

Dgroups:

Pursuing Holiness Together

A dgroup is a group of 2-4 members of the same the gender who meet frequently (ideally once per week) to pursue holiness through study of Scripture, confession and repentance of sin and prayer. The Bible commands believers to pursue holiness (1 Peter 1:16). It is our contention that without the support and mutual encouragement that healthy dgroups provide, many Christians will struggle to obey the command of the Scripture to be holy. Fighting sin and resisting the enemy in isolation are all but impossible. We need each other. The Bible raises our need for dgroups by talking plainly about our brokenness in sin, while commanding us (Christians) to pursue holiness. The following is a straightforward outline for dgroups at Mercyview.

How it Works

HEAR & OBEY (15 MINUTES)

Each person shares what he or she has heard from God. Come prepared to share a journal of what you learned in the 10-20 chapters of scripture you read the past week. Then share specifically how you can obey what you have learned from the Bible in the coming week.

We recommend that you chose a study or devotional tool as you read the Scripture for the week. At the end of this document there an example of a helpful study tool.

Additionally you will find multiple reading plans at the link below:

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/bible-reading-plans/>

<http://austinstone.org/files/reading-plan.pdf>

REPENT & BELIEVE (30 MINUTES)

Each person spends time repenting of their sin and believing the gospel.

Share with one another how you have sinned against God this past week. The accountability questions below are a helpful tool and will give you some questions to consider. Be specific, and also share your heart motivations behind the sin.

After sin has been confessed, spend time speaking out loud to yourself and to one another the good news of Jesus's work for us. Hearing the gospel spoken out loud enables us to believe the gospel is good news for us!

PRAY (15 MINUTES)

Spend time discussing and praying for the struggles that you discussed during the Repentance and Belief section. Pray applicable scripture and encouragements over each other. Pray for and think of specific gospel applications that can be made in each other's lives'. Be intentional

about listening for the Holy Spirit to speak truth and encouragement to group members through your prayers.

Study Tool

Reap Method

READ

Open your Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to teach, correct, and train you (2 Timothy 3:16). As you're reading, ask these questions:

- What is happening in this passage? What things are emphasized, repeated, related?
- What do you see about God? What is God doing in this passage?
- What do you see about man?

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting. Ask yourself these questions, and write down your thoughts:

- How do you think the author wants his audience to respond?
- What do you learn about God's character?
- What wrong beliefs about God and myself did I have?

APPLY

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- How do I need to repent? What truths do I need to believe? What false beliefs must I turn from?
- What can I do – empowered by the Holy Spirit – today to apply this passage?

PRAY

Pray through the passage and your application, asking God to change your heart and to change your life, based on the time you've spent in God's Word. After you finish, share what God taught you with at least one person—your roommate, your spouse, your kids, or your co-workers. Don't keep what God taught you to yourself.

Conclusion

Our hope is that you take the Bible's command for holiness seriously. A healthy dgroup puts the aforementioned elements into practice to provide mutual discipleship for the purpose of holiness. Be aware that there are many things that can distract your dgroup from its true purpose. Be intentional; remember the true purpose of your dgroup and guard your time together appropriately.