
4 Purposes of a Discipleship Team

SKILL

Overview:

A Discipleship Team is much more than a Bible study group. Discipleship Teams are small groups of people who are committed to seek God together, to support and love one another, to multiply their team as God causes growth, and to reach out into their community with the good news. Teams are where the very heart of Jesus' teachings can take place at a practical level.

Outline

I. Honor God.

- A. Desired result
 - 1. Worship
 - 2. Praise
 - 3. People seeking God
- B. Practical implementation
 - 1. Sharing time
 - 2. Prayer
 - 3. Bible Study/Discussion questions
- C. Success indicators
 - 1. Do people seem to be connecting with God during the prayer time?

II. Experience fellowship.

- A. Desired result
 - 1. Family atmosphere
 - a) People feel loved and accepted
 - b) People feel important - a sense of belonging
 - 2. People are united in purpose
- B. Practical implementation
 - 1. Fellowship and refreshment time
 - 2. Fun nights
 - 3. Ice breakers
 - 4. Discussion questions
 - 5. Mid-week calls/meetings
- C. Success indicators
 - 1. Do people talk some about spiritual things during the refreshment time?
 - 2. Do team members do things with each other mid-week?
 - 3. Are people in the Spirit during team meetings?
 - 4. Do people genuinely like each other and work to resolve differences?

III. Maturity (resulting in the development of leaders).

- A. Desired result
 - 1. Spiritual growth
 - 2. The development of a leader and more apprentices. (8 Requisites)
 - 3. Send a "delegation" to "Discovery" to gather newcomers into a new team.
- B. Practical implementation
 - 1. Apprenticeship
 - 2. Accountability
 - 3. Casting a vision
- C. Success indicators
 - 1. Is your apprentice maturing? Is your apprentice being followed?
 - 2. Are other team members growing spiritually? Is Jesus increasing?
 - 3. Do people have things to share in the sharing time?

IV. Unite to serve others beyond the group.

- A. Desired result
 - 1. Servant's hearts
 - 2. Growth
 - a) Spiritually
 - b) Numerically*(see note on the last page)
 - 3. Shine like lights - Matt 5:14-16
- B. Practical implementation
 - 1. Witnessing
 - 2. Inviting people to church & Team meetings. (If you group is getting too big, then helping new folks get involved w/ Discovery and finding a Discipleship Team there.* see note on last page)
 - 3. Serving
 - a) Within the church
 - b) Service projects
- C. Success indicators
 - 1. Are people getting saved and/or baptized?
 - 2. Are people outside your group being served?
 - 3. Are people serving in the church?

Supporting Material:

Verses:

Honor God

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

John 15:4-5 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5'I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Experience Fellowship

John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:46-47 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

1 Pet 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

I Jn 3:23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

I Jn 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

I Jn 4:11-12 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Maturity – develop leaders

Matt 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

Luke 6:40 A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

2 Tim 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

Unite to serve others

Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matt 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am

with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

Mark 16:15-16 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

1 Cor 3:7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

References:

Terry Bartley, *Discussion Groups: A Practical Guide to Successful Small Group Discussions*, Great Commission International, 1985

Leroy Eims, *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*, Zondervan Publishing House, 1978

*NOTE (referred to on front page)
As a church, we are capitalizing on the assimilation process that seems to be most effectively occurring, i.e. people coming on Sunday Morning and then desiring to become members. Discipleship Teams work together with the Discovery class by "training up a new leader." That leader (and maybe one more couple) is sent to the Discovery class with the expressed purpose of developing relationships that would eventually result in a new team.

If your Discipleship Team can effectively reach out to others and see them join your group, then there is no reason to prevent that (outside of a size concern or, maybe, a lack of fit demographically). Team members are still encouraged to invite new people provided that these people are still encouraged to go to the Discovery class and become church members.