



A RELATIONAL APPROACH TO DISCIPLESHIP

Real Life Journey
G₃ New Leader Guide

We're experiencing something momentous here.

I hope you feel it too. We're seeing people encounter God's Word and experience transformation change.

We're seeing many take the next steps such as rededicating their lives to Jesus or getting baptized. We're seeing men and women put Christ first in their lives and the impact that is making on them and their families. We're seeing new leaders emerge and the spiritual health of our church maturing. And I believe G₃ Groups are a big part of this change.

What an exciting time!

-Paul Keating, Discipleship Pastor

We need your help to continue this process!

Jesus' method of discipleship was **multiplication**. To reach the world with the Gospel, He called out faithful men and women who would, in turn, begin to lead other faithful people. (2 Tim. 2:2) It may seem like a high commitment to invest in 2 or 3 people for a year's time, but Jesus knew that faithful men and women don't just appear, they are **developed**. That's exactly what G₃ Groups are designed to do—**make disciples who make disciples**. Anything less is not Jesus' plan.

Are you ready to answer Jesus' call and become a disciple-maker?

G₃ Group Leadership Process

About Leadership

Every leader is a different person with different traits, talents, and giftings. God has called you to disciple others and equipped you uniquely to do the job. The way you lead will be different from other leaders because you are different. However, the direction of your leadership must always follow the path Jesus set out for us. His final words to us were,

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to **me** [Jesus]. 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, and **teaching them to obey** everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

-Matthew 28:18b-20 (NIV)

Making Disciples

Jesus has called each of us to make disciples.

Making disciples is the process of **leading others to follow Jesus with their lives**. This doesn't happen through programs and impersonal classes, rather it happens **relationally**. Jesus spent most of His time in ministry building up 12 men who would take the Gospel to the world.

Remember this quote:

“Discipleship is as much ‘caught’ as it is ‘taught.’”

This is a simple statement but profound in application. Jesus knew that words alone were not enough to disciple His followers. He needed to live life with them, pray with them, hold them accountable to growth, exemplify what it is to walk with God, be vulnerable at times, and yes...teach them in the process. The disciples learned from hearing and seeing Jesus live out His faith.

In the same way, your G₃ Group members will look to you. **What a great responsibility!**

Now before you say, I don't think I can handle this, Jesus' disciples themselves didn't feel ready either but He propelled them forward. **You can do this**, and it is not as difficult or scary as it sounds. You will grow closer to Jesus more than you ever expected. And as you go through the process, you will develop strong relationships in your group that will be lifelong blessings to each of your lives. However, they will be looking to you, watching you, and emulating your faith. (1 Cor. 11:1)

So...what does your faith look like? Are you committed to reading and internalizing God's Word, prayer, sharing your faith with others, and encouraging others in their faith? None of us are perfect, but if you are ready to be **faithful, available, and teachable** to Christ; you are ready to lead a G₃ Group!

The Goal of G₃ Groups

The process of discipleship is not complete until the **disciple becomes a disciple-maker**.

It is vital that from the first time you meet until your last meeting, you emphasize this truth—**The goal of this group is to multiply disciple-makers**. At the conclusion of your G₃ Group, you should encourage everyone to go and start G₃ Groups of their own.

Will everyone in your group achieve this goal? Most likely not. Even Jesus had a disciple that didn't follow through. Still, we are striving for the multiplication of disciple-makers.

What Your G₃ Groups Will Look Like?

You can change the order of these things, but generally, your group will do these things:

1. Open by asking each member to recite the memory verse
 - a. Continually emphasize the importance of hiding God's Word in your heart. (Psalm 119:11)
 - b. Alternate who goes first each week.
 - c. After reciting the scripture memory verse, **don't stop there**. Ask them to explain what the verse means and why it is important to following Jesus. (**Internalization**)
2. Ask each member to share one of two things God spoke to them through Scripture this past week.
 - a. As the leader, talk through the week's scripture reading and explain the significance of the book, it's setting, and why it is relevant to walking with Christ today.
3. Use the **Study Guide to facilitate discussion** of the book content
4. Share your **highs and lows** of the week and **pray together**

Note. This will take about an hour to an hour and a half for most groups. We recommend meeting weekly but for some groups, this is not feasible. If meeting every other week, we recommend allocating more time for your group to have a meaningful discussion.

G₃ Group Progression

Your first few weeks will be crucial for your group. The first week is especially important.

Week 1

- Provide your group members with the **G₃ Overviews** and their **Study Guides**. They can purchase the first book *Growing Up* from the church office or on Amazon.com. (The book will not be used until Week 3.)
- Introduce yourselves to each other (Make this fun! Ask interesting questions that are ice breakers.)
- Walk your members through the **G₃ Overview** explaining the G₃ process and purpose of the group and the end goal of each member starting their own group.
- Use the Study Guide (Week 1) to facilitate your group discussion. Walk members through what meeting God in His Word and sharing your faith involve (pages 36 & 41 of Part I Study Guide).
- You will also explain the **G₃ Disciple-Making Agreement** and ask each member to commit and sign it (Page 6 of Study Guide).
- Get all your people to download the **YouVersion Bible app** on their mobile devices and create a bible reading plan to begin for your group. (We recommend the **One-Year Bible Reading Plan**.) They'll be able to read and comment on each day's scripture reading and share insights with everyone in the group.
- Instruct the group to **write down and be ready to share their testimony** at the next meeting.
- Close in prayer.

Week 2

- Recite the scripture memory verse and discuss it.
- Share what God spoke to you in His Word this week.
- Ask members to share their stories of how they came to faith in Jesus. Don't interrupt or correct them in this process; there is an entire section dedicated to sharing Jesus. This is an incredible moment when your group will begin to bond. Some people will be short, and others will be long-winded. You'll learn a lot about your group dynamic here!

Abiding in God's Word. (Key truth: You cannot separate the disciple of God from the Word of God.)

- Discuss the Study Guide questions
- Close in Prayer

Note. In these early weeks, it's important to **not get too heavy**. Accountability grows with time as relationships grow and trust forms. You cannot artificially accelerate this process.

Week 3

From this week on, you'll begin to follow the normal schedule of how most of your meetings will go. (See "What Your G₃ Groups Will Look Like?" on Page 3.)

Note. Instruct your members to pay attention to what chapter(s) are to be read each week. **Not every chapter of each book will be read.**

Week 4

Heads up! Chapter 2 is the most significant chapter in *Growing Up* and perhaps the most important read of the entire year-long disciple-making process. **Topic: Multiplication**

You'll get into a rhythm at this point in your G₃ Group. Continue to be consistent in meeting each week. Some weeks people won't be able to make it. Make sure you emphasize this is a **continual commitment**.

Some individuals may not be diligent to read their Bibles, books, or memorize scripture. Encourage them with love and gentleness and let the Holy Spirit do His work.

Note. There is a point at which an uncommitted member is detracting from the group's growth. If you find yourself in this situation, pray and seek the Holy Spirit for guidance. Also, feel free to contact **Paul Keating**, our Discipleship Pastor for help on what next steps to take.

Schedule Squeeze... Some groups may opt to take a hiatus during the certain busy times of the year. This is alright. Encourage your group to continue their daily scripture readings and continue to communicate with your group during your break. Avoid advancing to the next week's topic if you have not discussed the previous week's content. **The goal is transformation, not completion.**

The Mix-Up Moment

At the halfway point of your G₃ year, you'll begin allowing others in your G₃ Group to lead the group meetings. A good week to start this process is **Week 22** as you start Bill Street's book **The Road to Somewhere**. Your members may be a little apprehensive about the idea of leading but gently encourage them and as they see others in the group leading, they will soon volunteer as well.

If you do not allow for members to begin leading group meetings, they will not be ready to start their own G₃ Group at the conclusion of your group. The halfway point gives multiple opportunities for everyone in the group to lead. **Make effort to coach them after each one leads. Give tips and support.**

Final Weeks

As you begin Part IV, Leading in Faith (Week 36), it will sink into your group that you are ending soon. There will be some sadness that your group will be no longer meeting together. Be prepared and encourage your group to see that this is a time of excitement, not sadness.

- Continue to solidify the **vision of multiplication**
- Begin prayerfully making a list of persons each group member can invite into their new G₃ Group
- Explain that the ending of this group does not mean the ending of your friendship.
 - **Your bond will actually grow deeper as you begin coaching your members through leading their own G₃ Groups.** You may even decide to continue meeting together periodically and talking through how each member's group is going.
 - Even when your group ends, your accountability to one another will remain as you become co-laborers in the Gospel as Timothy was to Paul.
 - The lesson content of the last 8 weeks is all leadership based and good for discussion of launching new G₃ Groups

Wrapping Up!

Week 44

Celebration! Have a party, get-together, trip, or activity as a group to celebrate a challenging and wonderful year of growing in your walk with Jesus. **Whatever it is, make it meaningful.** Take time to discuss lessons you've learned, highlights, difficulties, and next steps.

Possible Topics to Discuss:

- What has been the biggest impact of our G₃ Group on your life?
- How has daily being in God's Word changed the trajectory of your life?
- What are some of the prayers God has answered this year as you became a prayer warrior?
- What's been your biggest struggle?
- Who have you shared the Gospel with? Did anyone respond in faith?
- Where do you continue to feel weak in your walk with God? How will you rectify that going forward?

What's Next for You?

The process of making disciples is the call of every follower of Jesus. This process never ends on this side of glory. Jesus said,

*"As long as it is day, **we** must do the works of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work." -John 9:4*

While we have breath, we are called to make disciples.

You can fill your time with a lot of stuff... After finishing your G₃, you may even get comfortable having a block of time back. But we encourage you to keep pressing on and pray through who you will invite into your next G₃ Group.

Thank you for your willingness to be a G₃ Group Leader and Disciple-Maker.

G₃ Leadership Events

We offer 3 leadership events for G₃ Group leaders.

- **Get in the Game** (For first time G₃ Leaders) — Offered in **January & August**
- **Reach the Next Level** (For those already leading G₃ Groups) — Offered in **April**
- **Discipleship Roundtable** (For those who have completed a G₃ Group) — **Invitation Only**

Visit www.firstdenham.com/g3leaderevents to sign up.



www.firstdenham.com/G3groups