



## **Grow, Develop & Disciple**

**1. When thinking about discipleship, one of the first things you need to do is CHOOSE a model.**

**There is not one model that fits all churches, but the most fun part about structuring your discipleship model is that you can customize one that fits your unique church and the mission you believe God has set your church to do.**

**Small groups, Sunday school, large group, hybrid (meaning a little of each) are all viable and can be successful options to disciple people. One is not better than the other, it is determined by what best fits your church vision and culture.**

**Regardless of what model you choose, try and provide discipleship for as many age groups as possible.**

**Children, Students, College, Young adults., Parents, Adults, Seniors.**

**2. The next step is to DEFINE the win.**

**What does success look like? People showing up, people taking next steps, people enjoying themselves. You must determine what a win is.**

**3. The third thing is to MEASURE the results.**

**If we do not measure the results, even if we have defined the win, we will not be sure we are being successful.**

**Discipleship should be a place to build relationships, but also grow in your relationship with God. The struggle in choosing a model is ensuring both criteria are being met.**

**We want to give you some helpful tips on how to structure your model in a way that will get the people at your church excited and ready to connect.**



**CHURCH HEALTH  
& EVANGELISM**

**People who thrive in social settings are more likely to sign up as hosts, while feeling like an administrative task such as establishing a healthy structure is not a requirement for them.**

**Here are some questions that you and your teams should be considering as you build the structure for your discipleship groups this season.**

- What do we hope people will gain from gathering in discipleship groups at our church?**
- Are our values aligned with the people who call our church home?**
- Have we explicitly communicated with our hosts about what a successful group looks like, while giving them the tools to pull it off?**
- Have we provided tools and resources that are easy for our hosts to use when they gather with their groups?**
- Are there enough versatile options for groups that allow for inclusivity, and various meeting locations?**

**More plainly, your discipleship group's structure should clearly tell of:**

- Times and dates of meeting.**
- A snapshot of the duration for each group.**
- What to expect upon completing a period with discipleship groups at your church.**
- Instructions for each week's progress, attendance, and points of discussion. - This should also include contact information for a designated person.**
- Ways to sign up for church events and volunteer opportunities!**

**People want to gather where they feel they will belong. And although our churches should be inclusive to all, there are people who need exactly what your disciple groups will have to offer.**

**An effective model is an honest one. It is clear and concise, and people should know exactly what to expect, whether they choose to host or attend.**



**CHURCH HEALTH  
& EVANGELISM**

**Your disciple groups model will be effective if it . . .**

- Is upfront and honest about what it hopes people will gain from attending.**
- Isn't vague about what is okay in a group and what isn't. Be clear on what a successful group looks like and what's just, well . . . weird.**
- Is inclusive to all, making it easy for people to join and harder to find reasons not to.**
- Is it fun? Who says groups must be so serious? Encourage your hosts to build a bit of fun into their time with their groups.**
- Is generous with information. Make sure it's easy for hosts and attendees to know the who, what, when, where, and how for every gathering during your groups season. Those are the not-so-secrets to having an effective structure for your discipleship groups! Remember, people are not very complicated.**

**All we want is a little fun, clarity, and a chance to connect with others.**