



D-GROUPS

What are D-Groups?

D-Groups are in-depth discipleship groups of 3-5 students and 1-2 adults. The groups are gender and age specific. As modeled by Christ, we believe that the best way for students to grow spiritually (and all believers for that matter) is in the context of other like-minded believers. D-Groups are designed to facilitate and foster greater spiritual maturity by providing weekly gathering which will include prayer, accountability, relevant curriculum, spiritual equipping and encouragement.

When will they meet?

D-Groups meet 3-4 times a month from September to Mid- December. Then they will pick back up at the end of January and go until Mid-May. There are between 26 lessons/meetings each year. They are designed to last about an hour each week. Groups will meet at different times during the week so you will be able to select the time of the week that works the best for you.

Where will they meet?

Groups may meet in homes, at church, or in public places. As long as parents know and approve meeting location, groups are free to meet where they prefer.

What is the difference in D-Groups and Sunday School?

While Sunday School is great, we do not feel that Sunday School is designed to provide the level of discipleship we would like to see among our students. First, in Sunday School, students listen to a teacher who has prepared a lesson. For D-Groups all participants are expected to prepare for the sessions and to even help lead sessions. Second, Sunday School is an open group model, meaning any students are free to come to Sunday School as they please. In fact, we welcome and encourage guests to come. However, D-groups are closed groups. Once the groups are launched they will remain the same group until the end of the semester. The reason for this is to foster deeper relationship and to avoid someone new coming in mid-semester and disrupting the relational work that has been established. Third, D-Groups are designed to be high commitment. All participants will be expected to sign a covenant committing to making their D-group a high priority each week. If a student decides to sign up for a D-group he or she is expected to maintain his or her commitment until the end of the semester. Fourth, D-groups are intentionally small to allow students to have meaningful discussion and experience life-on-life discipleship.

What curriculum will the D-groups use?

Disciple6. Disciple6 is a curriculum designed by Southwestern Seminary specifically for the purpose small group discipleship. General topics will include: Apologetics, Core Doctrines, Servant Leadership, Biblical Interpretation, Ethics, Spiritual Disciplines, Biblical Relationships, Evangelism and Missions, and Biblical Worldview. There will be 13 lessons/meetings each school semester.

Who can sign up for a D-group?

Any 7th- 12th grade student who is a follower of Christ, actively involved in FBC Douglasville and is serious about taking their spiritual life to the next level. While exceptions will be made, we ask also that your parents be supportive of your decision to join. They must also be willing to sign our covenant, committing to driving you to your group if needed and encouraging you to do your work.

Can I decide who is my group?

You are free to make requests, however Jamie, Phillip and Tanya will make the final decision on who is in a group together. We will make every attempt to group students together that we feel will best connect together and foster healthy discipleship.

What kind of time commitment are we talking about?

Your commitment includes an hour to an hour and 15 min meeting each week for 26 weeks in a school year. In addition, you will need to spend 30 mins -1hr per week doing your lesson and preparing for D-Group meeting. Groups are also encouraged to get together on occasion for fellowship and service projects.

What if I don't feel I have the time for a D-Group?

If you do not feel that you can make this commitment at this point then we discourage you from signing up. It is not fair to the rest of your group to sign up then never show up or do your work. Having said that, while I recognize that these D-groups are not the only avenue for discipleship, if you are unwilling to make discipleship a priority I would simply ask that you evaluate your priorities. Your relationship with Christ is the most important thing you have. If you are not already involved in discipleship I would urge you to prayerfully consider joining a D-Group this year.

D-Group Application/Covenant

Name _____ Date of Application _____

Preferred Address _____

Phone _____ Your School: _____

Your Grade: _____ Email address _____

Gender (circle): Male Female

Please List the **three best** day/times of the week for you to meet

Please list day/times that absolutely **cannot** meet.

Parents' Name _____

Parents' Best Contact _____

Parents' Email _____

I have read and understood what is involved and commit to joining a D-Group for the 2017-2018 school year.

_____ (Student Signature)

I jointly commit to my child joining a D-Group for the 2017-2018 school year. I agree to encourage my child to attend all meetings and to make sure they have a ride if necessary.

_____ (Parent Signature)

Please complete, sign and turn in by August 27th. Your D-Group leader will be in-touch with you by the first week of September to let you know what group you are in and to establish a meeting time and location.