

Grace City Church | Discipleship Group Leader Guide

Helping Friends Become Family. Helping Family Become Disciple-Makers.

Welcome

Thank you for saying **yes** to leading a Discipleship Group.

At Grace City, we believe spiritual formation happens best in circles, not rows. While Sunday mornings inspire and equip us, Discipleship Groups provide the space where God's Word is discussed, applied, practiced, and lived out together.

You aren't expected to be the smartest person in the room or have every answer.

Your calling is to help people follow Jesus more faithfully than they did yesterday.

Our prayer is simple:

That every person who joins your group leaves looking more like Jesus.

Our Vision

Community Groups help people **connect**.

Discipleship Groups help people **grow**.

Discipleship Groups are intentional gatherings of 8–12 people committed to following Jesus together through Scripture, prayer, accountability, and obedience. We don't simply ask, "What did you learn?" We ask, "How will your life be different because of what God taught you?"

Our D Group Mission

Every Discipleship Group exists to help people:

- Love Jesus more deeply
- Know God's Word
- Build authentic relationships
- Practice spiritual disciplines
- Pray boldly
- Live on mission
- Become disciple-makers

The goal isn't simply biblical knowledge.

The goal is Christlike transformation.

The Role of a Leader

You are a facilitator, not merely a teacher.

Your responsibility is to:

- Create a safe environment
- Keep Scripture central
- Guide meaningful discussion
- Encourage participation
- Help people apply God's Word
- Pray intentionally
- Care for your group
- Raise up future leaders

Remember:

The Holy Spirit changes people. You simply create space for Him to work.

Our Philosophy

We follow the Sunday sermon together.

That means leaders don't have to create lessons every week.

Instead, everyone comes ready to revisit the sermon, explore the Scriptures more deeply, ask honest questions, and determine practical next steps.

The sermon starts the conversation.

The group continues it.

What Makes a Healthy Discipleship Group?

Healthy groups are:

- Christ-centered
- Scripture-driven
- Spirit-led
- Prayer-filled
- Honest
- Grace-filled
- Accountable
- Missional

People should leave saying,

"God is changing me."

A Typical Gathering (90 Minutes)

Connect (15–20 Minutes)

Share a meal or light refreshments.

Celebrate answered prayers.

Catch up on life.

Welcome everyone.

Open God's Word (15 Minutes)

Review Sunday's main Scripture.

Read it aloud together.

Recap the sermon briefly.

Invite observations before jumping to application.

Dig Deeper (35–40 Minutes)

Use the weekly discussion guide. Ask questions like:

What stood out most?

What challenged you?

What surprised you?

What does this teach us about God?

What does this reveal about us?

How should this change the way we live?

Pray (15 Minutes)

Pray specifically.

Pray by name.

Celebrate answered prayer.

Invite the Holy Spirit to continue His work throughout the week.

Live It Out (5 Minutes)

Before leaving, ask:

What's one step of obedience you'll take this week?

Transformation begins with obedience.

Great Leaders Ask Great Questions

Instead of giving answers immediately...

Ask. Listen. Encourage.

Examples:

Where did you see Jesus in this passage?

What challenged you?

Why do you think that matters?

How does this affect everyday life?

What's one action you'll take?

Who can help keep you accountable?

Creating a Safe Environment

People grow where they feel safe.

Establish these expectations early:

Confidentiality

Respect

Honesty

Listening before speaking

No perfect people

Growth takes time.

Grace makes it possible.

Accountability with Grace

Discipleship requires encouragement and accountability.

Not shame. Ask questions like:

How has your time with Jesus been?

Have you spent time in Scripture this week?

How can we pray for you?

Where are you struggling?

Where have you seen God working?

How can we encourage you?

Grace without truth never transforms.

Jesus offers both.

Spiritual Practices

Encourage your group to regularly practice:

Daily Scripture reading

Prayer

Sabbath

Generosity

Serving

Confession

Sharing the Gospel

Inviting others

Following Jesus happens one faithful step at a time.

Caring for Your Group

Discipleship continues between meetings.

Text someone.

Celebrate wins.

Follow up after prayer requests.

Notice absences.

Encourage spiritual growth.

Invite people to coffee.

Be present.

People don't just need another meeting. They need a shepherd.

Difficult Moments

Someone dominates discussion

Thank them.

Invite others to contribute.

"Let's hear from someone we haven't heard from yet."

Someone asks a difficult theological question

Be honest.

"I don't know, but I'd love to explore that together."

Invite a pastor into deeper conversations when needed.

Someone shares something deeply personal

Listen well.

Pray.

Offer care.

If necessary, connect them with church leadership for additional support.

Multiplication

Healthy disciples make disciples.

As your group grows, look for future leaders.

Invite them to:

Lead prayer.

Facilitate discussion.

Follow up with members.

Host gatherings.

Eventually...

Lead a group of their own.

We don't just make groups.

We make disciple-makers.

Leader Commitments

As a Grace City Discipleship Leader, I will:

Pray regularly for my group.

Study the weekly sermon.

Model a growing relationship with Jesus.

Create a safe environment. Lead with humility.

Speak truth with grace. Care for people beyond our gatherings.

Encourage obedience, not just knowledge.

Raise up future leaders.

Monthly Leader Check-In

- ☐ Have I prayed for every group member?
 - ☐ Is everyone participating?
 - ☐ Have I followed up with anyone missing?
 - ☐ Are people taking practical next steps?
 - ☐ Are we praying together consistently?
 - ☐ Is someone emerging as a future leader?
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Leader Resources

Weekly Sermon Notes

Discussion Guide

Bible

Journal

Prayer List

Grace City Website

YouVersion Bible App

Our Prayer

Father,

Thank You for entrusting us with the privilege of making disciples.

Help us lead with humility, listen with compassion, teach with faithfulness, and love like Jesus.

May every conversation point people toward You.

May every prayer deepen our dependence on You.

May every gathering form Christ in us.

And may every disciple become someone who helps others follow Jesus.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Remember

Your success isn't measured by attendance.

It isn't measured by how much information people retain.

It isn't measured by how polished your discussion is.

Success is measured by faithfulness.

Open God's Word.

Love people well.

Pray often.

Encourage obedience.

Trust the Holy Spirit to do what only He can do.

Because disciples aren't made by better lessons.

They're formed by walking with Jesus—together.