



DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Heartbeat of the Church



When Jesus began his ministry the first disciples he called were two brothers, Simon and Peter (Matthew 4:19). Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me.”



Today, Jesus makes the same invitation to one and all. Anyone who believes Jesus is God's Son and follows him is a disciple. Disciples accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and submit to him as Teacher and Master. In the Greek, the word for 'disciple' is '*mathetes*,' which means pupil, learner or apprentice.

Followers of Jesus are witnesses to Jesus' Gospel (good news) of salvation. They learn how to live worthily of their Lord and his Gospel as a *community of believers*, which is the Church, and bear witness to God's glory.

One way to help realise your calling and responsibility as a disciple is to join a small group of like-minded believers. Small group fellowships allow you to connect, learn and grow. In Hope EFC, we call these small groups **Discipleship Groups**.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP (DG): For Faith & Fellowship

The Gospel of Jesus is about restoration of humankind's broken relationship with God, and then among people. This makes relationships in the Body of Christ an important visible expression of our faith. A DG brings people together to build community and help everyone to live worthily of their calling as God's children.



CONNECT

To connect is to build relationships

The life of faith in Christ is better expressed when we understand that we were not meant to walk alone. A DG small group affirms believers as members of Christ's Body and commits to Scripture's 'one-another' principle to demonstrate grace and provide support in our often messy lives. In 1 Thess 5:11 Paul called on believers *"to encourage one another and build each other up."*



GROW

Spiritual life has to be cultivated

Growth is a sign of life. In a DG, we learn from one another, explore and study Scripture, pray and discover our place in God's Story. Followers of Jesus seek to grow and mature to reflect the likeness of the Lord they love (2 Peter 3:18). As a member of a DG, you are taking one of several intentional steps towards spiritual maturity.



WORSHIP

To worship is to give God prominence

Worship is the all-embracing activity of glorifying God in every sphere of life, wherever we may be, seven days a week. Jesus seeks true worshippers who worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). To

worship in spirit and truth is to worship from a grateful heart that is touched by the grace of God and our justification in Christ. Every DG points a disciple to Jesus and say, *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'* (Matt 4:10)



Service is simply love in action

Jesus said he came to serve and not to be served. In John 13:14,15 The cross of Jesus defined the shape of servanthood for His followers. By being a part of a DG, we learn how to bear one another's burden and serve as Christ served us.

Scripture speaks of serving God as serving other people—whether they are within the church or in the wider community (Col 3:23,24) and especially the poor, needy, and vulnerable. However, we must always bear in mind that we are not saved by serving, but we are certainly saved to serve.



Starting out is a simple thing.
But continuing the journey will take a bit
of doing. Join us as we discover God's
purpose for our lives together.

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