

Connect Group Leadership Meeting

January 16, 2022 | 9:30 AM

THESE ARE NOTES FROM OUR MEETING THAT ALL CONNECT GROUP LEADERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF AND SHARE WITH THEIR CONNECT GROUPS.

Quick Housecleaning

- Rooms have gotten messy
 - Everything loose needs to be in a labeled bin or will be added to the lost and found or disposed of.
- Curriculum needs should be given to me the week new quarterlies are distributed. (Emails are best.)
- Regarding Your Connect Group...
Unless we explicitly state “no Connect Groups this week,” your group should plan to meet.

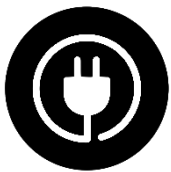


Framing Our Perspective Regarding Our Mission

- Matt. 28:18-20 – Jesus’ final charge to His followers was to make disciples. Not merely converts or shallow followers but disciples. “...and teach them **to obey** everything I have commanded you.” (v. 20)
- 2 Tim. 2:2 – Paul instructed Timothy, his spiritual son and disciple, to pass on what Paul shared with him to other faithful people.
- 1 Cor. 9:24-27 – Paul encouraged the Corinthian church to see the greater purpose of their lives and **compete to win** an eternal crown. This requires discipline and vision to achieve.

First Denham’s Discipleship Pathway | Connect, Grow, Serve, & Lead

As we endeavor at First Denham to achieve our **mission** and **vision**, we realize that everyone is on a real-life journey of faith. And this journey encompasses **four intentional movements** of every person in following after Christ (discipleship). Visit www.firstdenham.com/reallife for more information.



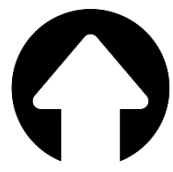
Connect



Grow



Serve



Lead

Purpose of Connect Groups and Grow Groups

Connect Groups

- Designed for Believers and Non-believers
- Open Group and Ongoing
- Bible Study with Life Application
- Evangelistic in Mindset
- Christian Community
- Opportunities to Utilize Spiritual Gifts in Service

Grow Groups

- Designed for Believers
- Closed Group and Limited
- Directed Study on a Specific Topic
- A Deeper Walk with God
- Life-Transformation

G3 Groups are a year-long intensive Grow Group focused on making disciples



A Golfing Illustration

In the game of golf, there are 3 types of clubs:

- Drivers (Long Distance) (Sunday Services)
- Irons (Approach) (Connect Groups)
- Putters (Short Game) (Grow Groups/G3 Groups)



While the drive and approach are important, most golfers will tell you the game of golf is won in the **short game**.

Moving People from the Lower Room to the Upper Room

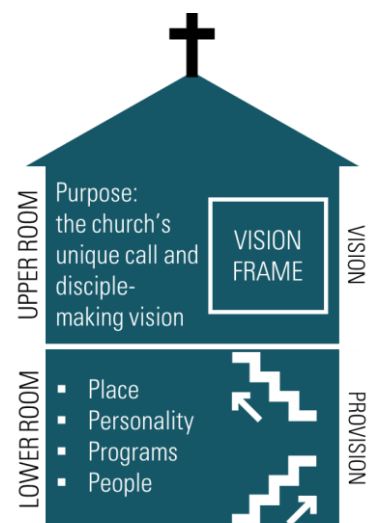
Will Mancini, in his book **Future Church**, explains how the modern context of church involves **two rooms**.

The first room is called the **lower room**. This is where most people who visit our church reside. They come for many reasons...

- **Place** (The proximity of the church to their home)
- **Personality** (The certain flavor of the community of the church and its leaders)
- **Programs** (The quality of ministries offered to individuals and families)
- **People** (The number of people they're familiar with)

This lower room is about **provision**. Providing an environment and opportunities for individuals and families to connect and become part of the church community.

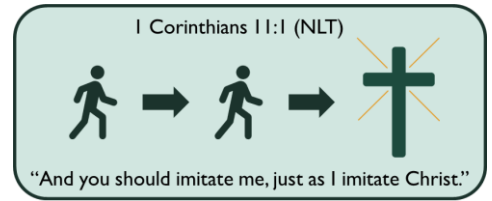
The lower room is a reality of the needs and desires each family has for the church they call "home." However, the lower room is not Jesus' intention for them to reside in forever. Jesus' mission is for us to usher people into the **upper room**.



So what is the “Upper Room?”

The **upper room** is about God’s **purpose** for the church. This includes the church’s unique call and **disciple-making vision**. We call this the **vision frame**.

Whereas the lower room is all about **provision**, the upper room is about leading people to grasp the gospel-driven **vision** and help others to realize it too. This is the place of **transformation**. Moving from “what can the church do for me”...to “what can I do for the Kingdom of God and to make the most of my time while on this earth.”



What does this mean regarding Connect Groups?

Our mission as a church is to reach the lost and lead them to be devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our vision is for this church to be a regional life-transformation center. To achieve these things, we have to change the way we look at Connect Groups?

No longer are Connect Groups just a place for people to find the spiritual provisions they need, Connect Groups are a place that, while accepting people who are new to this faith journey, seeks to usher members to see the bigger picture of Christ’s work in our world and take an active role in Jesus’ disciple-making vision.

- Who are those people in your group who need to take the next step in their faith journey?
- Who is God working on in your group to serve or lead in some capacity?
- Are our eyes open to see these people?

Questions to Consider for your Connect Group...



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MY
CONNECT GROUP?



HOW DO I ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE
FOR MY CONNECT GROUP?

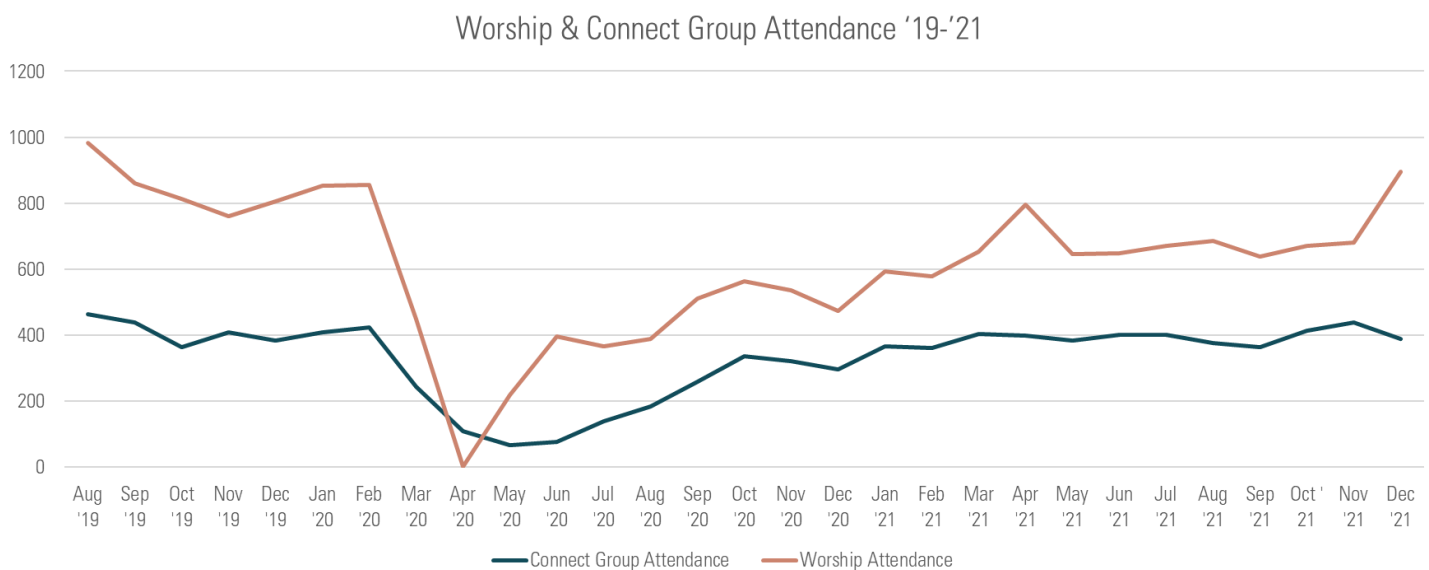


WHAT THINGS ARE HINDERING ME
FROM ACHIEVING MY PURPOSE?

Connect Group Snapshot

- Connect Groups averaged **389** across the year (2021)
 - **400** is our break-through barrier
- Peak Connect Group attendance = **498** (11/7)
- We broke the break-through barrier **19 times** in 2021
 - We broke the 425 barrier **5 times**
- Baptisms from Jan.-Dec. 2021 was **73 people**
 - Baptisms from Jan.-Dec. 2020 was **19 people** (COVID Shutdown)

Trends



What does this mean?

Attendance post-COVID has stabilized and averaged close to 400. No doubt COVID factors are still in play. Our evangelistic fervor was very strong in 2021 and look forward to a bright 2022 year of ministry impact! However, to push beyond the 400 barrier will require the launch of new Connect Groups to facilitate growth and evangelistic opportunity.

- For us to reach out beyond our current place and continue to be a life-transformation center, we'll need to be intentional about developing leaders within our group and releasing them to serve and lead.
- We also need to be intentional about approaching and inviting people to be part of our groups. Seeing "unfamiliar faces in familiar places." Seeing "familiar faces in unfamiliar places." And inviting "unfamiliar faces in unfamiliar places" to come be a part of what God is doing here at First Denham. Thinking through our family, friends, neighbors, and associates who are not connected to a faith community or know Jesus. **Remember: Connect Groups are just where we want unbelievers to be!**

Something to Chew On...

Famous Unattributed Quote

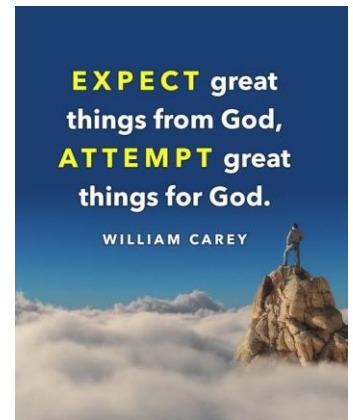
“Expect nothing and you’ll never be disappointed.”

Reality

Expect nothing and you’ll always be ineffective.

Going Forward!

“Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God” –William Carey



Connect Group 2025 Vision

“A Mindset of Being Missional Communities”

Benchmarks

01

Reach up to 650 in Connect Groups on a single week (Kids, Students, & Adults)

02

Reach a monthly average of 600 in Connect Groups

03

Start 20 New Connect Groups (5 new groups a year)

- Avg. Small Group is 15
- $650 \text{ (att.)} \div 15 \text{ (avg. pers.)} = \underline{43}$ Groups Total

Overview of the Connect Group 2025 Vision and Leader Training Emphases



How will we achieve our Connect Group Vision for 2025?

- Through prayer and with the Lord's help!
- Through "catching the vision" of the Great Commission in our Connect Groups
- Through **opening ourselves** to things outside our comfort zone for God's glory
- Through **organizing** your group for growth

Upcoming Events

- Grow Groups / FirstKid's Quest Begins Jan. 23 www.firstdenham.com/growgroups
- Serve Day Jan. 30 www.firstdenham.com/serveday
- Men's Retreat Feb. 4-5 www.firstdenham.com/events/mensretreat
- Ladies Tea Feb. 12 www.firstdenham.com/events/ladies-tea
- Treats for Your Sweets Feb. 13
- Women's Conference Mar. 25-26

