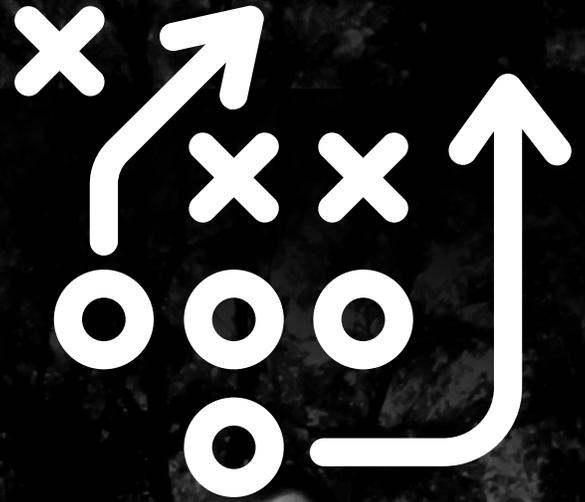




THE CORNERS CHAPEL

# DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES (D.C. GROUPS)



# Discipleship Communities (DC Groups) Playbook

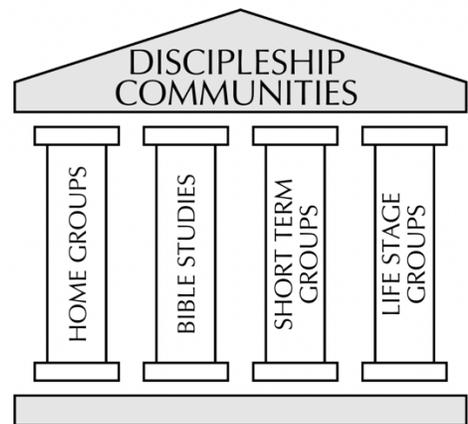
## OVERVIEW

At The Corners Chapel, Discipleship Communities (DC Groups) serve as one of the two primary ways we **Connect** in our Discipleship Flightpath. The other way is through our serve teams. The mission for all of our DC Groups is the same as our church: *To see lives transformed by the Word of God so that all the corners of the earth will know that Jesus is Lord.*

DC Groups are designed to supplement the Sunday gathering by creating smaller environments where church members and attendees can know God better, grow in their faith, build meaningful relationships, and foster a gospel-centered, multiethnic, and multigenerational Christian community.

**DC Groups are structured around four key pillars:**

1. **Home Groups**
2. **Bible Studies**
3. **Short-Term Groups (ST Groups)**
4. **Life Stage Groups (LS Groups)**



Each of these group types plays a unique role in our discipleship strategy, yet all share some core elements.

## CORE ELEMENTS OF ALL DC GROUPS

All DC Groups must include the following core elements:

1. **An Opening of the Scriptures**  
All DC Groups are centered around God's Word. Whether through sermon reflection or topical Bible study, part of each group's time should include time in the word.
2. **A Time of Prayer**  
Prayer is vital for spiritual growth. Groups should regularly pray together.
3. **An Environment of Christian Community**  
Each group should foster a safe, welcoming space where members can share their lives openly and honestly. Trust, humility, love, and a willingness to listen are essential for building genuine community.
4. **A Regular Meeting Schedule**  
Consistency is key. Whether weekly, biweekly, or monthly, a regular schedule encourages attendance and allows time for relationships to deepen.

## 5. **Guidance Under the Board of Elders**

All DC Groups operate under the authority and guidance of the church Elders. This ensures unity, accountability, and proper support for group leaders.

## 6. **Commitment to the Church's Vision**

All DC Groups share the goal of fostering a gospel-centered, multiethnic, and multigenerational church community.

# DISTINCTIVES OF EACH GROUP TYPE

## Home Groups

- **Heterogeneous Membership:** Open to all, regardless of marital status, gender, ethnicity, or age.
- **Core Group of Regular Attenders:** While open to visitors, Home Groups should cultivate a committed core group.
- **Connection to Sunday Messages:** Home Groups intentionally reflect on and discuss the Sunday sermon, helping members apply the message throughout the week. *This does not mean home groups can only follow the sermon series, but each meeting should tie back to the sermon at some point.*
- **Elder-Approved Studies:** Groups may choose elder-approved studies but are encouraged to prioritize sermon discussions.
- **Food/Snacks:** Home Groups are encouraged to incorporate food/snacks at gatherings to foster a welcoming and relational atmosphere. Providing food/snacks can help attendees feel more at ease, open up conversations, and enhance decision-making during discussions. Responsibility for bringing food/snacks should be shared among members to promote participation and reduce the burden on any one person.
  - For more reason on why Home Groups should include food, check out this article:
    - <https://www.smallgroupinternational.com/why-is-food-important-small-group-gathering/>
- **Meeting Frequency:** Home Groups should meet no less than twice a month to ensure consistent connection and spiritual growth. Regular meetings help build deeper relationships and provide more opportunities for members to reflect on the Word and live it out in their daily lives.

## Bible Studies

- **Topical or Book Studies:** These groups are dedicated to studying specific books of the Bible or particular topics in depth.
- **Less Community Focus:** While fostering relationships is important, the primary goal of these groups is to study the bible.

### **Short-Term Groups (ST Groups)**

- **Time-Bound:** Typically lasting no more than three months. (With few exceptions)
- **Topical Focus:** These groups address specific life issues or themes.
- **Gateway Groups:** The hope is that those who partake in these groups will eventually transition into Home Groups or Bible Studies afterward.

### **Life Stage Groups (LS Groups)**

- **Life Stage Focus:** Members share similar life circumstances.
- **Limited Frequency:** LS Groups should meet no more than once a month to ensure they remain supplementary.
- **Complementary Role:** LS Groups are not intended to replace the need for Home Groups or Bible Studies.

## **NAMING GUIDELINES**

To ensure consistency and clarity across all Discipleship Communities (DC Groups) at The Corners, the following naming and branding guidelines must be adhered to:

#### **1. Home Groups**

- Each Home Group must be named after the geographical location where it primarily meets.
- Format: "**[Location] Home Group**"
  - a) Example: "Northfield Home Group"

#### **2. Bible Studies**

- Bible Studies should be named according to the demographic they serve.
- Example: "**Men's Bible Study**" or "**Women's Bible Study**"

#### **3. Short-Term Groups (ST Groups)**

- Short-Term Groups should be named according to their focus or topic.
- Format: "**[Topic/Focus] Short-Term Group**" or "**[Topic/Focus] ST Group**"
  - a) Example: "Marriage Short-Term Group" or "Marriage ST Group"

#### **4. Life Stage Groups (LS Groups)**

- Life Stage Groups should be named according to the life stage they address.
- Format: "**[Life Stage] Life Stage Group**" or "**[Life Stage] LS Group**"
  - a) Example: "Young Parents Life Stage Group" or "Young Parents LS Group"

## Leader Requirements

- Leaders must be members of The Corners Chapel.
- Leaders must meet with an elder before starting their group.
- Leaders must annually affirm both the Doctrinal Statement and the Full Statement of Faith. Those can be found:
  - <https://storage2.snappages.site/FWMCMQ/assets/files/Doctrinal-Statement-Statement-of-Faith-19.pdf>
- Leaders must agree to and sign the TCC Leadership Covenant.

Those involved with the management of Discipleship Communities will likely need access to the Ministry Center, and help with church-wide communication of said groups. Below we have included ways to do both!

## MINISTRY CENTER USE

To request use of The Corners Chapel Ministry Center, click [here](#).

- If viewing this playbook as a hard copy, please visit **thecornerschapel.com**, and select Ministry Center under the ABOUT tab. Once on the Ministry Center page, scroll all the way down to the Group Use section, and click the button that says “FILL OUT A GROUP USE REQUEST FORM”.
- Please be sure to include all needed information, including recurring use and start/end times. After processing your request, our Church Administrator will work with you on obtaining a prox card for the space.

## COMMUNICATIONS REQUESTS

For any help with communications for your D.C. Group (including, but not limited to; stage announcements, bulletin inclusions, website updates, video and graphic design needs) please click [here](#).

- If viewing this playbook as a hard copy, please visit [thecornerschapel.com](http://thecornerschapel.com), and sign into *mycornerslogin* under the CONNECT tab using the password [acts16ten](#). Once inside *mycorners*, scroll all the way down to the Communications Request Form section, and click the button that says “COMMUNICATIONS REQUEST FORM”.
- Follow the prompts given, and our Communications Director will get back to you as soon as possible. Please note that not all requests can or will be fulfilled.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Corners Chapel's DC Groups are a vital part of our discipleship strategy. By offering a variety of groups that cater to different needs while maintaining core elements of discipleship, we aim to build a thriving community of believers who gather, connect, know, grow, and go in their faith.