
DNA

GROUP PLAYBOOK

"DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH RELATIONSHIP"





DNA GROUPS

WELCOME.

Thank you for your interest in a DNA Group here at The Table! In this playbook you will see our vision for each DNA Group, and also go over some expectations for DNA Group as well. Let's dive in!

VISION.

Our vision for our church, and also each ministry area, is simple: "Discipleship through relationship."

A CHURCH'S NAME SHOULD REFLECT IT'S MISSION.

The image of a table perfectly illustrates our mission in Kearney. In Luke 14 Jesus tells a parable about what the Kingdom of God on Earth will look like. He describes a banquet... We envision our community looking a lot like this. God gathers all sorts of people at different points in life together around a table.

AT THE TABLE WE:

- Are **AUTHENTIC**
- Meet people where they **ARE**
- Call people **FORWARD** in discipleship
- **CONNECT** people
- Live **GENEROUS** lives

At The Table, we find that we all have something in common. **We are in need of the same provision; Jesus, the bread of life.** We want to cultivate this reality within each of our DNA Groups. The above 5 aspects of our culture should be modeled in each DNA Group to insure everyone feels welcome to have a seat at The Table.

WHY.

“WE GROW IN CIRCLES, NOT ROWS.”

As disciples who are being changed into Christ’s likeness, Paul exhorts us to “be transformed by the renewing of your minds” (Romans 12:2). Discipleship requires life-on-life interaction, and happens best in community. Spiritual growth takes place at the crossroads of life experiences and Gospel-centered community. Because of this, a DNA Group can be a key catalyst for growth.

WHAT.

“DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH RELATIONSHIP.”

“Discipleship through relationship” is who we are – it’s our DNA. Members of a DNA Group will be committed to meeting together weekly at a consistent time for no more than 90 minutes. Meetings can take place in coffee shops, rec. centers, meeting rooms, restaurants, or in homes. Groups can be gender specific, or be a mix of guys and gals, both varying in all ages! It’s important to note: in order to build trust, there is an expectation of strict confidentiality for all things shared in the group. Any major issues in the group can be brought to the **DNA Group Director**.

HOW.

DISCUSS 15 minutes

Discuss the starter questions provided on the leader guide pertaining to Sunday’s sermon.

DIG 15 minutes

Transition to reading the passage of Scripture. Then, as a group, discuss what the passage is saying in its original context.

APPLY 15 minutes

Invite everyone to share how they can personally apply the truth from Scripture to their own lives.

PRAY 15 minutes

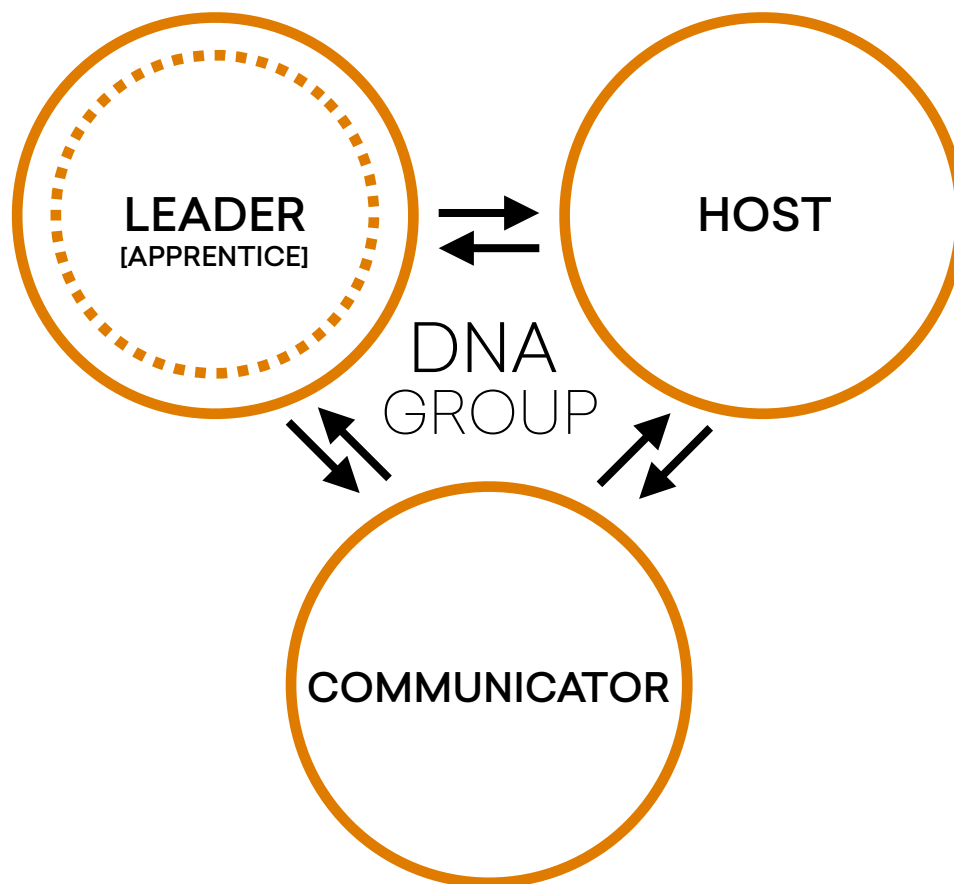
End by praying for each other - praying the truth of Scripture into one another’s lives.

STRUCTURE.

You've undoubtedly seen ants crawling on the sidewalk in the summer, or maybe even in your house...? An ant colony is actually called their *community*. It's called this because ants are considered *social* beings because they reside in groups. Every ant has a specific purpose within their own group. They all "share the load" of the community to make things easier on the collective group.

This is how our DNA Groups are modeled. No, we won't expect you to live in the dirt or grow antennas... but we do expect each DNA Group to share the load of the group to make it easier on everyone!

DNA GROUP MODEL :



ROLES.

The number one reason many people are afraid to lead a DNA Group is because they fear they will have to do everything for the group - teach, host, cook, clean up, etc... That's a lot of responsibility for one person! To assist our groups, we've split up 3 separate roles in each group to make the load lighter for everyone.

LEADER

If you are able to facilitate conversation, you are able to lead! The leader prepares for the lesson each week, and also facilitates conversation for/during the lesson. The leader will utilize a sermon-based lesson from that week's sermon to walk-through with the group. It is the leader's responsibility to keep the group focused during discussion and limit "tangents" or "rabbit trials" unrelated to the topic!

+++ APPRENTICE

As a church, we believe multiplication is key. We want to multiply the "welcome home" of Christ that **we** have experienced **to** as many people as possible! Because of this, our desire is for every group to have an apprentice. The apprentice assists the group leader, fills in as a lead when the leader is not available, and also considers launching their own group in the future and repeating the multiplication process!

COMMUNICATOR

If "making lists, checking them twice, and finding out who's bringing food to the party that night" puts a smile on your face, then either this role is for you, or you're Santa! The communicator is the point of contact for the group. They check in with the host to make sure they are good to go for the night, they are in charge of assigning food/snacks for the group, and they communicate with the leader as well.

HOST

If you wish your house didn't have doors so anyone and everyone could come over anytime they want, this role is for you! The host simply hosts the group. That's it! We do ask that your house is presentable for the night... as it says in 2 Opinions 3:16, "*Cleanliness is next to godliness...*" Other than that, you open your house for the night and simply watch God move *in* and *through* conversations!

SCHEDULE.

DNA groups will run on ten-week sessions. This allows for periods of continuity, but also times for new groups to start and people to join or leave existing groups during the break periods. These trimesters also have built in breaks centered around the busiest seasons for households.

DATES

SESSION I : **September 12th – November 18th**

SESSION II : **January 9th – March 3rd**

SESSION III : **March 20th – May 26th**

LEADER TRAINING : **Week of July 25th**

GROUP SIGNUPS : **1st Week of August**



ENTERING/EXITING GROUPS

We know that committing to a group of other people can be intimidating! *“What if I don’t gel with these people? What if they’re Iowa Hawkeye fans!? What if they’re just straight up weird!?!”*

We get it. The beauty of a short ten-week study session is that it automatically provides quick access to both on-ramps and off-ramps! If you don’t “hit the jackpot” with a group from the start, you will soon have the opportunity to try another group absolutely guilt free! At the end of the 10 week session, every group member can choose to **1)** continue in the current group, **2)** try a new existing group, or **3)** take a break from DNA groups all together. We want you to experience *“discipleship through relationship”* – we will do all we can to help you take these next steps in your walk with Christ!

THANK YOU.

We are so excited you are interested in getting involved with DNA Groups! Thank you for prayerfully considering this role, and we can’t wait to see how God moves through you and your group.

SERMON BASED GROUPS.

Lots of intentional prayer, time, and research has gone into why we are moving forward with sermon based DNA Groups. Here are 12 reasons why you can look forward to this model as well!

UNITY

Builds unity amongst the whole church.

SCRIPTURE

Ensures groups will be in the Word.

DEEPER

Allows for deeper word study as foundational truths have already been taught.

LISTEN

Encourages people to listen to sermon with “spiritual ears.”

REPITITION

There is power in repetition!

PREPARED

Helps leaders feel prepared.

WELCOMING

Eases discomfort of new group attenders.

APPLICATION

Opportunity to discuss application of learned truths.

DOABLE

Requires very little preparation from both leaders and attenders.

FAITHFULNESS

Encourages faithful Sunday attendance/viewing sermon.

FLEXIBLE

Can allow for flexibility (2/3 rule).

EMPOWERING

Fights “holy man/holy place” myth.

LEADER GUIDE



+ + + + **DISCUSS**

15 MIN

ICEBREAKER

What is a humorous story of a time you weren't very wise?

What is an example of a time where you asked God for wisdom and He gave it to you; did you listen/obey?

+ + + + + + + + + **DIG**

15 MIN

READ : James 3:13-18

OBSERVE : What are some key observations from this text? (*words, tone, etc...*)

CONTEXT : What is the context of this verse in light of the rest of the chapter/
rest of the book?

COMPARE : Read/compare these passages to James 3:13-18:
Proverbs 4:6-7; Job 28:28; Proverbs 13:10; 1 Corinthians 1:25

+ + + + + + + + + + **APPLY**

15 MIN

On Sunday, Pastor Tyler said *“The most freeing thing for us to realize is that our life is not about us – it’s all about God.”* Do you agree with this statement? What ways is it hard to live this out in your own life?

Pastor Tyler said both “earthly” and “heavenly” wisdom is contagious (*like Covid*); what ways have you been seeking “earthly wisdom” (selfishness), rather than “heavenly wisdom” (righteousness)?

+ + + + + + + + + + **PRAY**

Pray over one another, asking God to equip each person with wisdom in seeking heavenly things over earthly things. Pray that God would provide deeper Gospel-centered friendships to hold one another accountable in seeking heavenly wisdom over earthly wisdom. (*Also, pray for any prayer requests in the group.*)