



# 1825 DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM

## CURRICULUM GUIDE

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### **LEADER INFO:** The primary goal in the first few weeks of your group is simple but powerful:

Create a space where people feel seen, known, and safe. Use this time to cast vision, establish expectations, and lay the groundwork for a community marked by authenticity, vulnerability, and meaningful connection.

### **5 THINGS BEFORE YOU GET STARTED:**

**1. Trust God:** You've said "yes" to God's call to lead and shepherd the 18–25-year-olds He brings into your group. While we provide curriculum, curriculum alone will never replace the power of genuine relationships and personal encounters with God. We're praying for life-changing moments with God through this journey. But remember: those moments aren't manufactured. They're Spirit-led.

*Getting through to your group is more important than getting through the curriculum.*

*Let the Holy Spirit lead. Pay attention to what God is doing in the room, even if it means setting the guide aside.*

**2. Trust Yourself:** There will be moments when your instincts as a leader don't align perfectly with the guide. That's okay. Every group is different. The curriculum is a *tool*, not a *template*.

*You've been called for a reason. You're with this group in this season on purpose.*

Don't try to be perfect. Don't manage your image. Be real.

As the leader, go first in modeling vulnerability and authenticity. Use discernment, but don't hide the real you. Your group doesn't need to counsel you, but they *do* need to see you.

**3. Trust the Process:** Each 1825 group is unique, but every group exists to glorify God and point people to Him.

*You don't have to be a *perfect* leader—just a *prepared* one.*

Your presence each week, along with your preparation, shows your group that they matter.

Let scripture speak. Let application be real-time. Don't over-teach—ask more than you tell. Allow silence when people need time to process. Expect pain; welcome honesty.

*Create a culture where people can be fully known, accepted, and loved.*

**4. Believe for the Best:** Leading people is messy. There will be setbacks, contradictions, and moments that test your patience. That's okay—*growth is slow* and *transformation takes time*.

*You cannot cause spiritual growth—only God can. Take the pressure off yourself.*

Focus on creating a space for God to move. And when you see growth? Celebrate it! Point it out. Give God the credit. Let people know when you see Him at work in their lives.

**5. Prepare for More:** From day one, your role is to help your group look *beyond* the group.

Groups are for pouring in—community, growth, encouragement. But that's not the end goal. The mission is always *outward*. Help your 1825s move from being poured into → to pouring out.

*Move them to be the Church.*

*Move them into ministry.*

*Move them toward a lifestyle of service, love, and mission.*

Push them past the boundaries of the group. Help them build a faith that's not just personal but powerful—and alive. Transitions are tough, but your job is to prepare, challenge, and encourage them to take their next step as disciples who make disciples.

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# 1825 DG Fall Launch – WEEK 1

**1825 Focus:** Connect and cast vision. Disciple groups are the best way to surround yourself with other Christ followers as you lean into what it means to be a disciple-making disciple. It takes time and commitment to build community.

**Sermon Text:** 1 Kings 19:1-8; Psalm 23:4; 32:14, 42:5; 147:3; 139; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 11:28-29; 26:36-38; Acts 16:28; 2 Timothy 1: 7; Hebrews 4:15

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**Connect** If you spend the first few weeks in the connect portion more than curriculum questions that is ok!!! The goal is not to stay here, but remember:

## **1825 DISCIPLE GROUPS ARE VALUE-DRIVEN, NOT CURRICULUM DRIVEN**

A successful disciple group experience is defined by group members engaging in a meaningful discussion, not completing the curriculum material. Establishing trust among members and an understanding of who is in the group is vital to taking group conversations deeper and growing in vulnerability.

### **Names Matter.**

- **Introduce yourself. Get to know the group.** *\*This is likely something you will want to start with weekly until you feel confident everyone in the group knows everyone's names...Especially since you may have new folks joining throughout the semester!*
- **Have the group share their names, what they do when they aren't "here" (DG), and why they are "here" (DG).**

### **What is a Disciple Group?**

*(Use this to cast vision in your own words)*

Disciple groups are a space to walk with others as we learn what it means to follow Jesus and live as disciple-making disciples. These groups help us build Christ-centered community and grow in our faith together.

1825 groups are led by people a few steps ahead in their journey—much like the relationship between Paul and Timothy. Our leaders are here to walk with you, not above you.

At the heart of 1825 is a clear mission: to connect 18–25-year-olds to their purpose in the Great Commission. We believe that surrendering to Jesus is the best decision you'll ever make—and following Him is a lifelong process.

You were created ON purpose and WITH a purpose—to glorify God and help others know Him. Instead of just asking, "What should I do with my life?" we're challenging each other to ask, "Where can I make a difference for the glory of God?"

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### **DG Covenant**

*(Use this to begin building culture and expectations. Healthy culture must be cultivated.)*

We're choosing to launch this group with a commitment to one another—a shared set of values that help us grow, support each other, and follow Jesus together.

### **Our Group Values**

#### **Prayer**

- We believe transformation starts with God, so we commit to regular prayer and time in the Word.
- We will pray for each other consistently—by name and with purpose.

#### **Availability**

- We make showing up a priority. Simply put: nothing good happens if we don't show up. Group will be a priority, not just an option, in our week.
- We'll be there for each other—not just during group, but whenever someone is in need.

#### **Spiritual Authority**

- Everyone’s voice matters—but ultimately, we will look to Scripture as our final authority.
- We’re not just here to give advice. We’re here to point each other to Jesus.

### **Respect**

- Trust is essential. We won’t gossip or share what’s said in group outside of group.
- We will celebrate diversity, honor differences, and build unity in Christ.
- Everyone has a voice. We’ll be mindful to make space for both quick and slow processors—“instant pots” and “crockpots.”

### **Growth**

- We’ll pursue honesty and vulnerability because intimacy requires authenticity.
- “We can only love you as much as we know you...Gross things grow in the dark.”
- We are all in process. You are welcome and loved here as a child of God.
- Identity comes before activity.
- We expect to grow—and multiply. Healthy things grow, and this group exists to create more disciple-makers.

## **DISCOVER & DEEPEN**

*(The goal is to grow in our relationship with Christ and each other. It is ok if you don’t cover every question.)*

### **Read 1 Kings 19:1-8**

- 1. What is ONE thought that stuck with you from this week’s sermon? Why?**
- 2. Elijah went from bold victory to despair almost overnight. Why do you think our “darkest nights” often come after “brightest days”?**
- 3. Elijah isolates himself and even prays for his life to end. What does this reveal about how despair can distort our perspective?**
- 4. Instead of rebuke, God sends an angel with food and water. How does this shape your view of God’s response to people in deep discouragement?**
- 5. Why do you think God cared for Elijah’s body first (rest, food, water) before addressing his mission? How does this connect to caring for our own mental and physical health?**
- 6. Elijah is strengthened for forty days by God’s provision. Where have you seen God give you just what you needed to keep going?**
- 7. Fear looks into the future and assumes the worst; faith looks forward trusting God is in control. What does that tension look like in your own life right now?**
- 8. In Matthew 26, Jesus said, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death.” How does His honesty with God and His friends give you permission to be honest about your own struggles?**
- 9. What lies do you think the enemy tries to get our generation to believe about**

mental health, identity, or hope?

**10. In a culture full of noise, how do you practically renew your mind each day?**

**11. Jesus asked His disciples to pray with Him in Gethsemane. Why do you think it's so hard to ask others for help—and what keeps us isolated?**

**12. Elijah started this passage alone under a tree, but by verse 8, he's on his way to meet with God at Horeb. What steps can help move us from isolation back into encounter with God?**

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## **ACTION STEP**

**In light of your answer to the last question, what is one step God is calling you to take this week?**

Sanctification and spiritual growth are not linear, but they always involve a step of obedience. Some will have the same next step week after week as they grow in spiritual disciplines and learn to walk in obedience. Others will have a next step that can be completed within the week.

The more you can lead individuals in making their next step SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timely) the easier it is to walk out accountability.

Example:

1825: "My next step is to read my bible more."

Leader: "How many times this next week do you want to read your bible? When will you do it? How long? What will you read?"

1825: "I want to read when I wake up three mornings for 20 minutes."

Have a group member record next steps and share in your Group Me.

*Next week check in. How did it go? Whether you accomplished the goal or not: What did you learn about God? Yourself?*

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## **Prayer**

**How can we pray for you and your walk with Jesus? Close in Prayer.**

*While we are happy to pray for all things, we want to grow in authenticity by asking and sharing how we can pray for one another as we discover and deepen in our relationship with Christ and take next steps of obedience.*

**\*\*\*TIP:** *Provide index cards. Have each member write their prayer requests on a card with their name and place in the middle of the circle. At the end of group each person selects a card to pray over for the next week. Encourage members to reach out to the individual they are praying for during the week. Mixed groups: keep guys and girls cards separate. Guys pray and reach out to guys. Girls pray and reach out to girls.*

