

Community Group Study



Becoming 3D
Disciples

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Introduction

Welcome to our Community Group Study booklet. Over the next 6 weeks, we hope you are challenged by the group studies and discussions and inspired to dive deeper into your faith.

The Community Group Studies are designed to challenge you as a group of believers to wrestle with God's Word and apply what it teaches to your life as followers of Jesus. Each study has 3 areas of discussion followed by a time of prayer.

1. ***Discussion Starter...*** meant to help generate discussion and usually related to the theme of the study.
2. ***Diving in...*** discussion of the text itself and what it teaches.
3. ***Application...*** personal questions designed to help the group wrestle through the text as well as discussion on how we can apply what we have learned together as a Community Group.

Each study also follows our current sermon series and you can catch up on a missed sermon by going to our website and listening to the sermon www.gcalliance.org.

We hope you enjoy your Community Group experience and that it helps you dive into the deeper life in Christ!

In this particular study, there are a number of Scripture passages at the end of each of the dashboard indicators pages. If you want to explore these Scriptures and the 3D Disciple-making process further, they are there for you to use!

Discover Jesus

Taste and See!

DISCOVER DASHBOARD INDICATORS



One of the primary avenues of discovering Jesus is through committing yourself to corporate worship and making it a priority. Regularly attending Sunday services is a great indicator of your desire to grow in your faith and put God first in your life.



Getting into the word is a huge benefit to the believer's quest to continually grow in one's faith and discover Jesus. Making the word a priority in your life by regularly delving into the scriptures is a key indicator of your desire for God.



Posture is everything. If it is your desire to grow in your faith, it begins with a humble, open and teachable attitude. You can attend church and read your Bible religiously, but if your posture is not right, you will only grow a hard heart.



Prayer is one of the starting points for discovering Jesus and it is an essential aspect of your continuing desire for on-going discovery in your journey of faith. At its core it is a conversation with God and a massive indicator of how your relationship with Jesus is doing.

Related Texts: John 1:35-51; 15:1-17; 17:20-26; Psalm 1, Psalm 119; Psalm 34; Romans 10:17; 2 Cor 4:1-6; Heb 10:25; Is 66:1-2; 1 Pet 2:1-3

Group Study 1: Discover Come & See

READ JOHN 1:35-51

READ ROMANS 10:17

READ PSALM 34:8-10

Discussion starter

What is the most memorable advertisement you've seen?
How was it able to capture your attention and memory?

Diving in...

1. In John 1, Jesus invites the disciples on a journey of discovery to "come and see" who he really was, instead of trying to convince them to follow him by listing his credentials. Why do you think Jesus uses this approach instead of wowing them with some great explanation and demonstration of who he was?
2. The "come and see" approach that Jesus used is very disarming and inviting – not all like the "in-your-face" styles of evangelism we often see Christians employ. If Christians started more intentionally making friendships with people and using Jesus' approach, what do you think the outcome would be? Explain.
3. In the story Jesus tells Nathaniel what he was doing before he came with Philip to meet him. If Jesus did that to you, would you believe he was God? If so, then why did so many people choose not to believe Jesus even though they saw some of his greatest miracles?
4. The psalmist challenges his readers to taste and see that the Lord is good. Explain how this has been true in your life.

Application...

5. Philip uses the same approach Jesus used to invite Nathanael to meet Jesus. Are you intentionally inviting others to come and see Jesus in your life and to come and see what Jesus is all about at our church? If not, what's holding you back?
6. Paul says in Romans that faith begins by hearing the word of Christ. If we want people we know and love to discover Jesus, it begins by hearing the message of Jesus. Is it a priority in your life to help people you are in relationship with discover Jesus? What evidence is there in your life that would confirm that this actually is a priority?

Group Prayer Time

In your group's prayer time with each other, begin by praying that God would put a desire in your hearts and a continual thirst to continually discover him more and more.

Continuing in prayer...

Pray for our community of Cold Lake and that we would be a light shining in the darkness of our community

Pray for our church

Pray for salvation for lost friends (have each group member share a friend/couple/family they want to see become Christians)

Pray for each other (personal requests)

Group Study 2: Discover I Want to Be a Tree!

READ PSALM 1

READ PSALM 119:1-16

READ HEBREWS 10:19-25

Discussion starter

How relevant do you think the Bible is to your life in specific, and to our generation and culture in general?

Diving in...

1. The imagery of Psalm 1 is one of incredible health and vitality as a tree by a stream of water is continually nourished. The stream represents God's word. If you are a "tree" as a Christian, are you intentionally drawing nourishment from God's word? Why or why not?
2. According to this Psalm, the outcome of continual nourishment or discovery is fruit. What do you think this fruit looks like in the life of a believer?
3. What do you think it means to "meditate" on God's word?
4. The best way to describe Psalm 119 (in my humble opinion!) is that it "gushes" about how amazing God's word is. Is it possible for you to feel the way the Psalmist feels about the Bible? How does one get to think and feel like the Psalmist does?
5. One of the dashboard indicators in the life of a believer is making it a priority to participate in Corporate worship – i.e. go to church – yet our culture is very antagonistic towards this idea. How important do you think attending and participating in corporate worship is to your on-going discovery and growth as a believer?

Application...

6. How are you doing when it comes to the 4 Discovery Dashboard indicators in your life? Are there potential gateways that can help you in the areas you are low in?
7. What can you do as a group to encourage each other and spur one another on to growth in these 4 areas?

Group Prayer Time

In your group's prayer time with each other, begin by praying that God would put a deep love for his word and for his church in your heart.

Continuing in prayer...

Pray for our community of Cold Lake and that we would be a light shining in the darkness of our community

Pray for our church

Pray for salvation for lost friends (have each group member share a friend/couple/family they want to see become Christians)

Pray for each other (personal requests)

How Am I Doing?



Church _____

Bible _____

Posture _____

Prayer _____

Demonstrate Jesus' Life Conformed into His Image

DEMONSTRATE DASHBOARD INDICATORS



Jesus said, "if you love me, you will obey my commands" – a very unpopular statement for independent autonomous people. Obedience begins with baptism and continues as we strive to be Spirit-filled disciples who follow Jesus' example by aligning our discovery with our practice.



Jesus lived in community and gave us the church so that we too could live in community with other believers. The practice of authentic community brings accountability and stability to our walk with Christ while keeping us from the pitfalls of trying to live the Christian life on our own.



Jesus came to serve not to be served. A believer who is committed to demonstrating the life of Christ will also desire to be a servant. If you do not serve, you will not grow.



Our God is generous and he desires his people to be generous. Jesus said, "where your treasure is there your heart is also". Generosity with time, money, energy and attitude and support of the mission of the Church is an indicator of your heart.

Related Texts: 1Jn 2:1-5; Rom 8:1-17, 28-29; Col 3:1-17; 1 Cor 12:12-31; Gal 2:20-21; 5:16-26; Phil 1:27-30; 2:12-18; James 1:26-27; 2:14-26; Heb 12:1-4; 1 Pet 1:13-15; 4:7-11; Matt 6:19-21; 7:15-27; 20:25-28; 22:34-40; Jn 13:12-17; 15:1-17; 14:23-24; Eph 2:10; 4:1-16; 5:1-21; 2 Cor 8:1-15; 9:6-15

Group Study 3: Demonstrate Walk as Jesus Walked

READ 1 JOHN 2:3-6

READ GALATIANS 2:20-21; 5:16-26

READ ROMANS 8:28-29

Discussion starter

What person has had the greatest influence in your life?
Explain why.

Diving in...

1. Why do you think John equates knowing Jesus with obedience? How can this be true without it becoming another way to try and work for your salvation?
2. John also says that obedience to God's word is an indicator that God's love has been made complete in you. Explain what this means and the implications of God's love been made complete in you.
3. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says that people will know you are Christians by your love for one another. Here John says the way Christians know that they are in Christ is that they walk as Jesus walked. How are these 2 statements related?
4. Paul explains what it looks like to live a Spirit-filled life in Galatians. Without the Spirit of Christ (aka. The Holy Spirit) living in us and through us it is not possible to walk as Jesus did. This is why Paul ends this passage with a note on becoming conceited – it's not us, it's Jesus! How does one live a Spirit-filled life?
5. How can a person know that the Spirit lives in them?

Application...

6. The passage in Romans is misused a lot by Christians. The reason all things work out to the good for those who love Jesus is that God is using everything as an opportunity to conform his people into the image of Christ – the purpose of the Christian life. What would you say is the purpose of your life? What evidence is there in your life that would confirm this?

Group Prayer Time

In your group's prayer time with each other, begin by praying that God help you to faithfully pursue his purposes for you and that he would give you the strength to align your life's purpose with his.

Continuing in prayer...

Pray for our community of Cold Lake and that we would be a light shining in the darkness of our community

Pray for our church

Pray for salvation for lost friends (have each group member share a friend/couple/family they want to see become Christians)

Pray for each other (personal requests)

Group Study 4: Demonstrate Faith, Works & Service

READ JAMES 2:14-26

READ COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

READ JOHN 13:12-17

Discussion starter

What is your dream job? Explain why it appeals to you.

Diving in...

1. After reading the passage in James, explain the relationship between faith and works. Can someone have a saving/living faith without good works? Why not?
2. Paul gives us a beautiful explanation of how to love one another and treat each other as members of one body. How do you think our church measures up in the areas mentioned by Paul?
3. It's very easy to point the finger at others who seem to be dropping the ball, but God wants you to live like the passage in Colossians teaches us. How are you doing personally in the areas mentioned by Paul? How can you grow in the areas you are weak in?
4. The picture painted for us in Colossians is an amazing example of how an authentic Christian community can look when we set our hearts on the things of Christ (Col 2:1-3). What would the outcome be if we started to live more like Paul outlines for us in the passage?
5. In the story we read in John, Jesus gives us an example of what a servant looks like and then tells his disciples to "go and do likewise". Why do you think serving and being a servant are so important to Jesus? Why is it important for you to be and do the same as Jesus?

Application...

6. One of the dashboard indicators in Demonstrate is generosity. Why do you think it is important for the Christian to be generous?
7. We often think of generosity as being financial, but finances are only a part of generosity. How is being generous related to the passages we read for our study today?

Group Prayer Time

In your group's prayer time with each other, begin by praying that God would place in your hearts a growing and vibrant faith that would overflow in kindness, gentleness, humility, compassion and love for one another. Ask that he would help us to become generous people even as our Heavenly Father is generous.

Continuing in prayer...

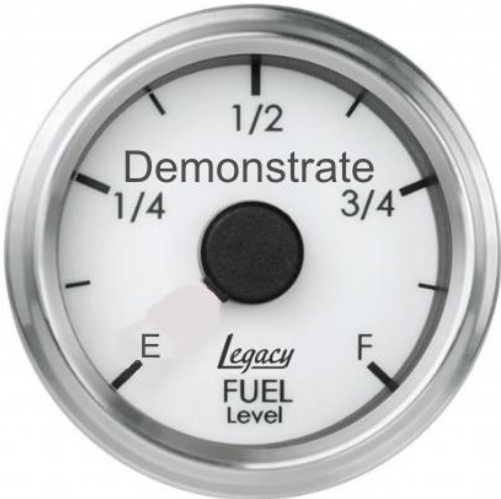
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Pray for each other (personal requests)

How Am I Doing?



Obedience _____

Community _____

Serving _____

Generosity _____

Duplicate Jesus' Heart

A Heart Like Jesus

DUPLICATE DASHBOARD INDICATORS



Jesus' mission for the church is to go make disciples, baptize them and teach them to obey Jesus. Our mission is the same – we call it our 3 Dimensional disciple-making process. Members of our church need to be on mission for Jesus to have a healthy and unselfish faith.



Once a believer is committed to on-going discovery and demonstrating the life of Jesus, duplicating Jesus' heart is the natural outcome. We desire our hearts to reflect the heart of Christ – to care about the things God cares about and to be conformed into the image of Christ.



Our goal as believers is to orient our lives around the message of Christ which is the power of God for those who are being saved. This means that the gospel needs to invade every aspect of our lives, both in living the gospel and sharing it with others.



We are called to be a thankful people as thankfulness is an indicator of whether the believer understands the gospel and recognizes what God has graciously given. An unthankful heart is an indicator that Jesus is not enough for you and that you need more. Jesus really is all we need.

Related Texts: Ezekiel 36:24-27; Is 66:2b; Romans 10:1-17; 12:1-2; Matt 5:13-16; 6:19-21; 28:18-20; Luke 15; 1 Pet 3:15-16; 2 Pet 3:9; 2 Cor 3:18; Phil 1:27-30; 2:1-11; Col 2:7-8; 1 Thess 5:18; 2 Tim 1:8-10; Heb 12:28

Group Study 5: Duplicate A Heart of Flesh

READ EZEKIEL 36-24-27

READ MATTHEW 5:13-16; 6:19-24

READ PHIL 2:1-11

Discussion starter

We often say about a person, "he has a good heart". What do we mean when we use this phrase?

Diving in...

1. The promise of Ezekiel is that God will pour out his Spirit upon his people and he will change their hard hearts into soft hearts. What does the bible mean when it uses the word "heart"? Why does God focus on our hearts?
2. The Sermon on the Mount found in Matt 5-7 gives us a beautiful picture of what God sees in us and what he is looking for. In the passage we read Jesus explains what type of people we are to "be". Explain how we can be salt and light at all times (at work, at play, at church, at home, etc.).
3. In Matt 6, Jesus shows that what we treasure is an indicator of where our heart is. How can you tell what your treasure is?
4. The point of the Matt 6 passage is summed up by Jesus saying you can only serve one master. If your treasure is not Jesus, than you are serving an idol. How can we make sure that Jesus alone is our treasure?
5. Paul tells us in Philippians that we need to be "like-minded" and have the same attitude as Jesus. What is this attitude that we are to have? Is it possible to have this attitude? If so, how? If not, why not?

Application...

6. After reading the texts and discussing the questions, what do you think it means to duplicate the heart of Jesus in your own heart?

Group Prayer Time

In your group's prayer time with each other, begin by praying that God would duplicate his heart in your hearts and that you would begin to care about the things that he cares about. Ask Jesus to show you what it means to truly have him as your treasure.

Continuing in prayer...

Pray for our community of Cold Lake and that we would be a light shining in the darkness of our community

Pray for our church

Pray for salvation for lost friends (have each group member share a friend/couple/family they want to see become Christians)

Pray for each other (personal requests)

Group Study 6: Duplicate Make Disciples!

READ MATTHEW 28:18-20

READ ROMANS 10:8-17

READ 1 PETER 3:15-16

Discussion starter

What is the greatest hindrance in your life in regards to sharing the gospel with others?

Diving in...

*In our previous study we focused on "being". God desires us to **be** people who have a heart like Jesus, who care about the things he cares about. In our passages in this study Jesus communicates very clearly what our mission is as the church: to go and make disciples. That is what we are to be "doing". When it comes to faith and church, the mission to make disciples needs to be at the forefront of ALL that we **do**.*

1. How do you think our church is doing when it comes to making disciples? Is it really our mission, or is it something we just like to talk about? What evidence is there to back up your thoughts?
2. Jesus included in the Great Commission what we are to do with these new disciples: baptize them and teach them to obey *everything*. Of all the instructions Jesus could have given in regards to disciple-making, why do you think he chose to emphasize baptism and obedience?
3. In our Roman's passage Paul makes it clear that people will not hear the message of the gospel unless we "preach"; however the word "preach" has negative connotations in our culture. Why do you think this is? What do you think is the most effective way of sharing the gospel with someone?

4. Peter tells us we should always be ready to tell others about the hope we have as Christian. Explain what "hope" Peter is talking about. Are you ready to share this hope? If not, what are some ways you can be ready?

Application...

5. Peter explains *how* we are to tell others about this hope (with gentleness, respect, and a clear conscience). Why is this important? Are Christians too pushy about getting other people to believe what they believe? Why or why not?
6. How can you as a Community Group help each other live and share the gospel?

Group Prayer Time

In your group's prayer time with each other, begin by praying that God would put a deep desire in your heart for the lost and that he would give you the courage and the opportunity to live and share the gospel with the people in your circle of influence.

Continuing in prayer...

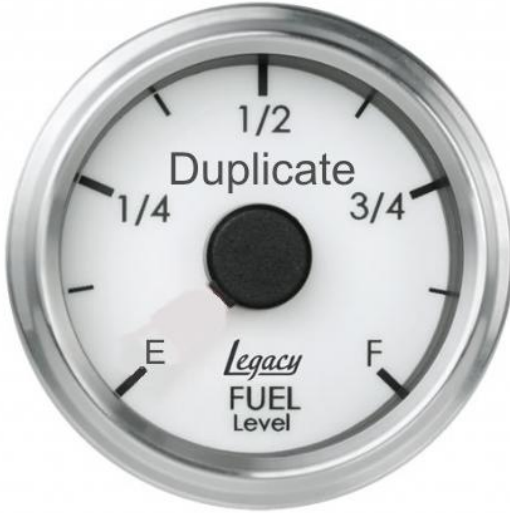
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Pray for each other (personal requests)

How Am I Doing?



Mission _____

Heart _____

Gospel _____

Gratitude _____

**Grand Centre
Alliance Church**