

DNA Groups

Divine Truth & Spirit, Nurturing Relationships, Apostolic Mission

Discipleship, Nurture, Accountability

By

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Gender specific groups of two to four people who help each other love God, love people, become like Christ, advance His kingdom, and make disciples that make disciples.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written “The righteous shall live by faith.” Ro. 1:16-17 (ESV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the Spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” Ro. 8:14-15 (ESV)

For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Ro. 8:29-30 (ESV)

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching every one with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. Col. 1:28-29 (NIV)

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2 Tim. 2:1-3 (NIV)

Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them. Matt. 18:19-20 (NIV)

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the

second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matt. 22:37-40 (NIV)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. Matt. 28:18-20 (NIV)

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'" Luke 10:1-24 (NIV)

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

The Importance of God's DNA

Christ in you, the hope of glory! Col.1:27

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Eph.3:16-17

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) contains the genetic instructions which are used in the development and functioning of all living organisms. DNA is the essential code for life that determines exactly how each cell will live and reproduce. In the same way, for us to **be** and **do** what God intends, we must have His DNA in every part of our life: such as the stewardship of our bodies, our minds, hearts, attitudes, desires, motives, actions, relationships, lifestyle, work, and ministry. Following Jesus Christ means that His very Personhood, His Presence, dwells inside us as our Savior and King. It involves **hearing** and **obeying** His voice as a lifestyle 24/7/365. Let us make sure we have the right "DNA" of Christ: Christ Himself, Christ's Community – His Church, Christ's Character, Christ's Calling, Christ's Competency. Lk.6:46-49

God's "DNA" For Life: The Gospel

The Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) redeems and restores the human race back to its original intention through Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. Our sins are forgiven, enabling us to have a right relationship with our

heavenly Father. When Jesus enters our hearts as Lord, we literally become a new creation, a son of God. Rather than have the same nature as the Adamic race, we are given a radically new heart, a new nature. We are transformed into an entirely new species with totally new capacities. 2 Cor. 5:17 Christ's Spirit lives inside us, and with our ongoing cooperation and faith, He transforms us into His very likeness! He gives us His mind, His heart, and His life. God relationally connects His children, so they can become a loving Family – Christ's body, the Church. God's people, in unified loving relationships, become saturated and overflowing with the Person of the Holy Spirit empowering them to demonstrate and proclaim the gospel, advancing Christ's kingdom on earth.

God's DNA: Divine Truth

God has an intelligent Mind. It was His Mind that produced an orderly creation. Chaos cannot create order. Order is illogical apart from Mind. The reason we experience the benefits of scientific process is because Mind created order. God created other conscious minds, in His image, who could also observe and create order. God reveals His Mind, His absolute Truth, in His Word – the Bible. His Word, revealed in the 66 books of the Bible, is to guide every part of our lives. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can understand and apply God's Truth. However, we cannot comprehend and apply the Bible unless our hearts are pure. That is because we do not just commune with God through our intellect alone, but through our hearts. Our minds have the ability to justify what our hearts desire, even perverting the Bible to support our sinful agenda. Our hearts cannot be pure unless we have the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit. Satan knows the information in the Bible, but He does not have a love relationship with the God of the Bible. One can know facts in the Bible, but because of pride and unbelief, not utilize the Bible for the purpose it was written, to help us love God and people. In fact, a person can accumulate a great deal of Bible knowledge, and wrongfully think they are spiritual. However, their knowledge has "puffed them up" and distanced them from God and others. The Bible is God's absolute and inspired objective Truth which is THE authority for faith and life. The Truth, as revealed in the Bible, is the basis and standard for determining the authenticity of our love relationship with God and others. Knowing the Bible and sound doctrine is a means toward communion with God and others, never an end. Truth without love is not real truth. The Bible is also the "constitution" of the kingdom of God, stating clearly the governing laws and principles that guide us to establish the kingdom of God within us, between us, and upon the earth. Believing Truth involves doing truth, which is wisdom. Truth is not just believing the right doctrines. It is

holistically applying God's wisdom in every area of life. Ps. 24:4, 119; Josh. 1:8; Matt. 5:8; 1 Tim.4:16; 2 Tim. 3:16; Titus 2:1; Jn. 5:39; 1 Cor. 8:1

God's DNA: Divine Spirit

The Bible was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will never contradict His own Word. The Bible is not intended to replace the Holy Spirit, but guide us into a vibrant relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit. Experiencing a direct love relationship with Father, through Christ, by the Holy Spirit is the gospel. Those who lean toward structure and orderly concepts can be prone to only loving God with their minds. People who are more imaginative, intuitive, feeling-based can be prone to only valuing experiences over objective Truth. **Both** the Word **and** the Spirit are available to believers. We can love God with our mind **and** experience Him in our heart. The Person of the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon sons of God. He fills us and flows from within us. The Holy Spirit leads, empowers, teaches, and comforts. We can actually quench and grieve the Person of the Holy Spirit, diminishing His manifest presence and power in our lives. As we fellowship with the Holy Spirit, there will be supernatural experiences that occur. Supernatural should be natural for all sons of God. One cannot be a Christian without Christ's Spirit empowering their life. However, all supernatural influence should be judged through the lens of objective Truth revealed in the Bible and the "fruit" evaluated by the Body of Christ. The "fruit of the Spirit" and "fruitfulness" will be the by-product of the Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, Spirit-empowered life. We must be careful not to fall in the two ditches on each side of "The Way". Jn. 14:6; Acts 9:2 One ditch is coming under the influence of secular humanistic, naturalism of the age in which supernatural manifestations are viewed with suspicion. Even well-intentioned Bible-believing people can subtly undermine a dynamic experiential relationship with God, often promoting this cold-hearted distance from Him with theological rationalizations. One must never disdain or minimize the importance of the Holy Spirit, nor His influence and gifts. The other "ditch" is to define spirituality primarily on the basis of mystical experiences. Good people, desperate for an encounter with God, can open themselves to deceiving spirits or emotionalism. They can also be more enthralled with revelation and/or power gifts than the character of Christ revealed in the "fruit of the Spirit". This tempts them to be attracted to sensational manifestations, reducing their ability to accurately discern authentic and substantial kingdom reality. The Holy Spirit will always move us to be holy, as our God is holy. He will help us to become more like Christ every day. The ongoing baptism (means "full immersion") and filling of the Holy Spirit

is one of the greatest benefits of Christ's death on the cross. Because of Christ's shed blood, forgiveness of sin, we are cleansed vessels who can now be a living temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 3:16 Let us also desire and utilize all the spiritual gifts described in the Bible, in divine order: 1.) Fruit of the Spirit, Gal.5:23 2.) Wisdom and Revelation of the Spirit, Eph. 1:17 3.) Power and Gifts of the Spirit. Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:4-8, 19:4-7; Eph.5:18-21; John 7:37-39, 14:15-21; 1 Cor. 12-14; Ro. 12

God's DNA: His Family, Body – The Church

God's "DNA" includes coming into a new family, the body of Christ. Christ has formed an authentic, radiant, tangible expression of Himself on earth and in heaven, His Church. When His Body comes into unity, loves each other deeply from the heart, the world will know that God is real. Christ's life is best transferred through life-on-life loving relationships. Living in transparent and loving community is the context for shaping our character. 1 Co.12

God's DNA: Christ's Character

Jesus teaches that it is the inner character of one's heart that determines the quality of one's life. Did you know that we can have the mind of Christ? Ro. 12:2 We can also have the same attitude and motives of Christ. Phil. 2:5 Our passion can be to glorify God in everything we do. 1 Cor. 10:31 If we are cultivating an intimate relationship with the Trinity, fellowshipping in the light with God and the body of Christ (1 Jn. 1:1-10), humbly submitting ourselves directly to Christ and the Christ in others, then our internal character will be transformed into the likeness of Christ. This process is not easy because our "flesh", our "false self" that prefers self-worship, does not want to die. If we want to be "transformed into Christ's likeness with ever-increasing glory", we cannot hide from God and His people. 2 Cor. 3:18 It is quite possible to daily read our Bibles, attend church meetings and programs, but still not open our hearts and lives to God's people. By remaining isolated and independent, we will never have the power to defeat our "false sinful self", the power of sin, the spirit of the world, or Satanic influences. Rightly living in true community is absolutely necessary for obtaining Christ's character. Having Christ's character is the basis for fulfilling Christ's calling. That is because we minister from who we are, the quality of Christ's life which flows from our inner most being. Jn. 7:37-39; Matt. 5:8, 15:19-20

God's DNA: Reclaiming Christ's Kingdom on Earth

God's DNA involves a wonderful combination of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to do His will, His way, by His Spirit, for His glory. As sons of God, in unity with His family, we can actually bring Christ's kingdom to earth. His kingdom is the "dominion of the King", the realm of reality in which He is uncontested Lord. We can experience kingdom marriages, kingdom families, kingdom businesses, even kingdom neighborhoods. The kingdom of God is a combination of Divine Order with Divine Life under Christ's rule which is evidenced by observable peace, righteousness, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Matt. 6:33, 9:17, 10:9; Ro. 14:17

God's DNA: Christ's Calling

The word "vocation" comes from "voice". When we hear God's voice, His passion and purposes, are "downloaded" into our heart. Our "vocation" is the specific and tangible way we extend God's love to others. Our occupation is the way we fund and even give expression to our vocation. Every child of God has a calling on their life. We need to listen and practice our faith as it pertains to discovering God's will for our lives. Our Father has a special purpose and plan for each one of His sons. Have you heard God's voice, His call? Eph. 2:10

God's DNA: Christ's Competency

Christ baptizes His disciples in the Holy Spirit and Fire! Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, 15:8-9, 19:1-7 When the Person of the Holy Spirit comes upon us and flows from within us, we receive gifts from the Holy Spirit that supernaturally enable us to build up the Body of Christ and advance the kingdom of God. In addition to spiritual gifts, the Spirit also helps us grow in wisdom, faith, hope, and love, increasing our ability to influence and serve others. Jn.7:37-39

Becoming Christ's Disciple

Did you know that Jesus is still making disciples today? This is true, and He wants you to be one of them! Because He is in His resurrected body, invisible to our natural eyes, he has commissioned us to be His "skin". We are to teach each other what He taught in His Word, and help one another obey everything He commanded. As we help make disciples of Christ, He promises to always be with us, to never leave our presence. In fact, when invited, He comes to dwell in the very core of our being – our hearts (spirits). Eph. 3:17

DNA Groups Defined

A DNA Group is a small gender specific (men with men, women with women) gathering of 2 to 4 disciples of Christ who are helping each other become transformed into Christ's likeness and advance Christ's kingdom in every area of life. Utilizing the power of God's Word (Bible), God's Spirit, and God's family – the church, a DNA Group emphasizes the two major practices of a disciple: 1. **Hearing** God's Word and Spirit, 2. **Obeying** God's Word and Spirit. Each person will help the others to hear and obey God's Word in the two main areas of Kingdom of God: 1. Covenant Relationships ("covenant" means high quality relational unity and oneness), 2. Kingdom Responsibilities (fulfilling the original dominion mandate by doing God's will, God's way, by God's Spirit, for God's glory). Gen.1-3 DNA Groups are not a religious program. They are a way of life. When two, three, or four sincere believers come together for the purpose of helping one another become like Christ and advance His kingdom, supernatural transformation will occur. Ro. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:48-49; Luke 10:1-24; Matt. 6:33, 10:7-8

DNA Groups: Just One of God's Strategies to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples Within The Local Church

Ideally, DNA Groups are a strategic part of a small Missional Kingdom Family (also called "house church" or "missional community"). A Missional Kingdom Family is like a "micro-church" made-up of men, women, and children, a spiritual family of 5 to 20 people on gospel mission together. Missional Kingdom Families should be interconnected with other M.K.F's and submitted to Biblical elders of a local congregation. M.K.F's gather weekly, most often in homes, to do the four essentials of the church: **Up** – worship & praise God; **Down** – hear and obey God's Word & Spirit; **In** – minister to one another; **Out** – demonstrate and share the gospel to the lost. M.K.F.'s are lead by those who have the attributes and character of a Biblical elder. A primary strategy Jesus used to advance the kingdom of God was to gather 12 disciples, and focus on mentoring them in all areas of life: beliefs, character, motives, relationships, lifestyle, and ministry. This same strategy of making disciples and doing evangelism by gathering believers into groups of 5 to 20 has been utilized by the church from the very beginning (Acts 2:42-47). Every Missional Kingdom Family (MKF) is called to help each member become like Christ through discipling relationships and to carry out the great commission (Matt. 28:18-20). (See "Missional Kingdom Families: Introduction & Overview) DNA Groups can add an effective discipleship and evangelism dimension to any MKF or local church.

The Strategic Benefits of DNA Groups

When believers gather in small groups of two or three, dynamic kingdom impact can occur. Jesus sent out small “DNA Groups” made up of only two people in order to impact whole cities! They were commissioned to advance the kingdom of God through prayer, proclamation, and power (such as healing the sick). Lk.10:1-24 In order to help make disciples of Christ and advance His kingdom, God’s Word encourages people to relationally connect with one or two others in order to enhance and extend discipleship, focused prayer, and evangelism. Sometimes being deliberate, even to the point of naming an activity like discipleship, prayer and evangelism, can inspire God’s people to be more proactive. This is why we form DNA Groups, to more effectively carry out **D**iscipleship by submitting to **D**ivine Truth (God’s Word) and the Person of the Holy Spirit, **N**urturing relationships, plus **A**ccountability & **A**postolic mission. Heb.10:24-25

We encourage DNA Groups to be part of a M.K.F. and local church. The exception is that a DNA Group might need to be the core “seed” of an emerging Missional Kingdom Family, if there is no MKF in a geographic area. DNA Groups might even be a way to start a new local church. There are five purposes for a DNA Group: 1.) to help each other love, follow, and obey Jesus Christ, 2.) to read and apply the Word of God to our everyday lives, 3.) to pray for those who do not have Christ living in them as Lord and/or who are not in a biblical church, i.e. healthy spiritual family, 4.) to build loving relationships with those who are not in Christ for the purpose of sharing the good news of the kingdom of God in word and deed, 5.) to follow-up and disciple those who have just come to Christ. A small committed group of two to three people has a much better chance of digging into the deep root issues that are blocking personal transformation. In the safety of unconditional love, trust, and confidentiality, people can truly open their hearts. They are more apt to let their “inner conversation” and personal issues come into the light. In the light and love of Father’s Spirit and Father’s family, we can fight for one another’s transformation into Christ’s likeness. 1 John 1:1-7

At the same time, two’s and three’s are highly effective outreach teams. They are flexible, spontaneous, and naturally relational. They can go into the everyday world of those who don’t know Christ and meet them on their turf. This is in contrast to valid church strategies that try to draw the unbeliever into church meetings in order to hear the gospel. “Attractional” evangelism attempts to bring unbelievers into church gatherings where they can hear the gospel. “Apostolic” evangelism and mission is about **going out** into **all** the

world in order to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. The word “apostle” means “**sent ones**”, people who **go** to where lost people live, demonstrating and proclaiming the gospel in their setting.

Five Activities of a DNA Group

1. Helping each other become like Christ involves opening up our hearts and lives, so that we can exchange the life of Christ between one another. Transformation occurs when we help one another a.) renew our minds so that we have the mind of Christ, b.) get our hearts transformed into Christ’s heart, c.) take on a kingdom lifestyle which is complying with God’s will, God’s way, through God’s Spirit. The key is submitting to Christ through His written Word, to Christ’s Spirit, and to the Christ who dwells in our brothers and sisters. There are several questions that we will each answer truthfully every time we meet. Everything said during this time will be held in the strictest confidence, creating a safe environment for confession of sin and honest conversation about our common struggles. In this process we will become known as we truly are, and invite one another to keep us accountable for our progress. Prayer over the issues raised will be our only response to sin confessed. Another way we grow in Christ is to set “faith goals” in one of the 5 C’s (Christ, Character, Community, Calling, Competence) using the 4 dynamics necessary for change: instructional, relational, experiential, spiritual.

Two Key Questions We Regularly Ask Each Other:

- A. What are you **hearing** God say to you through His Word and Spirit?
- B. How are you specifically **obeying** God’s Word in your relationships and in your responsibilities?

2. Reading of Scripture: We believe that there is power in the scriptures to transform lives, if we are humble and hungry to actually know and obey Christ. Each week our group will select chapters from the Bible to read. Our goal is that we will read about 14 to 30 chapters each week. It may take us a while to develop an appetite for this much scripture, and that’s OK. This isn’t about skipping through the Bible in one year. If one or more of us are unable to finish the agreed upon reading, then we’ll just try again with the same scriptures the following week. The Bible actually gets better when read repeatedly. There are many good Bible-reading strategies that will help you to read the entire Bible every year.

3. Harvest Praying: We will endeavor to pray new people into the kingdom of God, and also pray that God will add to our number in this group enabling us to multiply. We will strategically pray for those who are not yet in Christ. Prayer releases the Holy Spirit to convict unbelievers that they can get right with God. It unleashes the Spirit of wisdom and revelation causing blind eyes to see the glory of God. It moves people and circumstances to positively influence unbelievers. It brings us before Christ's face and keeps us focused on who we are and why we exist. Matt. 6:9-13. *"My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."* Mark 11:17 Prayer moves God who moves the world. Pray specifically for a person bringing their name before God. Ask God for these five things to occur in their life:

1. Pray that the Father would draw them to Jesus (John 6:44).
2. Bind the spirit that blinds their minds (2 Cor. 4:4).
3. Loose the Spirit of adoption (sonship) (Romans 8:15).
4. Pray that believers will cross their paths and enter into positive relationships with them (Matt. 9:38).
5. Loose the Spirit of wisdom and revelation on them so they may know God better (Eph. 1:17).

Include fasting. Mark 9:27 *"This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting"*.

4. Reaching Out to Those Who are Not Followers of Christ: There are several great places to meet and influence friends to become followers of Christ. Co-workers, neighbors, schoolmates, and relatives are some of the places to reach out. You could even start a DNA Group at work, meeting during your lunch break or after work. Build loving relationships with those who are not yet in Christ. They open their hearts to us because we have loved and served them. The gospel will flow out of us and affect their hearts, causing them to open and receive Christ for themselves. Listen to their life story and respond with affirmation, acceptance, affection. Do not hesitate to operate in the gifts of the Spirit as well. Healing and deliverance should be practiced regularly. Matt.10:7-8; Mk.16:15-18

5. Discipling New Believers: There are several ways to follow up a new believer: 1.) Get them a well-translated easy-to-understand Bible, 2.) Have them start meeting in your DNA Group, 3.) Introduce them to your Missional Kingdom Family and make sure they get baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, 4.) Give them regular calls throughout the week to see how they are doing, 5.)

Lead them through inner healing and deliverance, 6.) Teach them to hear Christ's voice objectively in the Word and subjectively in their spirit, 7.) Make sure they have experienced the revelation of "sonship" (Rom. 8) and know their authority as a child of God. 8.) Teach them how to meet with Jesus every day. Here is an easy to remember strategy for meeting with God:

2Proapt - Pray, Preview the passage, Read, Observe, Apply, Pray, Tell others.

Reviewing the DNA Group's Purpose

We are two or three brothers or sisters who covenant to meet weekly for the purpose of being mutually accountable for our personal struggles and sin, and in turn offering each other prayer and support. In addition, we will pray for and reach out to those who do not know our heavenly Father through Christ. When those we reach invite Christ to live in their hearts as Lord, we will follow-up and disciple them to become followers of Christ, to join our DNA Group, and come into our Missional Kingdom Family and local church.

Same Sex Only:

Some of the things we need to talk about most are less likely to be dealt with in a coed group.

Two or Three and Then Multiply:

Size is a critical element that can help or hinder our group purpose. While limiting our size to two or three people, we still continue looking for opportunities to include others. When the fourth person shows up we multiply and become two different groups. In this way there is no limit to the number of people who can become involved. A group of two or three has increased opportunity to achieve intimacy in sharing. Reproducibility is one of our stated goals, and one of the hoped-for results of our harvest prayers. Fewer moving parts means more flexibility in planning our times together. Of course, we can maintain relationships with those who were once in our DNA Group, either informally or through our Missional Kingdom Family and local church.

Becoming a Bond Slave: The Key To Accurately Hearing God's Voice

In the Bible there are two kinds of "slaves". A hired slave was in this predicament to either work off a debt or as the only option for survival. (Ex. 21:2-6; Deut. 15:12-18; Lev. 25:35-46; Jn. 10:12-13) A hired slave/servant retained some measure of personal rights. For example, they could chose who they married or where they lived after their 6 years of indentured service was

fulfilled. The bond slave, our second option, made a personal choice to give up their rights and become “bonded” to their owner for life. This voluntary submission of love was sealed by the piercing of the ear. In other words, the ears were pierced as a symbol of total consecration to **hearing only the voice of the master. They dedicated their entire lives to only hearing one voice, so they could cheerfully fulfill their master’s requests.** Pleasing the master, doing his will, was the bond slave’s only life mission. (Ex. 21:2-6; Deut. 15:16-17) The apostles referred to themselves as “bond slaves” to Christ. (Ro.1:1; Tit.1:1; Jas. 1:1; 2 Pet.1:1; Jude 1; Rev. 1:1) Because bond slaves were motivated by such a high degree of love and loyalty, they often became the most trusted people in the family and given large amounts of responsibilities and oversight. (Gen. 24:1-4) Therefore, the clarity of God’s voice and your ability to hear His voice will be determined by the inner condition of your heart. Because of gratitude and love, are you a bond slave to Christ? Have you given up your rights, your will and ways, in order to follow Him? Death to self is the key to experiencing eternal life in Christ! We gain our lives by losing our lives. Jn.12:24; Lk.9:23-27

Christ’s Invitation Plus Your Total Commitment Equals Transformation Into Christ’s Likeness

Jesus Christ has done everything necessary for you to become just like Him. He paid the penalty for your sin with His own blood. He died your death. Now he wants you to let him come into your heart (spirit), so that He can transform you from the inside out (Eph. 3:14-21; Col.1:27; Gal. 4:19)). If you completely give yourself to having a love relationship with Jesus Christ, and let Him be your King, He will pour His Holy Spirit upon and within you, causing three supernatural things to happen (Mk. 1:8; Jn. 14:26, 16:3; Acts 1:8; Eph. 5:18). First, the “fruit of the Spirit” will start forming in your heart and manifest in your lifestyle: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control (Gal. 5:16-26). Second, you will start having the mind of Christ, thinking His thoughts, gaining His wisdom, and receiving revelation from Him (Ro. 12:2, Eph. 1:17-18). Third, you will receive supernatural power and gifts to advance Christ’s kingdom on earth (Acts 1:4-8; 1 Cor. 12-14; Ro.12:4-8).

You are being invited, by Jesus Christ, to follow Him. Turn away from being your own god, and from conformity to the world. Don’t stay a prisoner to your “false” self. You can be your “true” self as a son of God (Jn. 1:12-13; Ro. 8:15-17; Gal. 3:26-29; Heb. 2:10). Christ will change your very nature, turning you into a new creation man or woman (2 Cor. 5:17).

Putting To Death Your False Self (With The Holy Spirit's Help) – So That Your True Self Can Fully Live (Ro. 8:5-17)

When Christ comes to live in our heart as God, He begins to help us “put to death” anything and everything that does not bring glory to God. This often confuses new believers because the process of dying to their “false self” is painful. How could a loving God allow me to suffer? But when the “false self” is put to death, the “true self” is liberated. God made us to be a son of God, our “true self”.

Initially, new believers can be disoriented by Satan's attempt to kill the “true self” and exalt the “false self”. While at the same time, God wants us to cooperate with putting to death the “false self”, so the “true self” can fully live in Christ. Ro. 8:13 Both God and Satan are trying to facilitate a “death” process. One is death unto life, the other is death unto death. The death our Father God is encouraging is death to self-worship, so we can fully receive His eternal life. Satan promotes death unto death by making sin look good, tempting us to make choices that only result in destruction and death.

Practices & Activities of a DNA Group

- Each DNA group should have a designated facilitator who makes sure that the group fulfills its mission to make disciples of Christ. The emphasis is becoming disciples of Christ, not disciples of a human being.
- A DNA Group should gather for at least one hour each week. However, the relational connection, friendship, personal support and encouragement should also become a lifestyle, life-on-life, throughout each week.
- During the DNA gathering each person should answer these two questions:
a.) What have you been hearing from God's Word and Spirit this week?, b.) How are you obeying what you hear? The two questions need to specifically point to the two central themes of Scripture: a. loving covenant relationships (with God, family, others), b. our dominion mandate to assume responsibility for advancing the kingdom of God on earth. As trust increases in the DNA Group, you can add other questions which might foster more self-awareness, accountability, and growth. Here are three more support and accountability questions: a.) What do you see in my life that encourages you? b.) What do you see in my life that you would like to caution me about? c.) Is there anything else you would like to tell me?

- The Bible needs to be the central and most important reference. The DNA Group might select a book(s) of the Bible to read together. For example, the DNA Group might start by reading the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), a couple chapters each day. Every time the DNA Group gathers, those particular chapters can be the Word from God that we want to **hear** and **obey** in the areas of **relationships** and **responsibilities**.
- New people can and should be added, after they receive clear orientation and the group agrees they are ready to actively participate. Make sure expectations are clear and upfront. There needs to be a verbalized commitment on the part of each DNA Group member that they have received the invitation and challenge to be a disciple and make disciples of Christ.
- New facilitators should be identified and trained for DNA Group leadership.
- The DNA Group should consider multiplying when one or two new people are added. Two to three people is the ideal number, allowing everyone to participate. This also helps create the opportunity for more leadership development and inspires reaching out to include more new disciples.
- Apostolic mission – the word apostle means “sent ones”. To be proactively “on mission” means that we pursue those who haven’t placed their faith in Jesus Christ. We do this by taking initiative to demonstrate and declare the gospel.

Apostolic mission is not primarily about attracting people to our group gatherings. It is about going to people where they live and work to share the love of God with them in their setting.

Culture & Etiquette

Culture is like a “weather pattern”. It is atmospheric and environmental. A kingdom culture is one of the most essential ingredients for experiencing, absorbing, and transferring Christ’s life. For example, Biblical truth may be present, but if it is not accompanied by love, then our context will undermine our content. There are many people who have been deeply hurt in small groups, even Bible studies, because the atmosphere was legalistic, judgmental and argumentative. Correct information with a toxic atmosphere is very dangerous. Remember, Satan is an “accuser” who uses right information in a wrong way to produce guilt and shame. A kingdom culture is contagiously attractive and almost irresistible. Affection, kindness, and affirmation can penetrate our hearts in the same way fragrances of a bakery saturate our clothing. Timely laughter, for example, lets our emotions get a much needed

lift. It is often said that being a disciple of Christ is more “caught” than “taught”. Kingdom culture provides the environment necessary to grow healthy, fully alive followers of Christ. Over the long haul, if we are consistently exposed to the affection of Christ Jesus through His family, our chances for transformation into Christ’s likeness dramatically increases. A true kingdom culture is to a person’s life what a well-monitored hot house is to plants. Climate and atmosphere are some of the most important elements which enhance growth and draw the lost to Jesus.

There are actually four Greek words for “love” in the Greek language. Greek is the language in which the New Testament Bible was originally written. The four words are “eros” (physical, sensual, and romantic love), “storge” (natural affection and the kind of love exchanged in families), “philia” (friendship, loyal brotherly/sisterly love and also demonstrated natural affection), “agape” (committed and sacrificial love of God, covenant love, self-denial on behalf of others as a result of the supernatural enablement of the Holy Spirit). Rom.5:5 Most believers have intellectually agreed with the notion of God’s Fathering love. However, many people do not experientially know, down in the core of their being, that God and God’s people actually like them. God always has affection for us. He always likes us, even when we sin. He does not like our sinful thoughts, attitudes, and actions, but He always likes us. We need to experience the gospel through the body of Christ, which includes receiving affection, affirmation, encouragement. To be liked and affectionately loved is part of the gospel. The apostle Paul wrote to the church family in Philippi, *“God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.”* Phil.1:8 DNA Groups are a wonderful setting in which we can like and “affection” God’s people. In other words, we need to emit the gospel to one another with “storge”, “philia”, and “agape” love because we are whole people with feelings and emotions.

Transparency is when we share our inner conversation out loud with trusted friends. It is another way of describing what the Bible calls “fellowshipping in the light”. See 1 John 1:1-10 Transparent communication opens the door of our hearts to Truth and Love, which displaces darkness with the Light of God’s Life. If there is “truth” presented without love, it is not really the Spirit of Truth. Truth and Love are inseparable. Truth exists to teach us how to love.

What each person shares is sacred and should be kept in the strictest confidence. What is shared in the DNA Group, stays in the DNA Group. One’s spouse should not even be told what is shared. There are exceptions to this rule. If the information points to problems beyond the groups capacities,

church elders should be included. If what is shared reveals illegal activity or behaviors which could harm others, then proper authorities and licensed individuals should be notified.

Each person needs to participate and share. No one should take over the meeting or dominate the conversation. The facilitator needs to tactfully keep order.

Holding each other accountable without being critical or judgmental is an essential part of the DNA Group. The goal is to help one another acknowledge (confess) and repent for thoughts, attitudes, and actions that do not bring glory to God. Accountability is also about positively encouraging one another to obey what we heard from God. The focal point of accountability needs to be the thoughts of the mind and the condition of the heart, not just outward behavior. We don't want accountability to feel like behavior modification. We don't just carry out "sin management" as though the Christian life is simply a matter of avoiding bad and doing good. Our DNA Groups are not to be a place where we come to get scolded or lectured. They need to be a group of merciful and kind friends, who are fellow advocates helping each other's internal heart wholeness, resulting in godly outward behaviors. All of us struggle with self-worship, sin, the spirit of the world, and demonic oppression. Therefore, the way in which we hold each other accountable and bring correction needs to be done with humble gentleness and surgically excellent tact. Gal, 6:1-2

A generous amount of encouragement and affirmation should be expressed between the members of a DNA Group. The body of Christ is the "skin" of God, His hands, eyes, and voice. God wants each person to vocalize His pleasure, value, and appreciation for who we are and what we do that brings Him glory. We need to acknowledge and celebrate even the smallest victories. Small wins accumulate into habitual patterns of obedience. This results in greater confidence that God is good and compliance to His ways results in successful eternal impact.

Praying for one another needs to be a regular part of each DNA Group. Prayer is one of the most important ways God brings His kingdom on earth.

Caution: Helping each follow Christ involves militant spiritual warfare. Eph. 5:10-20 There is a very real possibility that the members of the DNA Group will experience relational conflict, even serious offenses. The hurts that occur will expose pride, unbelief, sinful strongholds, and insecurity. This is actually a good thing, providing a great opportunity for growth, if we respond correctly. The remedy is a combination of humility, faith, Truth and forgiveness.

Forgiveness is a way of life that keeps us moving forward in love after we have been hurt and betrayed. Forgiveness is not really a working option, it is a necessity! Matt. 6:12-15, 18:15-35; Lk. 17:3-5; Eph. 4:32 20

Kingdom Fruit

What could be more exciting, more relevant, than following Jesus Christ? The greatness of this privilege calls for the entirety of our lives. The stakes are very high for yourself and those you love. Who you become and what you do is of utmost importance. It is literally a matter of life and death. If you hear and obey Jesus Christ every day, together with your DNA Group, you will experience life-changing results. God's Word teaches that it is "fruit" which reveals whether someone is authentically following Christ. There are two types of "fruit" mentioned in the Bible. First, the "fruit of the Spirit" is the motives, character, attributes, and emotions of Christ (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, etc). The second kind of "fruit" refers to outward, tangible kingdom impact. We often describe fruit as "excess life" which automatically grows if all the conditions are right. If you closely follow the biblical principles and guidelines spelled out in this booklet, you will truly bear much fruit, fruit that remains into eternity! Matt. 3:8-10, 7:16-20; Gal. 5:23; Jn. 15:1-17

About the Author:

Timothy Johns started loving and following Jesus Christ in 1971. God gave him a father's heart as a young man causing him to devote his life to serving youth, poor, and unreached people. His formal education (B.A., M.Div, D.Min) along with 40 years of servant leadership as a husband, father, pastor, church planter and business man, has inspired him to coach others. He is an entrepreneur who has started several businesses, and currently owns a property management company. He is the Founder and International Director of the Rock International "Tribe", a trans local spiritual family which plants churches devoted to advancing Christ's kingdom. Tim trains marketplace and church leaders who want to create transformational communities that holistically impact individuals, marriages & families, and society, bringing all things under Christ's Lordship. His passion is to equip the Church to be a catalyst for the quality of change that actually advances Christ's kingdom in cities, regions, even nations, for the glory of God. Tim and his wife, Janet, live in Fort Collins, CO. They have two married children and five grandchildren. Their children and spouses have a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ as well.

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