

How To Start Your Core Discipleship Group

Pray. Take a few weeks and prayerfully consider 2 or 3 others who have your heart and a heart for evangelism/discipleship. Only then go to the next step.

Invite. Personally approach each person in the following way: “The Lord has placed you on my heart. Would you be willing to join me and one or two others on a weekly discipleship journey so that we can become better disciples of Jesus?”

Communicate. If you are using resources from CORE Discipleship, give them an overview of the process and how the material will be used.

Expectations. Disciples need a clear sense of what is expected of them. Walk through the CORE Discipleship covenant line-by-line and have them restate the requirements in their own words. Mention that your CORE Group will be meeting weekly for an initial period of 9-weeks at which time the group will evaluate and if in agreement, will continue for a total time together of a year.

Count The Cost. Ask each disciple to prayerfully consider the invitation. Specifically, ask them to not respond immediately, but to really examine whether they have the time and the heart for the journey. Let them know that others will be in the CORE Group, too.

Time & Place. Set the first regular time together and get started. Quiet places are best to develop transparency and intimacy. At the first gathering, ask each person why he or she decided to commit to the CORE Discipleship Group.

Guide & Facilitate. Take your time and move at a comfortable pace. Encourage questions. Address personal matters. Life will happen while you are together. The CORE resources are only tools, not something to check off your “to-do-list”. Remember, discipling cannot be forced through a curriculum. Discipling relationships require an individualized approach that takes into account the unique growth of those involved. The goal is Christ-likeness, not to complete the curriculum. It’s all about loving God and each other.

Keys For Growth. The group will only go as deep as your willingness to be vulnerable, honest, and transparent. Intimacy, accountability and transparency are paramount.

Multiplication. The commitment to disciple others is in the CORE Discipleship covenant and should remain the focus. Each CORE Group member should be allowed to lead the process. They will learn by hearing, seeing and doing.