

Introducing and Multiplying DNA Groups (Part 2)



Series Goal

To provide an orienting vision and supporting structure with regard to discipleship in hopes that we might develop a “culture of discipleship” here at Mercy Hill. The aim is that it would become a normal thing here for people to be engaged meaningfully in each other’s lives, pursuing Christ together, and inviting unbelievers to join in.



Sermon Text

Matthew 28:16-20



Big Idea

“DNA Groups are smaller groups of committed people who meet on a consistent basis to *Discover, Nurture, and Apply* Christ together until He is all in all.”

Unpacking the Definition

(1) Discover, Nurture, and Apply—*Discovering* Christ simply means that we come to see more of Him—who He is, what He has done, what He teaches, what He promises. We uncover more of the glory of His person and work. We explore the width, breadth, height, and depth of His love for us at the cross. We get knowledge of Him in our heads.

Nurturing Christ takes the things discovered about Him and attempts to draw it all down into our hearts. We are not satisfied merely knowing truths about Christ with our heads, we want to relate to Him, trust Him, love Him, worship Him with all of our hearts.

Applying Christ looks to move all of this out into our lives. True and vibrant faith in one’s heart leads to love and obedience in one’s life.

(2) Smaller Groups—Because these groups aim for renewal in Christ at the “molecular” level, each member of the group must have space to Discover, Nurture, and Apply Christ for him/herself.

(3) Committed and Consistent—If we want to grow as a disciple towards Jesus, we must meet to pursue Him together on a regular basis.

(4) Together—Far better, I think, than the “me-over-you” model of discipleship is the “me-with-you” model that we see in the Scriptures. We are co-travelers—young and old, novice and mature, fresh and seasoned—behind Calvary’s King. I am not making you my disciple. I am inviting you to follow along with me as *His* disciple!

What this means is that every member of a given DNA Group should be operating within what I call the three relational dimensions of discipleship: *Leaning, Learning, and Leading*. By *Leaning*, we understand that no Christian is an island, that each member of Christ’s body needs the other. No one stands alone (cf. Rom 15:30-32). By *Learning*, we understand that every Christian, however mature in the faith, still has much to learn. Others have knowledge, experiences, and gifts that we don’t (cf. 1 Cor 3:18). By *Leading*, of course, I have the other side of this in mind. Every Christian, however new in the faith, has something to offer. Paul would say it is often upon the parts of the body we think insignificant and unimportant that God bestows the greatest honor (cf. 1 Cor 12:21-25).

(5) Until He Is All In All—There is nothing in your life beyond the bounds of Christ’s kingdom. There is nothing in your life so mundane, so menial, so commonplace that it cannot be redeemed in Christ and handled in such a way so as to bring glory to God. Every aspect of a disciple’s life ought to be increasingly brought under the Lordship of Jesus and transformed by His Spirit and grace.

Reflection Questions



- Identify one truth from God’s word that you know with your head (Discover) but haven’t been trusting lately in your heart (Nurture). What’s causing the breakdown? How can Jesus help? How might meeting with others in a small group help? If you were to embrace that truth in your heart, how would it affect your life (Apply)?
- Which of the three relational dimensions of discipleship (Leaning, Learning, Leading) will be hardest for you to live out? Why? Which comes most naturally? Have you ever been a part of a group where they were all functioning well?
- Would you say you are increasingly bringing all of your life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and doing it for His glory? Or are there areas you are either unwilling to give Him or unsure what surrendering to Him even looks like? What’s one aspect of your life where you need help seeing how the gospel applies?