

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship

Multiplication Vision for the Harvest

“Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” John 4:35



Fulfilling the Great Commission

...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. – Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20

Core Convictions Regarding The Great Commission

- The Great Commission applies to **every believer**. (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).
- The Great Commission includes **sharing the gospel and helping someone grow** as a passionate follower of Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- The Great Commission is to **multiply passionate followers of Christ that multiply**. (2 Timothy 2:2)

How Will Cornerstone Multiply Passionate Followers of Christ That Multiply?

Through Discipling Groups (DGs)



What Are Discipling Groups?

DGs are groups that consist of a Christian meeting with a non-Christian (or new Christian) who meet regularly to **grow closer to the Triune God** by...

1. Meeting Him through the Scriptures.
2. Sharing openly and authentically.
3. Supporting each other through prayer.
4. Encouraging and keeping each other accountable to apply God's Word and reach out to others who don't have a relationship with Christ.

What Characterizes a Discipling Group?

- The group size is kept small (2–4 people or 2-3 couples). This allows for greater participation and accountability.
- 2 Christians can partner together to disciple others, however, it's probably best if the number of disciples in a group is equal to or exceeds the number of disciple makers.

How Will DGs Get Started?

- We will mobilize the church to pray every day at 9:37p and ask God to send people out into the harvest field (according to Matthew 9:37-38).
- Believers will look at their relational circles and networks and begin spiritual conversations with those that don't know Christ or who are not walking with Him.
- Believers will invite their friend to enter into a relationship with Christ or explore a relationship with Him.
- If the person is willing to learn more about Jesus then they begin meeting. This person is a 'person of peace' (Luke 10:5-7) and this is a new DG. [Note: a person of peace is someone who is receptive to the gospel and receptive to meeting with you to learn more about Jesus.]

What Happens in a DG Meeting?

- Everyone will come to the meeting having read 3 chapters of John's gospel per meeting. (If anyone doesn't complete the reading then the same chapters are assigned again to everyone. The hope is to saturate in God's Word.)
 - Week 1 – read chapters 1 – 3 but the discussion focuses on chapter 1.
 - Week 2 – read chapters 2 – 4 but the discussion focuses on chapter 2.
 - Week 3 – read chapters 3 – 5 but the discussion focuses on chapter 3.
- They will discuss the chapter using the following 3 questions:
 - 1) What does this chapter reveal about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?
 - 2) What does this chapter say or imply about us and what we should do?
 - 3) What can you do this week in response to what you learned?
- They will share about what is going on in their lives and support each other through prayer.

What Happens in a DG Meeting?

- They will share how they applied the previous week's lesson and, if the person is a believer, who they can invite into a relationship with Jesus.
- After completing the gospel of John they can go through the book of Acts (chapters 1 – 20) using the same pattern of reading 3 chapters each week but discussing only 1 chapter.
- Cover equipping topics:
 - The importance of being close to God and how to have a quiet time.
 - The importance of the gospel and how to share it.
 - How to identify the ripest fields and initiate spiritual conversations.

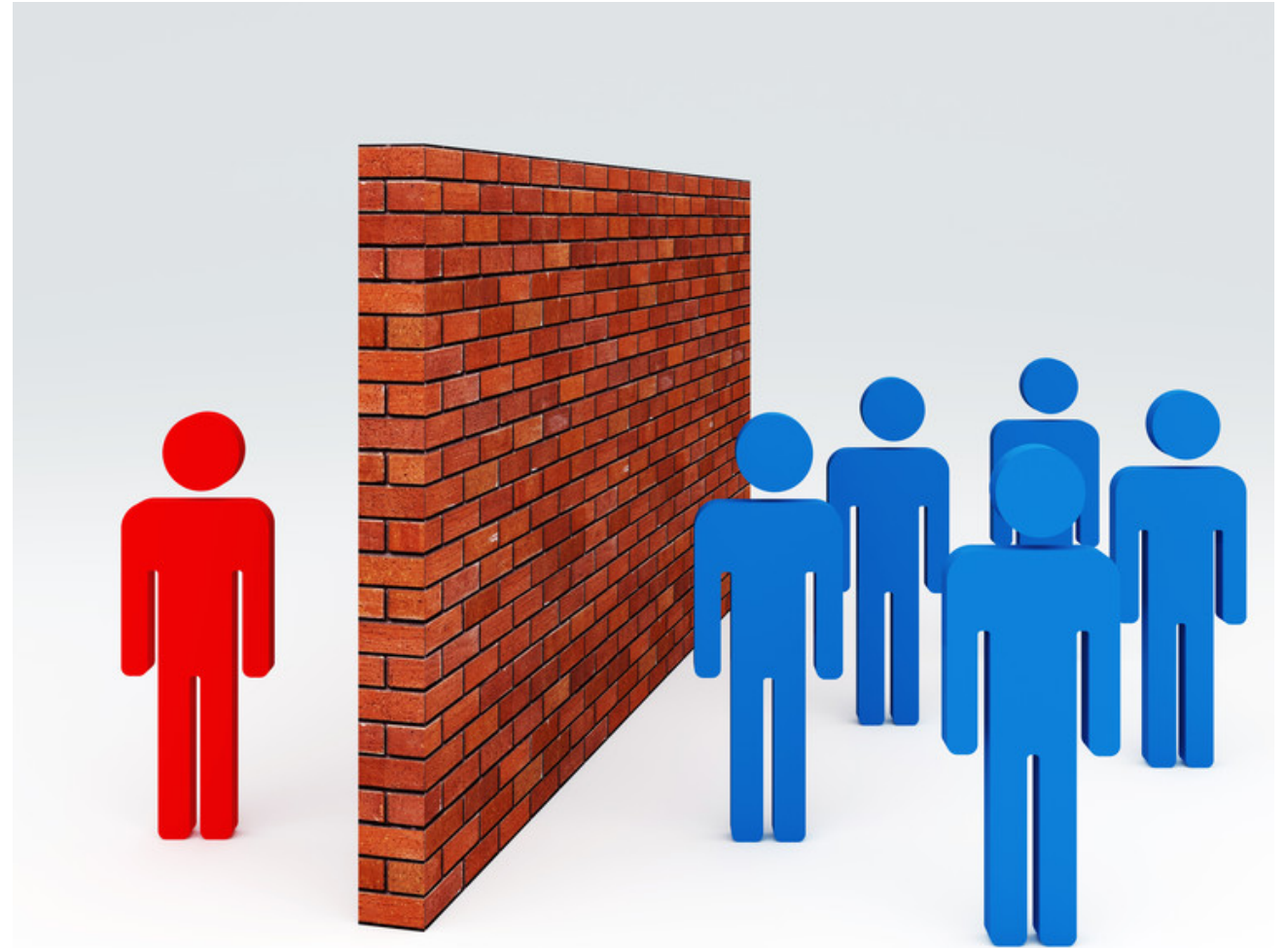
Overcoming the 4 Barriers to Starting DGs

Barrier #1 – Fear of Man

Barrier #2 – Fear of Inadequacy

Barrier #3 – Fragmented Families

Barrier #4 – Feeling of Being Too
Busy



Addressing the Fear of Man

- We will offer the “Freedom in Christ” course so that people will experience freedom from fear and other strongholds that hinder them from fulfilling the Great Commission.

Addressing the Fear of Inadequacy

- We will offer the “Living the Spirit Filled Life” course so that people know and experience what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit because this leads to living courageously, powerfully, and confidently (2 Corinthians 3:4-7). This will include basic training on how to begin a spiritual conversation and how to share the gospel.
- We’ve made the elements of a DG very simple so anyone can do it.
 - 1) Read 3 chapters each week using the 3 question bible study method
 - 2) Support each other through sharing and prayer
 - 3) Keep each other accountable to apply what was learned
- We will assure them that they don’t need to have all the answers.

Addressing Fragmented Families

- Often married couples have a difficult time living missionally because they are experiencing problems in their marriage. We will offer a marriage conference to help couples get on the same page relationally and spiritually.

Addressing the Feeling of Being Too Busy

- Busyness is often a matter of priorities so we will teach and communicate through the pulpit and other mediums on the priority of the Great Commission.
- We will emphasize that their harvest field is usually in their existing social circles and networks.
- There is a cost and their schedules may need to be changed, but this is probably the most eternally rewarding ministry they can be involved in. If they are in another ministry and don't think they can do both then we will encourage them to drop the other ministry.

Community Groups



Community Groups

- While we envision Community Groups being the primary place to experience Christian community, they are focused on mission.
- Community Groups consist of 6-12 people. These groups multiply once they get larger than 12 people or 6 couples. This is to promote full participation and accountability.
- Community groups share a meal, learn together, take communion, pray for each other, and meet each other's needs (Acts 2:42). They can also do outreach events together.

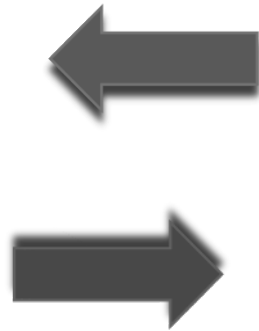
Community Groups

- Community Groups add people by always being open to members bringing the person they are discipling and others who are looking for a group.
- Community Groups can be formed based on common interests, life stage, or geographically.
- The group has flexibility to learn through various mediums – bible study, a Christian book, workbooks, DVD's, online messages, etc. What's most important is encouraging application.

Community Groups

- We hope to launch Community Groups in the fall of 2016.
- We plan on having these new Community Groups initially go through a study related to making disciples.
- We plan on caring for the leaders by gathering Community Group leaders together (3-4 times/year) for encouragement, equipping, sharing of best practices, and vision.
- Organizationally, both DGs and Community Groups will be under Pastor Warren's ministry.

Integrating DGs and Community Groups



Integrating DGs and Community Groups

- Community Groups are the first place to invite someone you are discipling to experience Christian community.
- Community Groups encourage and pray for members to start a DG.
- Community Groups are open to members bringing the person they are discipling.
- While the Community Group needs to be sensitive to non-believers who come into the group, they will continue to do their normal activities. It may require taking the time to explain the purpose behind each of the activities.

Church Wide Training

There are four types of training/equipping experiences that are related to multiplying disciples and tend to work better with a larger group.

- **Freedom in Christ** – This is a 8 session course that addresses the barriers that hinder our transformation. When we experience freedom we are able to fulfill God's purpose for our lives.
- **Living the Spirit Filled Life** – This is a 4 session course that helps us understand what the filling of the Holy Spirit is and how we can live day by day filled and in step with the Spirit. This will also include how to start spiritual conversations and share the gospel.

Church Wide Training

- **Marriage Conference** – Often marriages can be fragmented because couples are not on the same page relationally or spiritually. This conference will help couples align themselves with God's design for marriage.
- **Discipleship Training for Parents** – Parents have the most influence on their children so we want to help equip parents to steward this influence as they disciple their kids.

Community Group Leadership Training

Community Groups are the primary vehicle to support and encourage those who are in DGs and they are the primary place of community within our church family. Therefore the following training will be given to the Community Group leaders who will in turn be able to equip members of their Community Group:

- How to start a spiritual conversation and share the gospel.
- How to lead a 3 question bible study.
- How to have a quiet time and pray with another person.
- The meaning of communion and how to administer it.
- The meaning of baptism and how to baptize someone.

Keys to Success

- Multiplication vision is engaged in by the whole church family, especially the leaders.
- Believers must be filled with the Holy Spirit's love, power, courage, and wisdom.
- Believers must sow an abundance of gospel seeds through spiritual conversations in their existing relational circles and networks. They continue to shift their relational circles until someone responds positively toward the spiritual conversation and is willing to meet to learn more. (This is the Person of Peace)

Keys to Success

- There are multiple successes we hope to see – people sharing the gospel, people receiving Christ, people experiencing community, and people discipling others. The ultimate success will be when a disciple multiplies by starting a new DG.
- The Community Group leaders must be actively seeking to start a DG.
- The Community Groups must continue to support and encourage its members to reach out to people in their relational circles. They must also welcome and enfold the new disciple into their group from the DGs.
- The movement is fueled through the testimonies of lives being changed.

Sunday Worship

- We believe corporate worship is still important because it offers people an opportunity to receive biblical teaching, musical worship, and a sense that they are part of something bigger than themselves.
- God's kingdom will grow as we go out and fulfill our commission of making disciples by starting new DGs. This will lead to more Community Groups and more people participating in corporate worship.
- As more Community Groups get started we may be able to start new corporate worship services in geographic areas where there is a concentration of Community Groups. However, starting new corporate worship services is not as important as multiplying DGs and Community Groups.

Sunday Worship

- Even though Community Groups will take communion, we will still offer this at our corporate worship service because there could be people who are not part of a Community Group that still come to worship service.
- When someone wants to be baptized we will encourage and empower the person who led them to the Lord to baptize them. The baptism can still be done at the corporate worship service in order to encourage the entire church family.

FAQ's

Q: How long should the DG last?

A: About a year to 18 months.

Q: How long should each meeting last?

A: Between 1 – 2 hours.

Q: How often should the DG meet?

A: Ideally weekly or 3x/month but at least 2x/month.

FAQ's

Q: How often should a Community Group meet?

A: 2 – 4x/month.

Q: Can a person disciple someone of the opposite gender?

A: We do not recommend this. However, a couple can disciple another couple.

Q: If someone joins our DG midway through the study should we start over?

A: If within the first couple of weeks then yes, otherwise no.

FAQ's

Q: Will this impact our Sunday worship service?

A: Possibly. In the future we may reduce our Sunday ministries if we discern that it can help free people up to engage with non-believers and start DGs. We also want to encourage people to prioritize starting DGs and participating in Community Groups above serving in our worship service ministries.

Q: Why is it more important to invite a disciple to a Community Group than a Sunday worship service?

A: We feel that life transformation is most likely to occur in a community group. It's not our intent to diminish the importance of corporate worship service but to emphasize the importance of our Community Groups.

FAQ's

Q: Will this impact our ROCK ministry?

A: No but we do want to see Christian parents actively involved in discipling their own children (and any non-Christian friends their children have.)

Q: Will this impact our Student ministries?

A: The students will be challenged to reach out to their unbelieving friends and sow gospel seeds as well. However, instead of starting their own DG they will be encouraged to invite them into their own Community Group (small groups).