

# Intentional Discipleship Groups @ Grantham Church

## The Vision

Our call as Christians – and our commitment as a church – is to make disciples who make disciples (Matt 4:19; 28:19-20). These are groups that help us to be intentional about investing in our relationship with Christ and leading others to the God who looks like Jesus (2 Tim 2:1-2). This is not another program, but a response to our central calling. In short, these groups are spaces for **intentional discipleship that multiplies**.

## Key Elements

### Intentional

- Groups are leader-initiated, not coordinated or assigned by church staff. Leaders prayerfully seek the Lord in who to ask to be part of their discipleship group.
- Groups are composed of 3-4 men or women who are hungry to grow as disciples and learn alongside others to live out their faith in all areas of life. Participants also desire to eventually make disciples themselves.
- Groups meet weekly, usually for about 60-75 minutes, at a time that works well for each group member.

### Discipleship

The basic DNA of each group will include:

- **Bible:** there is not a curriculum, but participants immerse themselves in Scripture, typically reading about 7-20 chapters of the Bible each week. The Bible sets the direction for discipleship. Reading larger portions of Scripture enables group members to see the bigger story of the gospel and pick up on themes which help us understand the heart of God for broken people.
- **Openness:** participants commit to being open and honest about their life's struggles, fears, and sins, as well as their hopes, longings, and victories. As each person shares, group members encourage and challenge each other with truth *and* grace.
- **Obedience:** The Scriptures and the Holy Spirit call us into obedience, so group members always want to be asking each other "what is God saying to you and what are you going to do about it?"
- **Mission:** Jesus calls us to join in his work of redemption, so these groups do not only exist for themselves. We want to have an outward orientation where we recognize that God blesses and works in us so that we can be a blessing to others. Through these groups, participants grow into better neighbors, friends, co-workers, spouses, etc. Members pray for one another to have increased opportunities to develop relationships with non-believers and spur one another on to share the gospel in word and deed.

This four-fold DNA can be summed up this way: **word-fueled obedience to Jesus, in an open and honest community, for the sake of our neighbors.**

### That Multiplies

Jesus set the paradigm of passing on the faith so that more can experience his goodness and grace. After about a year together, group members will prayerfully consider who God might be leading them to invest in (Luke 6:12) and invite to be part of a new group of their own.