



# 10 terms that impact conversations about discipleship through groups

**COUNTDOWN**  
*Launching & Leading  
Transformational Groups*

Match the term from the left column with the correct description from the right column.

\_\_\_\_\_ Discipleship

\_\_\_\_\_ Groups

\_\_\_\_\_ Small Group

\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday School Class

\_\_\_\_\_ D (Discipleship) Groups

\_\_\_\_\_ Closed group

\_\_\_\_\_ Open group

\_\_\_\_\_ Ongoing group

\_\_\_\_\_ Short-term group

\_\_\_\_\_ Groups system

- a) A group with a more intense course of study for growing as disciples
- b) The overall ministry of groups in a church
- c) Gathers away from the church sometime other than Sunday morning
- d) An umbrella term for any kind of Bible study group
- e) New participants are not accepted after the first gathering
- f) Each session stands on its own, even if part of a unit of study
- g) Process or path for making or becoming a disciple
- h) Expects new people every time the group gathers
- i) Classes that meet at church on Sunday
- j) Gathers for a set number of sessions

# 9 research-validated reasons



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Review pages 15-22 of **Countdown**. On a scale of 0 to 10 with 0 being never happens and 10 being we excel, from your perspective, rate the impact of our church on people in our area of impact (circle the number for each statement):

1. We help people move to the next step of discipleship  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. We propel measurable spiritual growth  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
3. We address the key attributes of spiritual transformation  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
4. Believers serve more using their spiritual gifts  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
5. Believers share their money more  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
6. Believers share their faith more  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
7. Believers are more relational toward newcomers  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
8. Guests find ways for building community  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
9. We intentionally involve people in assimilating into the church  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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Now, evaluate the impact from the perspective of:

- A) a believer who participates in a group through the church.
  - B) a prospective leader involved in a group, but not involved as a leader.
  - C) a pre-Christian who lives within range of the church.
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What are ways we can intentionally connect with people not yet connected?

What are some actions we can take to multiply the disciple-making impact of our church?

# 5 stages for launching new groups



***If our church will intentionally make more disciples (in a people group), what specific actions must we take?***

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Use the space below to list opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed to help us make more disciples through our church.

<b>We will dream</b> (Know our possibilities)
<b>We will declare</b> (Enlarge our organization)
<b>We will develop</b> (Enlist and train the leaders)
<b>We will determine</b> (Provide space and resources)
<b>We will deploy</b> (Go after the people)

How can we strengthen our group(s) to make more disciples?

What group(s) need to be started to make more disciples?

What important decisions must we make to start these groups?

# ***We are starting a new group!***

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Each group is an important part of our plan in making disciples. Use this worksheet to plan and record information about each new group we will start.

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The group will seek to focus on (target group):

- “Terms” (pages 7-13) that best describe this group:
- Type and Duration (pages 23-24):
- When and Where? (pages 26-30):
- Words we will use to describe the purpose of the group (pages 51-52):
- Starting point we will intentionally use (pages 49-50):
- Names of persons who will help lead/host this group:
- Names of persons we will seek to connect through this group:
- Other factors we will take in consideration to start this group:



**COUNTDOWN**

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**10 Terms** impacting conversations about discipleship through groups (pages 7-14)

Discipleship (7-8)  
Groups (8)  
Small Group (8-9)  
Sunday School Class (9)  
D (Discipleship) Groups (10)  
Closed group (11)  
Open group (12)  
Ongoing group (13)  
Short-term group (13-14)  
Groups system (14)

**9 Research-Validated reasons** to disciple people through groups (pages 15-22)

Groups help people move to the next step of discipleship (15-17)  
Groups propel measurable spiritual growth (17-18)  
Groups can address the key attributes of spiritual transformation (19)  
People in groups serve more using their spiritual gifts (19-20)  
People in groups share their money more (20)  
People in groups share their faith more (21)  
Group members are more relational toward newcomers (21)  
Guests are good for building community in groups (22)  
Group involvement makes assimilation dramatically more likely (22)

**8 Big choices** affecting a group's dynamics (pages 23-34)

Type and duration (23-26)  
When and where? (26-30)  
In what "space" should our group(s) operate? (30-31)  
What kind of learning experience?(31-32)  
What spiritual gifts are the best fit for your group(s)? (32)  
How do you prefer the chairs to be set up? (32)  
A hybrid approach to occasion and location (32-33)  
What to do with the Kids? (33-34)

**7 Elements** of transformational churches applied to groups (pages 35-38)

Missionary mentality (35)  
Relational intentionality (36)  
Vibrant leadership (36)  
Prayerful dependence (36)  
Worship (37)  
Community (37)  
Mission (38)

**6 Challenges** to conventional thinking about groups (pages 39-44)

Six vandalized environments (39)  
Five relevant phrases (40)  
Four common necessities to create community (40-41)  
Three types of roles (41-42)  
Two marks of a missional group (42-43)  
One-yet-three unseen Group Members (43-44)

**5 Stages** for launching new Groups (pages 45-48)

Dream: Imagine the possibilities (46)  
Declare: Enlarge the organization (46)  
Develop: Enlist and train the leaders (47)  
Determine: Plan for providing space and resources (47)  
Deploy: Go after the people (47)

**4 Starting Points** for approaching group Bible study (pages 49-50)

Life: the starting point is real-life everyday issues (49,62)  
Text: the starting point is Book by Book studies (49, 62)  
Theology: the Gospel of Jesus in all Scriptures (50, 62)  
Your church: the starting point is customized Bible study (50, 62)

**3 Purposes** for prioritizing a group's mission (pages 51-54)

Formation  
Connection  
Mission

**2 Key words** that will determine your ministry's destiny (pages 55-56)

Small  
New

**1 Essential Book** for guiding group conversations (pages 57-63)

The Bible