

Grace Today



Discipleship, Part II

We started last week with some of the key biblical concepts of discipleship. Now I want to visit with you about how we implement this command to make disciples. The reality is that some great discipleship occurs in our small groups without the primary intention and focus of the group being discipleship. Members study the Word of God together, they live life together, encouraging and urging one another on to greater devotion to Christ. Some great discipleship happens “accidentally”.

Well, in truth it is not entirely accidental, because fellowship (life together) is a key component of effective discipleship. Also, small group leaders at GCC are offered training that teaches them to think about the components of discipleship and gives them materials to use that help address areas of struggle on the group members relative to their discipleship.

Periodically we form small groups which are primarily about discipleship. These are groups of 3-4 men or women (they are segregated). The group commits to meet initially for 8 weeks, and then the group decides about the next step. The group then reviews the commitment at 16 weeks. The first module is 24 lessons in total. There is fixed curriculum for up to two years of study together. At that time, group members will either get connected with another small group, start their own discipleship group, continue meeting for further work together, or perhaps lead a small group!

These groups don't pick their own study guides...they follow a track laid out for them to the end. These groups combine some key elements: Intentionality, Relational design, and Gospel-centeredness. There is more on these groups and how to get involved in a moment.

We offer some "critical concern" classes to supplement the pieces of training that don't work as well in groups. In the past these were covered in Sunday School...watch for the roll out of the Grace Institute, which will cover some topics that are not great fits for small group or discipleship groups- theology, New Testament introduction, financial training, and marriage seminars are in this category.

How can you get involved in discipleship?

First, we need leaders to make discipleship groups (D-groups) happen. Leaders are men and women who are members of GCC with a passion to grow in their own walk, and want to help others at the same time. I will provide you with training to help you get going. You don't have to be an expert leader to be effective in leading a "D-group". Some of you did something like this while you were college students- why not get some training and get started?

An excellent way to start a "D-group" is as a break out group from an existing or newly formed group. In the case of a weekly small group, perhaps the D-group would meet only 2x a month in the morning. The small group leader doesn't have to be the leader of the D-group. Another way is to grab a couple of others whom you feel you could influence for Christ (inside or outside of GCC) and start the first 8 lesson introduction to get it going.

Are you somebody who needs to be in a "D-group"? Let me know and I will try to connect you with a leader.

Don Ward

Announcements

Thirsty Series

It's time! Make sure you've invited your friends and prepared yourself for this voyage we will embark on together this Sunday, September 13th!

Thirsty Leaders

Those leading "Thirsty" series small groups are invited to meet with Don in his office

between services on Septmeber 13th to review the materials.

Communion and Potluck Friday, September 18th at 6:30pm

Please mark your calendars for this time of communion and fellowship. Plan to bring a 2-liter of soda along with a main dish as well as a side dish or dessert. Hope to see you there!

We Need Pictures!

If you have any photos of recent events at Grace, please send them to Peter Edwards at peter.d.edwards@gmail.com so they can be used for the new website (www.cvillegrace.org)!

New Small Group Forming

The Oweds and Andresons are intending to launch a new small group this fall. If you are interested, please email Michael at michael.owed@gmail.com for more information.

Nursery Equipment Needed

The nursery is looking for a gently used exersaucer to use for our children on Sunday mornings. If you can help, contact Kim McKean at cvillermh@juno.com.

Women's Events

Person of Jesus Study

This study will meet at the church every other Wednesday. Welcome and refreshments will be from 9:00am-9:30am, study will begin at 9:30am. If you need childcare, call Carol Hill at 973-2899.

Youth Events

MODGNIK

Junior High Fall Retreat is October 2nd-4th. Registration sheets are available at the Crossroads table in the foyer. Registrations and non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 are due

ASAP!!!!!!! Total cost for the event is \$110.00 per person. Family discounts and scholarships are available, see Dave Saville for details. Sign up now! Don't miss out on an awesome adventure!

Youth Emails

If you are a parent or student who is not receiving the Youth Emails and would like to, please contact Shack Shelley to be added to the list. lilshack@embarqmail.com

Senior High Camping

September 11-12th at the home of Dave and Carol Hill. See details in the latest Crossroads email or RSVP to Stacey Powdrell at slp4d@virginia.edu or to Steve Jerabek at ltjerabek@hotmail.com

Crossroads

The next Crossroads is Sunday, September 27th! See you there!

Parent Meeting

There will be a parent meeting at the church on Saturday, September 26th. Time TBA- please mark your calendars!

Community Board

Homeschool Support Group Starting Up

Are you a homeschooling mom in need of support & encouragement? A group just for you is now in place! Group will meet the first & third Tuesdays of the month, from 7-9pm. If interested, please contact Lisa at go2thegym@comcast.net so we have an idea of how many to expect.

Please help me with my school work!

Abundant Life Ministries needs adults, college students, mature high school students to be tutors to low-income city students. Great opportunity for family members to serve together. Once/week commitment to same child for school year. Structured lesson plans provided for K-4th; general homework help for 5th & up. Carpools available! Staff oversight for all programs.

- Grades K-4th: M, T, W or Th, 3:20-5:00 pm at Johnson School

- Grades 5/6th: T or Th, 2:30-3:30 pm at Walker School
- Grades 7/8th: M or W, 2:30-3:30 pm at Buford School
- High School (girls): during 45-minute lunch period, Thursdays at CHS

Contact: Main@CharlottesvilleAbundantLife.org or 970-2077.

Fall Counselor Training at The Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia

Perhaps you have considered volunteering at The Pregnancy Center. You may have thought, "I could never do that!" If you are nervous, that's alright with us. We need the nervous, even the fearful. God uses those who have a heart and are willing to learn. If that describes you, we'd love to have you! We will teach you how to help women make good choices they can live with while sharing the Gospel and much more during all 7 classes.

Training will be held at our Downtown Center on the following dates from 6-9pm:

Monday, September 14th

Thursday, September 17th

Friday, September 18th

Monday, September 21st

Thursday, September 24th

Friday, September 25th

Monday, September 28th

Cost for the training is \$25. We also have openings for receptionists!

Call today to register! Your life will be richly blessed as you help others!

Call Pat @ 434-979-8888