

FPCA Discipleship -Groups

Fall 2024



*Living as disciples (apprentices, students, followers)
of Jesus...together*

Our Mandate is our Opportunity: Go and make disciples

Jesus said to "Go and make disciples of all nations." What does that actually *mean*? What is a disciple and how do we "make disciples?"

A disciple is an apprentice, follower, and student. To be a disciple of Jesus means to study his words and life and do what he did. What did Jesus do?

He turned people's focus toward God. He changed priorities. He forgave sins. He fed the hungry, had compassion on the sick, rewarded faith. Jesus tells us to love him with all our being and to love other people as ourselves. He tells us that when we give food to the hungry and water to the thirsty, or visit those in prison, we do it for him. Jesus *looked* at people and *saw* those who were unlovely, oppressed, on the margins. We are his disciples when we turn our hearts toward God, live in awareness of His presence, and love others with sacrificial love. Apprentices follow their teacher. Let's help each other follow Jesus

Living as a disciple of Jesus is revolutionary, radical, counter-culture. We are not meant to do it alone. We need the Holy Spirit and we need each other. Discipleship groups provide community and connection as we learn what it means to live as disciples in this secular age...together.

What happens in a D-Group?

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

How do I join a D-Group?

Throughout the month of September, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a group using the online registration form or on paper on Sunday mornings. You will also get to meet some of the group facilitators and ask any questions that you may have.

How long will the group meet?

Some groups run on a semester basis. The fall semester spans the months of October through December. Some groups are “life groups” meaning that they do not have a set end point. All groups are ready to welcome new members in October.

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. For you, a Discipleship Trio or Quad may be the answer. D-3s and D-4s can meet anywhere and anytime that works for you. 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 period of time, often 60 minutes, to talk about a Bible passage, how it applies to your life, and to pray for one another. Need help with a curriculum? We can help!



New Offerings for This Semester!

Practicing the Way

When and Where: Thursday evenings beginning October 3, 6:30-8:00, in the church lounge.

Description: An exciting new resource, 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 weeks, you'll form a foundational understanding of intentional spiritual formation. We'll explore how to follow Jesus in our busy, distracted, and increasingly secular culture.

[Source: <https://www.practicingtheway.org/course>]

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

Facilitators: Moses Kim and Carolyn Lamberth

Register here:



Bringing God's Word to Life through the Bible Project

When and Where: Thursday evenings from 7-8:15 pm at the home of Kim Henry, 912 Sturgis Lane, Ambler, PA.

Description: We will have fun doing the Bible Project's weekly playlist of Scripture, a video, and podcast together. Afterward, we will share our questions, thoughts, and insights to better understand the character of God and imagine what that means for our lives.

Materials: Bible, notebook

Facilitators: Kim Henry and Rob Weir

Register here:



Isaiah: Ancient Prophecy and Timeless Gospel

When and where: This group meets in the Ferrarello home in Blue Bell, less than 3 miles from the church on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 pm.

Description: Did you know that the prophet Isaiah preached the gospel centuries before the birth of Christ? The central message of Isaiah is a simple message—God saves sinners. We need God every day. Isaiah reminds us again and again that our hope is not in ourselves—it's in turning from our own way and turning to God in faith. Leaning on the book *Isaiah: Good News for the Wayward and Wandering* will challenge us all to reorient life to truly love what is good and just and merciful, experiencing an inward change of purpose, turning away from sin and toward godliness and dependency on Christ.

Materials: Bible and notebook.

Facilitators: Carmen and Debi Ferrarello

Register Here:



Something Different...

**The
Chosen
Watch
Party**



When and Where: Every other Wednesday evening, beginning October 2, 7-8:30 pm, at Diane Handwerk's home in Horsham.

Description: Come enjoy Season One of The Chosen, one episode every other week, in a comfortable living room setting. We will discuss the episode, how it compares with Scripture, and how it might apply to life. There will be popcorn, of course! This is a great way to introduce friends and neighbors to the life of Jesus.

Host: Diane Handwerk

Register Here:



Life Groups

Life groups don't stop at the end of a semester, allowing life-long relationships to form. October is an ideal month to check one out.

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.

Materials: Bible, notebook

Facilitator: Pastor Don Kazan- Email pastordonald48@gmail.com for the link.

Exploring the Word

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

Description: This will be 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.

Materials: Bible, notebook

Facilitator: Pastor Don Kazan

[Register Here](#)



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.

Materials: Bible, notebook

Facilitators: Don and Sandy Price

[Register Here](#)



LIFT: Living in Faith Together: Women of the Bible

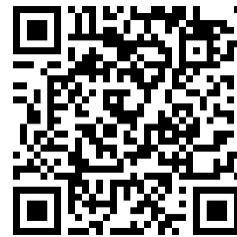
When and where: The church lounge on the second and fourth Mondays from 7-8:30 pm.

Description: this women's group combines Bible study with prayer and fellowship. We'll be studying Women of the Bible based upon Shannon Bream's bestselling book *The Women of the Bible Speak*.

Materials: You may want the book and workbook, but it is not obligatory.

Facilitators: Laura Keyser, Holly Stevens, and Denise Walters.

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



Fellowship Seekers

When and where: This group seeks fellowship with God and one another and meets in the homes of group members choosing to host, all of whom are local to the church. Meetings are every other Thursday from 7-8:30 pm.

Description: This is a 'life group' meaning that there is no set ending date, but participants range from those brand new to discipleship groups to those who have participated for many years. People are free to come and go as needed, and we especially welcome those who have never tried out a discipleship group - this is a safe place to start! October is the perfect time for someone new to join the group and seek fellowship.

Materials: Bible and notebook.

Facilitators: Anne Whitney and John Richards

For more info, contact John Richards, 215-534-6749
John.Richards756@yahoo.com or Anne Whitney 215-718-3567
AnneKWhitney@Protonmail.com



Monthly Gatherings for Community and Study

Grace Full Moms

When and where: First gathering of the year will be on Thursday, September 12, in the Lounge, 7-8:30 pm. We will discuss the best day and time to meet for future meetings.

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 you.

Materials: Nothing to bring. Come as you are.

Facilitators: Elizabeth Schoenberg, Karen Kooman, and Carrie Meersman. Contact Elizabeth for more information: meseas@verizon.net.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

When and Where: Saturdays at 8 am most months, 8-9:30 am. Next ones are September 21 and October 19.

Description: Enjoy a hearty breakfast prepared by Chef Klinger and discuss a Scripture passage at your table, led by Carmen Ferrarello. This is a great way to connect with other men and cut through the noise to what really matters. Contact Carmen for more information: Decarmeister@gmail.com

Women of the Church

When and Where: At the home of Peg Morris every second Tuesday at 11:00 am.

Lunch is provided.

Contact: Peg Morris, 215.886.3949

Discipleship Trios and Quads

(D-3s and D-4s)

What is a discipleship trio/quad?

Discipleship trios/quads are small groups of three or four people who meet weekly for 30-90 minutes for a pre-determined period of time, often 6 or 12 months, to look at life through a Gospel lens. To be a disciple is to learn to be a follower of Jesus as we journey through life. This spiritual growth is not solitary---we need each other.

How do I become part of a trio/quad?

Invite two or three people to join you! Determine when and where you would like to meet. This might be someone's home, a café, a walking trail, a bar, gym, or the library. You can decide to meet in the morning, afternoon, or night. You can decide to meet for 45 minutes, for an hour, or for 90 minutes. So flexible! The members of your D-3 or 4 need not all be part of FPCA. God's Kingdom has no membership borders. Not sure who to invite? We can help put you together with others.

What is the meeting format?

Each group member will have a passage to read and reflect on during the week. When you gather, take a few minutes to catch up, then discuss the passage and how it relates to what's going on in life. Finally share prayer together and continue to pray for each other throughout the week. A simple curriculum will be made available for all those who would like to use it.

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. Not sure about inviting? Put your name down on the list of those seeking a group.

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 your D3 or D4 here](#)

Do you have questions about any of these things? Please reach out to Debi Ferrarello. Debi@FPCAmbler.org.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH OF AMBLER

4 S. Ridge Avenue Ambler, PA 19002