

Small Group Guide

EVERY MEMBER A DISCIPLE-MAKER

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

January 6, 2013

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to train your group into potential disciple-makers and lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word with His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. (The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time.) Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to review the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications for our lives. (As a training tool, leaders might want to have various members summarize the teachings in their own words each week sharing how they think the Scripture applied to the original hearers and how the principles apply to us today.)

Message Outline

EVERY MEMBER A DISCIPLE MAKER

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Biblically, followers of Christ are not church avoiders or attenders, hoppers and shoppers; biblically, followers of Christ are church members.

- We are parts of a church body.
- We belong to a church gathering.
- We are served by and submissive to church leaders.
- We yearn for and yield to church discipline and restoration.
- We take seriously church accountability.
- We are a covenant community (a faith family) committed to showing God's love to each other as we spread God's love in the world.

The church is not an audience of spectators; we are a fellowship of disciple makers.

- We grow as disciples of Jesus...
- As we give our lives making disciples of Jesus.

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So how will I make disciples as a church member in 2013?

- How will I fill my mind with truth?
 - How will I read God's Word?
 - How will I memorize God's Word?
 - How will I learn God's Word from others?
- How will I fuel my affections for God?
 - How will I worship?
 - How will I pray?
 - How will I fast?
 - How will I give?
- How will I share God's love as a witness in the world?
 - Who?
 - How?
 - When?
- How will I show God's love as a member of the church?
 - Where?
 - What?
- How will I spread God's glory among all peoples?
 - How will I pray for the nations?
 - How will I give to the nations?
 - How will I go to the nations?
- How will I make disciple makers among a few people?
 - How will I bring them in?
 - How will I teach them to obey?
 - How will I model obedience?
 - How will I send them out?

Message Summary

As we begin a sermon series on the local church, we learn that the New Testament consistently reveals a commitment to a local body of believers among Christ-followers. As people for whom Christ died and created by the salvation that Christ brings, we the church covenant with each other to submit to our church leaders, to yield to church discipline and restoration, to keep each other accountable, and to show God's love to each other and in the world. Christ has not made us to dwell in a Christian bubble; He has saved us to send us out and to share the gospel. Growing in Christ does not mean attending a Bible study, going to church, and living a good life if these things are disconnected from making disciples. God intends us to grow as disciples of Christ as we give our lives making disciples of Christ. Therefore, each Christ-follower needs to answer the question, "How will I make disciples as a church member in 2013?"

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help review the application of God's Word to our Head (What does God want me to know?), to our Heart (What does God want me to desire/value?), and to our Hands (What does God want me to do?).

- Why should Christ-followers be members of a local church? Describe the dangers of being avoiders, attenders, hoppers, and shoppers instead of church members. Why would believers avoid committing to church membership? Are you an identifiable member of a local church? Why or why not?
- Define the terms "universal church" and "local church."
- How do church leaders serve their faith family? In what ways should we submit to them?

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- Read Hebrews 13:7. For what do church leaders give an account? Pray as a small group for the Elders, deacons, and church staff at Brook Hills as they lead this faith family.
- What is church discipline? For what reasons do we practice church discipline? Why should we yearn for it and yield to it as Christ-followers?
 - At Brook Hills, if you encounter a church discipline issue that needs to be addressed, contact the Elder over your small group.
- For what are church members accountable (see Acts 6:2-6; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Tim. 4; Acts 13:1-3)?
- God has not saved you to sideline you. He has saved you to send you out. Some argue that because they do not have the “gift of evangelism” or the “gift of teaching” they are exempt from participating in evangelism and disciple-making. Why is this argument invalid?
- What does it look like to grow in Christ? In what ways do you need to grow as a disciple of Jesus? This week, how can you begin to develop in those particular areas?
- If you do not make disciples, in what ways will you cease to grow as a Christ-follower? Why will your growth stagnate if you are not discipling others?
- Discuss the purpose of the Personal Disciple-Making Plan (see the last half of the sermon outline above). How will your small group keep each other accountable in each of the areas of this plan? What questions do you have about the individual items on this plan?
- Why are the benefits of filling our minds with truth? What are the dangers if we are not consistently studying Scripture, memorizing it, and learning about it from others?
- How can we guard against making reading, memorizing, and learning about God’s Word a mechanical to-do list?
- How does prayer, worship, fasting, and giving fuel affection for God? How would you describe your current affection for God? What prevents you from adoring Him? What sins do you need to confess? What areas of your life do you need to submit to His authority? Pray for God to give each of you a greater love for Him and an increased understanding of Him.
- Write the names of 2-10 unbelievers whom you will commit to pray for and to be intentional in sharing with this year. Break into pairs in your small group, share about the unbelievers you have identified, and pray for these people by name and for opportunities and words to share with them.
- What are specific ways you can serve fellow brothers and sisters in the Brook Hills faith family?
- How will you make disciples in 2013? Whom has God placed in your life that you can disciple this year? How will you live life with them this year? How will you lead them to make disciples? How can your small group encourage and equip you as you make disciples?
- Read the church covenant in your small group (see below for a copy of the church covenant). Discuss any questions about the covenant. Are there any areas in which you are not upholding the covenant?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of today’s study. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from this study?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from this study, what does God want you to desire/value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this study?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?
- What is going to be the most difficult aspect of this study to personally apply?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength to apply these truths, for personal needs, for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel, and for our weekly prayer focus as a church..

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Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from our worship guide)

- *Church: Praise God this week for His design of calling together His followers into local bodies of believers. Pray for each of us to be united together in fellowship with one another. Pray for our leaders to humbly shepherd us well. Pray for those in our faith family in need of discipline and restoration. Pray we will each recognize the unique place and role we have within our church. Ask God to guide each of us in how to best be disciples who make disciples.*
- *Local: This week we are praying for our students and their leaders as they return to classes after the holiday break. We are also praying for Grace Life Baptist Church and Joel Frederick, Pastor.*
- *Global: This week we are praying for Brook Hills Church Planters, the Taylors, who will be serving in the Middle East. Britten and Brook Taylor, along with their four boys, will be commissioned and sent out this week from our faith family to plant their lives in the Middle East among a very difficult and unreached people group where there is no established multiplying church. Together as a faith family we will send them, support them, and strengthen the work the Taylors will be doing among this people group. Pray for their family as they move in the next week to begin their journey as church planters in the Middle East. For more information visit brookhills.org/churchplanting. We are also praying for our short-term team serving in the Middle East.*

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Church Covenant

As members of THE CHURCH AT BROOK HILLS, we affirm this covenant with one another by God's grace, for our good, and ultimately for God's glory.

Having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christⁱ and to surrender our lives to Him,ⁱⁱ and having been baptized as Christians in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,ⁱⁱⁱ we covenant together to glorify God^{iv} by making disciples^v of all nations.^{vi}

Together, we will draw near to God in worship.^{vii} We will delight in the glory of God,^{viii} depend on the presence of God,^{ix} grow in the knowledge of God,^x and submit to the Word of God as the all-sufficient authority in our lives and in His church.^{xi}

Together, we will hold fast to the hope we profess.^{xii} We will regularly participate in communion as we solemnly and joyfully remember the past work of Christ on the cross, celebrate the present work of Christ at the Father's right hand, and anticipate the future work of Christ in His return for His bride.^{xiii}

Together, we will spur one another on to love and good deeds.^{xiv} We will meet with one another consistently,^{xv} pray for one another regularly,^{xvi} and serve one another selflessly.^{xvii} We will share each other's joys and bear each other's burdens.^{xviii} We will edify one another with our speech^{xix} and encourage one another with our example.^{xx} We will humbly and gently confront one another and receive correction from one another in accordance with a New Testament understanding of church discipline and restoration.^{xxi} We will give cheerfully and generously to the support of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.^{xxii}

We will submit to the leadership of elders who have been entrusted by God to serve and care for this body by teaching the Word of Christ to us and modeling the character of Christ before us, and we will affirm deacons as leading servants in the church.^{xxiii} If we move from this local body, we will as soon as possible unite with another local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.^{xxiv}

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.^{xxv}

Amen.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

ⁱ Acts 2:38; 16:31; 20:21; Romans 10:9-10

ⁱⁱ Luke 14:25-33

ⁱⁱⁱ Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41; Romans 6:1-4

^{iv} Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31

^v Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2

^{vi} Psalm 67:1-2; Revelation 7:9-10

^{vii} Hebrews 10:22; Romans 12:1-2

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- viii Psalm 16:11; 37:4; 63:1-11; 1 Corinthians 10:31
- ix Exodus 33:14-18; Matthew 28:20; John 15:5; James 4:8
- x Philippians 3:10; Colossians 1:9-12; 2 Peter 3:17-18
- xi 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Psalm 19:7-11; 119:105-112; 2 Timothy 4:2-4
- xii Hebrews 10:23
- xiii Luke 22:7-23; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
- xiv Hebrews 10:24
- xv Hebrews 10:25
- xvi Philippians 1:3-6
- xvii Romans 12:9-13
- xviii 1 Corinthians 12:26; 2 Corinthians 2:3; Galatians 6:2
- xix Ephesians 4:29-32
- xx 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Philippians 4:9
- xxi Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1
- xxii 2 Corinthians 8-9
- xxiii Hebrews 13:17; Acts 6:1-7; 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:17-20; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- xxiv Hebrews 10:25
- xxv 2 Corinthians 13:14