

# FPCA Discipleship -Groups

Fall 2025



*Go into all the world and make disciples-Jesus*

*Spiritual formation cannot, in the nature of the case, be a 'private' thing, because it is a matter of whole-life transformation. You need to seek out others in your community who are pursuing the renovation of the heart.*

-Dallas Willard

## **Our Mandate is our Opportunity**

The word for “disciple” can also be translated *follower* or *apprentice*. An apprentice sticks closely to the master, learning how to do what he does, becoming like him in the process. So, to be a disciple of Jesus we spend time with him, follow him closely, slowly become like him and do the things he did.

Jesus trained his followers in *groups*- sometimes groups as small as 3, sometimes with the 12, other times in larger crowds. In groups, we learn from the questions asked by others. We begin to practice what we learn. We help one another stay focused on the Master and find our back when we veer off course. **Followers of Jesus train with others.**

### **Anatomy of a Discipleship Group**

Discipleship Groups (D-Groups) can take many forms but are, by definition, groups of people in training as followers of the Master.

D-Groups can focus on books of the Bible or on specific spiritual topics. They can meet during a defined time period, such as a semester, or indefinitely, as a community. They can be as small as just three or four or as large as twelve or fifteen.

Jesus demonstrated what it is to live a life of sacrificial love. As his followers, our goal is to become the people of love we were created to be. Being part of a group of fellow imperfect people can be a training ground, a crucible, as together we learn, grow, become transformed.

Groups meet on a regular basis. Some meet weekly, others two or three times a month. Group members spend time together. They study the life of Jesus. They pray for one another. They serve the people around them and they make disciples. They may share a meal together. **Disciples share their lives with one another and help each other see Jesus in every situation.**

## **What happens in a D-Group?**

Group members share their lives, dive into Scripture and/or a topical study related to living out our faith, and pray with and for one another. Every group member is a learner.

## **How do I join a D-Group?**

Throughout the month of September, you will have opportunity to review group options and sign-up using the online registration.

## **How long will the group meet?**

Some groups run on a semester basis. Some groups are “life groups” meaning that they do not have a set end point. Some groups begin as semester groups but decide to continue meeting together. *All groups are ready to welcome new members this fall.*

## **D-Groups don't fit my life right now. Is there another way to connect and grow?**

There are seasons in life during which joining a D-Group may not work for you. Still, meeting together with other Christians is important to grow as a disciple of Jesus. For you, a Discipleship Trio or Quad may be the answer. D-3s and D-4s can meet anywhere and anytime that works. A walking trail, café, kitchen, or bar might fit your needs. Invite two or three other people to meet with you each week for a set length of time, often 60 minutes, to talk about a Bible passage and how it applies to your life, and to pray for one another.

## **Group Offerings**

### **Practicing the Way**

**When and Where:** The second, third, and fourth Tuesdays of each month beginning October 14 from 6:30-8:00 at the Ferrarello home in Blue Bell. We begin with a soup supper. One night you won't have to cook!

**Description:** The Practicing the Way course features eight sessions of teaching, guided conversation, and spiritual exercises designed to lay a foundation for lifelong apprenticeship to Jesus. Over eight sessions, we will form a foundational understanding of intentional spiritual formation. We'll explore how to follow Jesus in our busy, distracted, and increasingly secular culture.

**Materials:** The book *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer is recommended but not necessary. A companion guide will be provided.

**For more information:** For more information contact Carmen ([decarmeister@gmail.com](mailto:decarmeister@gmail.com)) or Debi Ferrarello ([Debi@FPCAmbler.org](mailto:Debi@FPCAmbler.org)).

**Register here:**



## **Men's Morning Bible Study**

**When and Where:** This group meets every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 am via Zoom.

**Description:** This one-hour online group meets to share prayer concerns and to read and discuss the Scripture for the upcoming Sunday morning. All men are welcome.

**Materials:** Bible, notebook

**Facilitator:** Pastor Don Kazan- Email [pastordonald48@gmail.com](mailto:pastordonald48@gmail.com) for the link.

## **Exploring the Word**

**When and Where:** Pastor Don Kazan leads this group in the chapel at Normandy Farms on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3 pm. **All are welcome.**

**Description:** This is an in-depth study of a book of the Bible, chosen by the group. Join us as we explore how to live in response to God's great love expressed in his Word. The group enjoys lively discussion centered on what the passage means to us in every day life. Pastor Don closes with prayer for concerns expressed by the group.

**For more information:** Contact Pastor Don Kazan ([pastordonald48@gmail.com](mailto:pastordonald48@gmail.com)).

## **Koinonia**

**When and Where:** Koinonia meets every other Tuesday from 7:15 to 9:00 pm. This group rotates between several hosting homes and leaders send a message to let members know where to meet each time.

**Description:** We call ourselves Koinonia because our focus is on walking together through life's ups and downs. We open with a time of fellowship and catching up, study, then end with a time of prayer for each other. We do an inductive study of a book of the Bible led by Pastor Don Price. Don makes Scripture accessible and relevant. We are currently studying the book of Luke. Join us!

**Materials:** Bible, notebook

**For more information:** Contact Don (DonPricePA@gmail.com) or Sandy Price (aljmorales2012@gmail.com).

**[If you're new to the group register Here](#)**



## **LIFT Sisters: Living in FaithTogether**

**When and where:** LIFT Sisters meet in the church lounge on the second and fourth Mondays from 7-8:30 pm **beginning on September 8.**

**Description:** This year LIFT will be studying Kay Arthur's book *Loving God and Others*. We are a group for women combining study with prayer and fellowship. Whatever level of familiarity you have with the Bible, you are welcome to join us to connect and learn together.

**Materials:** Kay Arthur's book (optional), Bible and notebook

**For more information:** Contact Laura Keyser ([laukeys@gmail.com](mailto:laukeys@gmail.com)) or Holly Stevens ([Holly.H.Stevens@hotmail.com](mailto:Holly.H.Stevens@hotmail.com)).



**[New to the group? Register here.](#)**

## **Wednesday Morning Bible Study for Women**

**When and where:** This group meets on Wednesdays from 10:30 am until noon in the Ambler home of Kent Selko.

**Description:** The group studies various books of the Bible chosen by consensus with the central belief that "In Christ alone our hope is found, He is my Light, my Strength, my Song."

**For more information:** Contact Laura Keyser (215-205-5183 / [laukeys@gmail.com](mailto:laukeys@gmail.com)).





## **Bible Explorers**

**When and where:** Please join us every other Thursday evening at 7PM in various homes in the Ambler area.

**Description:** Fellowship, good food and drink, and the opportunity to explore wonders and gifts in God's Word. Our group is open to new members, age agnostic, and has both single and married members. We generally do not assign homework and it is OK if you need to miss a meeting. Much of God's Word is about relationships---our relationship with Him and our relationships with one another. Through exploring books of the Bible, we hope to learn more about ourselves, our relationships with others, and our relationship with God.

**For more information:** Contact Anne Whitney (annekwhitney@protonmail.com / 215-718-3567) or John Richards (john.richards756@yahoo.com / 215-534-6749).



**[If you're new to the group, register here.](#)**



## **Women of the Bible**

**When and where:** Women of the Bible meet every other Wednesday from 7-8:45 pm in local members' homes.

**Description:** The Women of the Bible small group engages with the Bible in a profound way, seeking to understand its deeper meanings and implications, rather than simply reading the surface level of the text. Our studies involve spiritual formation, connecting with a faith community, and engaging in practices that deepen our relationship with our Lord.

**For more information:** Contact Sandy Price ([aljmorales2012@gmail.com](mailto:aljmorales2012@gmail.com) / 503-332-3377).

**If you're new to the group, register here.** 



## **Calling All Artists!**

This is your opportunity to be part of a brainstorming session about expressing faith through art. Inspired by the book *Art and Faith*, by Makoto Fujimura, Leslie Wise invites artists of all media- music, motion, visual- to come pray, dream, envision how we might create space for faithful expression and exploration here in Ambler. Join us in the lounge on Tuesday, October 21, from 7-8:30 pm, and let's see how the Spirit leads!



## **Monthly Gatherings for Community and Study**

### **Grace Full Moms**

**When and where:** First gathering of the year will be at the home of Karen Kooman on Thursday, October 9, at 7 pm. The group meets monthly, usually on the second Thursday.

**Description:** Grace Full Moms is for mothers of any age - a place to connect, find support, share laughter, and grow together in faith. Discover the joy of being part of a community that understands and uplifts.

**Materials:** Nothing to bring. Come as you are.

**Facilitators:** Elizabeth Schoenberg, Karen Kooman, and Carrie Meersman. Contact Karen for more information ([klkooman@comcast.net](mailto:klkooman@comcast.net)).

### **Monthly Men's Breakfast**

**When and Where:** Stay tuned...The men are deciding when, where, and how to meet while the church kitchen and fellowship hall are under construction.

## **Discipleship Trios and Quads (D-3s and D-4s)**

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*

-Jesus

Matthew 18:20



*God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.*

C. S. Lewis

## **What is a discipleship trio/quad?**

Maybe an established group doesn't fit your schedule...Or maybe you are looking for something a bit more intimate. Many find meeting with a group of just three or four to be helpful in their spiritual formation. People in the group might include friends or neighbors who are not part of our congregation. How to find these people? PRAY and then ask. No one minds an invitation. You may even find the person you ask has been praying!

The group decides when, where, and for how much time to meet, as well as the format. For example, a trio might decide to meet every week from 6:30-8:00 am in a coffee shop or from 3-3:45 for a walk, or from 7:30-8:30 pm in a home. There is a lot of flexibility as to format.

Below are some examples-

### **For a 45-minute gathering:**

10 minutes-Life updates

20 minutes-Bible study and discussion

10 minutes-Prayer

5 minutes-What to prep for following week

### **Here is another 45-minute option:**

In this format, each person listens to a podcast *during the week*. We recommend these hour-long teachings on Practicing the Way of Jesus by John Mark Comer.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1zHCuL4l1HsxTmoPKxPwk9?si=5c5093307e054aef>

10 minutes-Life updates

20 minutes-Discuss thoughts about podcast

15 minutes-Pray together

**For an hour-long gathering:**

10 minutes-Life updates

25 minutes-Watch Practicing the Way video

<https://www.practicingtheway.org/course>

15 minutes-Discuss the video

10 minutes-Pray together

**Need resources?**

You might decide to use the resources of *Practicing the Way* and would like Companion Guides. You might settle on exploring a book of the Bible and want a study guide. If you need resources or suggestions let Debi know. She will be glad (happy, thrilled, eager) to equip you and your group (Debi@FPCAmbler.org).

**I'm in! What do I do next?**

Start praying about who to invite to join you. Invite them.  
Determine date/time/length of your meetings. Add your info to the registration list.

**I am already in a Discipleship Group. Can I still be part of a Trio/Quad?**

These *very small* groups are more intimate than the typical discipleship group. You can certainly do both if your life allows.

**REGISTER HERE**







**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

CHURCH OF AMBLER

4 S. Ridge Avenue Ambler, PA 19002