

DNA MEETING GUIDE

WHAT DOES A DNA GROUP DO?



DNA groups are simple. You'll do 3 things every time you meet:

DISCOVER

*Led by the Spirit, the group will study the Bible & ask the 4 Questions. The goal is to **teach the head** so that each person learns or is reminded of the truths of God every time your DNA group meets.*

Studying the Bible is the primary way DNA groups *Discover* together. Your group will choose daily Bible readings to read through the week, answering the 4 Questions as you study & journal on your own. Be ready to discuss what you have learned, where the Spirit has led you to repentance & faith, and how you have struggled with sin/unbelief in your life this week. As a secondary option for your meeting time, walk through a Scripture together using the 4 Questions.

At times, a DNA group may decide to study a book other than (or alongside) the Bible as a way to help them *Discover*. These books should be gospel-centered & include large amounts of Scripture. DNA groups should use the 4 Questions even when studying something other than the Bible.

NURTURE

*Led by the Spirit, the group will repent and believe in the gospel. The goal is to **shepherd the heart** so that each person is brought to repentance & renewed faith every time your DNA group meets.*

The assumption is that within a week's time, every believer is going to sin and therefore need to turn to Jesus in repentance & faith. DNA groups are designed to help us identify these areas of sin and idolatry in our lives. *Nurture* is about ensuring what we *know* aligns with what we *believe*.

Listen for the heart as each person shares during the Discover step. Ask good questions. Speak the truth in love as the Spirit leads you, calling each person to repent of sin & believe the gospel.

ACT

*Led by the Spirit, the group will listen & obey as He calls us to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. The goal is to **empower the hands** so that each person knows what to do & who to tell every time your DNA group meets.*

Once we've discovered the truth about who God is & what He's done, then repented of our sin/unbelief & renewed our faith in Jesus, we need to ask the Spirit to guide us in changing the way we live. So with your group, you'll answer the question, "**What will I do?**" (a specific act of obedience)

Jesus gave His followers the Spirit so they could be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). He wants us to bear witness to the reality of His work in our lives. When we ask the Spirit who He wants us to tell, He may lead us to talk to believers and/or not-yet-believers (our spouse, kids, a friend, coworker or neighbor). Every time we experience the Spirit's conviction and God's forgiveness, we have an amazing story to tell and a way to point to Jesus as our only hope. So with your group, you'll also answer the question, "**Who will I tell?**"

THE 4 QUESTIONS



1. WHO IS GOD?

What does the text say about **the character & nature of God?** The Bible is God's story — Father, Son, Spirit — so we begin by asking about how His character & nature are revealed in what we're reading. The story is about Him! Look for specific references to His attributes: holy, eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, ever present, unchanging, compassionate, gracious, patient, loving, kind, good, gentle, etc. In narrative portions, look for implied references to His attributes. What does the story reveal about His character & nature as Father, Son, and Spirit?

2. WHAT HAS HE DONE?

What does the text say about **the work of God?** God's work throughout all of human history is diverse & magnificent. All of it is worth proclaiming! However, the person & work of Jesus is revealed on every page of the Bible (Luke 24:27). He is the hero & the main character. The Spirit does not want us to miss Jesus!

Look for references to the life, death, & resurrection of Jesus, either through foreshadowing (saving Noah in the flood, redeeming Israel from slavery in Egypt, King David as a man after God's own heart), through prophecy (Ps 22, Isa 53), or through the New Testament story of Jesus' earthly life & the establishment of his church. This ensures a uniquely Christian, gospel-centered answer to this question.

3. WHO ARE WE (IN LIGHT OF THAT)?

What does the text say about **our identity?** God has always been working to save "a people for his own possession." (1Peter 2:9) Throughout the Bible, note the things that are true of God's people. This adds depth & richness to our understanding of who we are as New Covenant believers. For example, the Levitical priests were anointed & set apart for special service to God. Now, we are all anointed with God's Spirit (2Cor. 1:21-22), and, because of Jesus, are all a part of God's "royal priesthood," set apart for special service to God.

4. WHAT DO WE DO (HOW DO WE LIVE)?

In light of all of this, how does it change the way we live? When reading the Bible, we almost always start with the question, "How does this apply to my life?" But rightly motivated, gospel-centered action flows out of an understanding of who God is, what he's done, & who we are in light of God's character & work. Rather than starting with this question, end with it.

And then, **take action!** Jesus warns against being merely a hearer of his word but not a doer (Matt 7:24-27). The gospel motivates & empowers us to live in an entirely new way.