

DNA Group Training

I. DNA Groups: Definition, Purpose, and Culture

- A. Definition - small, gender specific gathering of 2-4 disciples of Christ who, through building a trusting, Christ-focused relationship, are helping each other become transformed into Christ's likeness.
- A. Focuses on:
 - 1. Abiding relationally with Christ
 - 2. Hearing God's Word and Spirit
 - 3. Obeying God's Word and Spirit
- B. Two main areas to apply the above areas:
 - 1. Covenantal Relationships ("What are you hearing regarding nurturing your connection with Him? What are you hearing regarding your spouse? What are you hearing regarding your workplace? What are you hearing regarding your children? Or friends?")
 - 2. Kingdom Responsibilities ("How are you impacting your workplace with the gospel and the love/light of Jesus?" "How are you ministering the love/joy/peace of Jesus to your spouse? children?")
- C. Five purposes of a DNA group
 - 1. Help each other love, follow and obey Jesus Christ
 - 2. To read and apply the Word of God to our everyday lives
 - 3. To pray for those who do not have Christ or who are not in a biblical healthy spiritual family.
 - 4. Building loving relationships with those who are not in Christ for the purpose of sharing the good news of the kingdom.
 - 5. To follow up and disciple those who have just come to Christ.
- D. Culture of the Group
 - 1. The grace of God and affection of God is kept in the forefront of each members mind.
 - 2. Transparency in conversation.
 - 3. Confidentiality with what is shared.
 - 4. Each person is given time to share.
 - 5. Develop an atmosphere where one is able to confess sin and be vulnerable and see wrong thinking exposed in a loving, encouraging environment.
 - 6. Generous amounts of encouragement and affirmation.
 - 7. Prayer for each other.
 - 8. Celebrating the fruit that develops in each other's lives!

I. DNA Group Practices

A. Weekly Practices (initiated by DNA group facilitator)

1. Meet at least one hour a week for a life cycle of at least 6 months - 1 year.
2. Answer two main questions a week:
 - i. What have you been hearing from God's Word and His Spirit this week?
 - ii. How are you obeying what you hear?
 - iii. Those questions specifically point to the areas of:
 1. Covenant relationships (God, family, workplace, friends).
 2. Dominion mandate for advancing the kingdom on earth.
4. Other possible questions that may be asked down the road:
 - iv. What do you see in my life that encourages you? ("I notice that...")
 - v. What do you see in my life that you would like to caution me about?
 - vi. Is there anything else you would like to tell me?
5. Bible Reading
 - i. Select book of the Bible to read together or Bible reading plan.
 - ii. Answer the questions in relation to covenant relationships and kingdom responsibilities:
 - a. What do I hear?
 - b. How am I obeying?
6. Harvest prayer - target the "people of peace" in each other's lives with prayer each time!

B. Introducing Someone New to DNA Groups

1. Do they receive the invitation and challenge to be a disciple of Christ? Or are they the "person of peace" that Jesus describes, who may not have professed Jesus as Savior and Lord, but they display openness to you?
2. Current group agrees the person is ready to actively participate and they welcome another person.
3. Expectations are clear and upfront.
 - i. Time commitment
 - ii. Priority of DNA groups in weekly schedule - plug DNA groups into your schedule.
 - iii. Openness and vulnerability
 - iv. Confidentiality

C. DNA Group Multiplication

1. Qualifications for new DNA group facilitator:
 - i. Has been trained in how to facilitate a DNA group.
 - ii. Has been in a DNA group prior (after DNA groups launch).
2. Your original DNA group stays intact when ready to multiply in order to continue supporting, encouraging and challenging one another in the Lord (They can reevaluate after a year whether they want to continue meeting)

- i. Person who invites the fourth person starts a new DNA group with the fourth person after meeting with current group for a max of four weeks.
 - ii. Purpose of meeting as a group of four temporarily is for the fourth person to “catch the spirit” of what is going on during a DNA group.
- 3. “Person of peace” - Further additions to the group can be from those who are growing in their “God-consciousness” and who express interest in engaging in conversation about Jesus.
 - i. Complete the DNA Group Mission Field Sheet on page 228. Identify the current “person of peace” in your life.

II. DNA Group Facilitator Training and Accountability

- A. Contacted monthly by a single, designated DNA group coach/support person to check on health of the group/encouragement/prayer support.
 - 1. Coach also checks to see if there are any testimonies to be shared in the large group celebration.
 - 2. Coaching tapers off after 6 months or as needed (Core Family Group leaders take on the role of “DNA Group Coach”).
- B. Commitment to the group for a year.
 - 1. At that time, the DNA coach will help group evaluate who is able to become a DNA facilitator.
 - 2. The goal is that each person will be a DNA group facilitator after approximately a year.
 - 3. Each person will attend a DNA group facilitator training and begin their own DNA groups.
 - 4. The sending group can continue to meet as they have if they all find it mutually beneficial to the group.
- C. Role of DNA Group Facilitator
 - 1. Initiate bonding within the group.
 - a. Share personal testimonies.
 - b. Initiate outside times of bonding/hanging out casually.
 - 2. Initiate the questions: What are you hearing? What are you doing about it? Be vulnerable first!
 - 3. Initiate the plan for the weekly meeting. (“What day of the week are we meeting on?”)
 - 4. Initiate Bible reading plan
 - 5. Initiate harvest prayer time