

# FPCA Discipleship -Groups

## Winter 2024



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

## **Our Mandate: 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 January, 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?**

Most groups run on a semester basis. The winter semester spans the months of February through April. In May, there will be another opportunity to join a group for the next semester.

## **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 any time 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!

## **Thresholds and Portals**

**When and Where:** Meets Sundays at the church in Conference Room One from 1-3:30 on the following dates:

February 4, February 18, March 3, March 17, April 7, April 21

**Maximum Number:** 12

**Description:** Are you going through a transition in your life? Experienced a loss of any kind, no matter how recent? Feeling grief, perhaps? This Spirit-led, prayer-facilitated, Scripture-supported, and grace-based group gently helps people through hard times and lends itself to gospel-informed transformation. Participating in a creative-expression process helps open people to the Holy Spirit and becomes an experiential connection between your narrative and God, the ultimate Creator and Healer. Come find Jesus in your story. He's been there all along. With wisdom from tragic life experiences and certifications as both a Restorative Teaching Artist and Grief Support Specialist, Daune Marie has facilitated numerous creative-expression classes for groups from all walks of life, including those encountering homelessness, mental illness, addiction, and cancer. Suzy Moore will co-facilitate. No artistic talents necessary.

**Materials:** \$30 per person. Scholarships available. Talk to Debi@FPCAmbler.org.

**Facilitators:**

Daune Marie and Suzy Moore



**[Register Here](#)**



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

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

**Maximum Number:** 20

**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 Ryan Balsan



[Register Here](#)

## **Exploring Galatians**

**When and Where:** Pastor Ryan will lead this group in the lounge at the church on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3 pm.

**Maximum Number:** 20

**Description:** This will be an in-depth study of the grace-filled book of Galatians. Our human tendency is to try to earn our way into God's good graces. In Galatians, Paul shows us how backwards this is, that God loves us because he loves us. Join us as we explore how to live in response to this great love.

**Materials:** Bible, notebook

**Facilitator:** Pastor Ryan Balsan



[Register Here](#)



## **Koinonia**

**When and Where:** This group rotates between several hosting homes. Don and Sandy Price, Rick and Carol Kocher, and Betsy Figlear currently host. Group members are sent an updated invitation and text message to help you know when and where we're meeting. The group meets every other Thursday from 7:15 to 9:00 pm.

**Maximum Number:** 8-12

**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.

**Materials:** Bible, notebook

**Facilitators:** Don and Sandy Price



**[Register Here](#)**



## **Going Deep with the Beatitudes**

**When and Where:** Wednesdays, church lounge, 6:30-8:00 pm.

**Maximum Number:** 15

**Description:** You are invited on a 12-week journey deep into the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). This small group co-facilitated by Moses Kim and Sandy Price will meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the church lounge.

The purpose of this journey is to apply the spiritual wisdom of the Beatitudes to our everyday lives: to use the Beatitudes to explore the core teachings of Jesus, to put them into action, and to share our experiences with one another. *Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* (Matthew 7:24)

Each session will invite us to explore one phrase from the beatitudes, asking:

- How does this particular Beatitude resonate with you?
- What is the deeper reality or truth of each Beatitude?
- What are we invited to do in response to this invitation?

Snacks, study, connection, and challenge...all the ingredients for a meaningful experience as we find our identity in the Kingdom of God.

**Materials:** A donation of \$12 to cover imported materials and your Bible.

**Facilitators:** Moses Kim and Sandy Price



**[Register Here](#)**



## **Gospel of Mark**

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

**Maximum number:** 10

**Description:** We are called to be and to make disciples of Jesus. A disciple is a follower, student, or apprentice. To follow someone, we must know them and study their lives. Let's dive into the life of our Rabbi and Savior together as we study the book of Mark.

**Materials:** Bible and notebook.

**Facilitators:** Carmen and Debi Ferrarello



**[Register Here](#)**





## **Journey with John the Apostle**

**When and where:** This group meets in the homes of group members who choose to host, all of whom are local to the church. Meetings are every other Thursday from 7-8:30 pm.

**Maximum number:** 12

**Description:** We are called to be and to make disciples of Jesus. A disciple is a follower, student, or apprentice. To follow someone, we must know them and study their lives. Let's dive into the life of our Rabbi and Savior together as we study the book of John.

Some group members are D-group veterans and others are brand new to the experience. All are welcome! Come when you can.

**Materials:** Bible and notebook.

**Facilitators:** Anne Whitney and John Richards

For more info, contact John Richards, 215-534-6749

[John.Richards756@yahoo.com](mailto:John.Richards756@yahoo.com) or Anne Whitney 215-718-3567

[AnneKWhitney@Protonmail.com](mailto:AnneKWhitney@Protonmail.com)



**[Register Here](#)**



# **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](mailto:Debi@FPCAmbler.org).



**First Presbyterian Church of Ambler**  
**4 South Ridge Avenue • Ambler, PA 19002**  
**215.646.3030      [fpcambler.org](http://fpcambler.org)**

A place where lives are changed by Christ  
and we live out our faith together.

