simple enough to explain to someone else.

HOW DOES THE TEXT APPLY TO MY LIFE?

Think about these: What does God want me to do? What does God want me to believe?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK - MATTHEW 5:16

MATTHEW 6

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Write 5 observations about the text: facts or statements about God, the characters, dialogue, questions, repeated statements, key words or phrases, conflict, resolution, teaching points, etc.

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WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Think about these: What does this teach us about God? About humanity? About the world? Write a 1 or 2 sentence summary and make it simple enough to explain to someone else.

HOW DOES THE TEXT APPLY TO MY LIFE?

Think about these: What does God want me to do? What does God want me to believe?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK - MATTHEW 5:16

WEEK 3 MEETING**Prayer Requests****Scripture Memory**

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." **Matthew 6:33-34 (ESV)**

Accountability Questions

- Have you spent time in the Word and in prayer this week?
- Have you shared the gospel or your testimony with an unbeliever this week?
- Have you spent quality time with your family this week?
- Have you viewed anything immoral or had lustful thoughts or actions this week?
- Have you told any lies, any half-truths, or gossiped this week?
- Have you participated in anything unethical this week?
- Have you lied about any of your answers today?

MATTHEW 7

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Write 5 observations about the text: facts or statements about God, the characters, dialogue, questions, repeated statements, key words or phrases, conflict, resolution, teaching points, etc.

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WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Think about these: What does this teach us about God? About humanity? About the world? Write a 1 or 2 sentence summary and make it simple enough to explain to someone else.

HOW DOES THE TEXT APPLY TO MY LIFE?

Think about these: What does God want me to do? What does God want me to believe?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK - MATTHEW 6:33-34

MATTHEW 8 & 9

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Write 5 observations about the text: facts or statements about God, the characters, dialogue, questions, repeated statements, key words or phrases, conflict, resolution, teaching points, etc.

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WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Think about these: What does this teach us about God? About humanity? About the world? Write a 1 or 2 sentence summary and make it simple enough to explain to someone else.

HOW DOES THE TEXT APPLY TO MY LIFE?

Think about these: What does God want me to do? What does God want me to believe?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK - MATTHEW 6:33-34

MATTHEW 10

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Write 5 observations about the text: facts or statements about God, the characters, dialogue, questions, repeated statements, key words or phrases, conflict, resolution, teaching points, etc.

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WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Think about these: What does this teach us about God? About humanity? About the world? Write a 1 or 2 sentence summary and make it simple enough to explain to someone else.

HOW DOES THE TEXT APPLY TO MY LIFE?

Think about these: What does God want me to do? What does God want me to believe?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK - MATTHEW 6:33-34
