



A RELATIONAL APPROACH TO DISCIPLESHIP

Real Life Journey
G₃ Overview

Do you want to experience what it is to authentically live out your faith?

Do you long for community to challenge and encourage you in your faith journey?

Do you want to understand and love the Bible instead of feeling intimidated or confused?

Are you ready to take the next step in your faith journey?

If these questions resonate with you, we'd encourage you to join one of our G₃ Groups—part of our *Real-Life Journey* of discipleship at First Denham.

A Word from our Pastor

If there's one group I would encourage every member of our church to join, I would suggest joining a G₃ group. These groups represent the future of our discipleship strategy at First Denham and will challenge you to grow in your walk with God like nothing else.

Through the intake of God's word and memorization of scripture, through prayer, through accountability with others, and through sharing Jesus with others, lives are being transformed through the Gospel of Jesus to do the work of Christ here at First Denham, our community, and our world.

I'd like to personally encourage you to commit to a G₃ Group today.



In Him,

Leo Miller

Our Approach to Discipleship

The **Real-Life Journey** is our discipleship strategy at First Denham. We believe walking with God involves much more than simply attending a weekly worship service. The **Real-Life Journey** is about living out your faith in everyday life.

To begin this faith journey, we must first **CONNECT** with God and with others who are Christ followers. As you **connect** with God and His people, you begin to **GROW** in your walk with Him. And as you **grow**, you start to discover that God has blessed you with amazing gifts to **SERVE** Him, His church, our community, and elsewhere for the sake of the Gospel. Finally, as you **connect, grow, and serve**, you begin to share your story and **LEAD** others to know God and grow to be closer to Him.

You'll notice the first two steps in this process are **inward**—but as one grows in their relationship with God, his or her faith naturally becomes **outwardly** actionable to influence others with the power of the Gospel.



Connect



Grow



Serve



Lead

What are G₃'s?

The name **G₃** simply means “**Grow Three**”. This is an intentional and relational approach to discipling believers to live out their faith in real life. Other churches call these D-Groups or some other variant.

Why Three?

We have found that a group consisting of **one leader** and **three others** offers the necessary interaction and support to sustain these groups and promote accountability. Biblically, Jesus had twelve disciples but really poured into **three** (Peter, James, & John). Also, in the Old Testament, Daniel when confronted with a dilemma, asked **three** of his closest friends to pray with him for discernment and wisdom.

Bottom Line. Does it have to be three? **No.** You could start a group with two or four. However, **THREE IS IDEAL.**

Who Comprises These Groups?

G₃'s are designed to be **GENDER-SPECIFIC GROUPS**. Men will meet with other men and women will meet with other women. **There is no exception to this rule.**

Why? Men and women need an avenue to talk about gender specific triumphs and challenges. In mixed company, this is hard to navigate and often discourages conversations that needs to happen.

NOTE. We do offer groups throughout the week such as **Connect Groups** and **Grow Groups** that are open to both men and women.

How are G₃ Groups Different from Connect and Grow Groups?

Connect Groups focus on biblical community and application of scripture to everyday issues. **Grow Groups** focus on equipping believers with Gospel truths to unashamedly live out their faith. **G₃'s** are a type of Grow Group that centers around **RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP** and **ACCOUNTABILITY** with fellow believers.

How Long Do G₃ Groups Last and How Often do they Meet?

The **G₃ Guide** is broken into four components lasting **44 weeks**. We encourage you to meet weekly and commit to covering the material laid out in the guide. You will discover that as you cover certain topics in your **G₃** meetings, you'll need to spend another week on that topic before you move on—we encourage this! **G₃'s ARE NOT A PROGRAM** but a tool to help believers grow together in their walk with Christ.

Bottom Line. Some groups will finish within a year, and some will take beyond a year to complete.



What do G₃ Group Meetings Look Like?

These groups are not meant to be rigid. You'll likely develop a rhythm of how to approach your time as you meet together.

As a general standard, **G₃'s** will:

- **Pray** together
- Share what God spoke to you in **His Word**
- **Memorize** Scripture
- Build in time for **accountability**
- Talk about how you **shared your faith** with others
- Talk through what you learned in the **G₃ discipleship material**

You should expect each meeting to last about **one hour** give-or-take.

What is the Goal of G₃ Groups?

The goal of G₃'s is to **develop disciples** of Jesus who **make disciples**. We call this **REPRODUCING**. At the end of the year, our heart's desire is for each of the individuals in the group start their own G₃'s and help others in their **real-life journeys**.

How Do I Start a G₃ Group?

- **Pray** for God to place on your heart individuals who you could take through this process
- **Approach** and **invite** the individuals God puts on your heart
- **Covenant Together** with these individuals to commit to the process
- **Invest** in these individuals.

Need help with starting a group? Call Paul Keating, our Discipleship Pastor, at 225-664-4102 x205 or email paul.keating@firstdenham.com.

Do You Have a Sign-Up to Join a G₃ Group?

We believe the best method to having successful G₃ Groups is **ORGANIC FORMATION**.

Committing to this process requires familiarity with others in your group where trust and encouragement can thrive. Jesus, Himself, hand-picked His disciples. Because G₃ Groups as so relational, match-making groups together rarely works.

THE ONE YEAR PLAN FOR DISCIPLE MAKING

Part I: Gaining Perspective

The first part of the G3 journey centers on Jesus' strategy of ministry, making disciples. **(Weeks 1-11)**

Reading **Growing Up: How To Be A Disciple Who Makes Disciples**, by Robby Gallaty, will enlighten individuals on the imperative nature of being a disciple maker.

Part II: The Daily Disciplines

The second part of the disciple making journey centers around the disciplines that are needed in order to live a godly life and effectively disciple others.

The books to study are **Share Jesus Like it Matters** and **Pray Like it Matters** by Steve Gaines and **The Road to Somewhere** by Bill Street.

Part III: Walking in Freedom

The third part of the disciple making journey looks at the disciple becoming a person who walks in freedom. **(Weeks 22-30)**

While Satan cannot rob the believer of his eternal salvation, he seeks to rob him of intimacy with God and fruitfulness in life. Jim Logan's book, **Reclaiming Surrendered Ground**, will be used. There are some weeks where you will be encouraged to study one chapter and skim another.

Part IV: Leading in Faith

The final part of the process focuses on equipping disciple makers to be godly leaders. **(Weeks 31-39)**

The book to study is **Leading in Faith** by Bill Street.

Scripture Memory Verses

Week 2:

John 8:31-32

Week 3:

2 Timothy 2:2

Week 4:

Matthew 28:18-20

Week 5:

Ephesians 4:11-12

Week 6:

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Week 7:

Matthew 7:7

Week 8:

2 Timothy 2:15

Week 9:

John 14:15

Week 10:

Psalms 119:11

Week 11:

Jeremiah 15:16

Week 12:

John 3:16;
Romans 3:23

Week 13:

Romans 6:23;
1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Week 14:

2 Corinthians 6:2;
Luke 13:3

Week 15:

Acts 17:30;
Acts 16:31

Week 16:

Romans 10:9

Week 17:

John 1:12;
Romans 10:13

Week 18:

Mark 1:35

Week 19:

James 5:16

Week 20:

John 15:7

Week 21:

1 John 5:14-15

Week 22:

1 Cor. 4:1-2

Week 23:

John 4:23-24

Week 24:

Mark 10:45

Week 25:

Amos 3:3

Week 26:

Proverbs 27:17

Week 27:

Ephesians 4:27

Week 28:

James 4:7-8

Week 29:

Ephesians 6:10

Week 30:

Ephesians 6:11

Week 31:

Ephesians 6:12

Week 32:

Ephesians 6:13-14

Week 33:

Ephesians 6:15-16

Week 34:

Ephesians 6:17-18

Week 35:

Ephesians 6:19-20

Week 36:

Ezekiel 22:30

Week 37:

1 Corinthians 11:1

Week 38:

1 Timothy 4:15

Week 39:

Romans 15:14

Week 40:

Proverbs 5:21-23

Week 41:

Luke 14:26-27

Week 42:

Hebrews 11:6

Week 43:

Romans 4:19-21

