

Daily Discipleship

Implementation Guide for Daily Discipleship Groups

Count Down

Follow these guidelines to plan, kick off, and implement *Daily Discipleship Groups* in your congregation. Have fun! Be creative!

As early as possible: Bring together a task force or team to promote this effort. These people should be passionate disciples of Christ willing to encourage others to grow in discipleship. Be sure to work with your congregation's current Christian Education committee or team. Begin to pray for this ministry.

Week 8 - Introduce *Daily Discipleship Groups* in an article for the congregation's newsletter. Put up posters inviting people to consider participating in a small group (2-7 individuals) who meet weekly for one hour. The meeting places can be homes, work place, church, restaurants, school, or neighborhood. Pray.

Week 7 - Begin to personally invite and plant the seeds of *Daily Discipleship Groups*.

- a) Encourage couples to make a commitment to meet once a week. The groups can include only two. Expand the group to include other family members, neighbors, or friends.
- b) Invite groups with similar interests (married couples, singles, parents, seniors, young adults, tennis players, etc.) to form their own *Daily Discipleship Group*.
- c) Invite diverse groups to gather throughout the community.

Think outside the box. Where might groups gather in your community? Ask for suggestions. Listen to who gets excited. Pray. Include articles in the bulletin and congregation's Web site.

Week 6 - Expand the task force to include other key individuals in the congregation. Host a gathering to explain the concept of *Daily Discipleship Groups*. Invite this expanded group of committed Christians to think broadly and creatively:

- a) If 70% of the adults of your congregation would be involved in a *Daily Discipleship Group*, approximately how many groups would be formed in your faith community? How might this task force and their friends divide and multiply in order for this to happen?
- b) What about the youth and children? How might they be involved?

Ask each to prayerfully consider convening a *Daily Discipleship Group* at a time and place convenient to him/her. Pray. Recruit this group to fervently pray.

Week 5 - Include a bulletin insert introducing *Daily Discipleship Groups*. Continue the informal invitations around the congregation. *What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? How do we stay connected with Christ and his Word in the coming week?* Include the plans for *Daily Discipleship Groups* in the prayers of the church. Invite others to pray.

Week 4- Begin a series of temple talks about discipleship. Include articles in the newsletter and bulletin. Send a letter to the congregation explaining the *Daily Discipleship Groups* and sample September 11 session plan. See: www.elca.org/evangelism/dailydiscipleship

Week 3 - Continue temple talks and bulletin inserts. Provide a *Daily Discipleship* orientation. Invite all who are curious.

Orientation: Host an Orientation Session to introduce *Daily Discipleship Groups*. Before the orientation, make arrangements for a small group to role play a typical session. Although there are no *official* leaders, it will be helpful to have someone designated to host the first session.

Sign-up: Recruit the task force to help organize sign-up sheets for *Daily Discipleship Groups*. People can spontaneously create their own groups beyond the ones provided by the congregation. Be sure to have more than enough groups so no one is left out. It is highly suggested to limit each group to 7 people.

Week 2 - Continue signing people up for *Daily Discipleship Groups*. (Even if spouses create their own *Daily Discipleship Group*, mark that down for your records.) Continue verbal announcements, temple talks, prayers of the church, and bulletin inserts. Preach a children's sermon on discipleship. Pray.

Week 1 - Preach on discipleship. Covenant to follow Christ. Commission the congregation to go where God calls, gathers, and empowers them. Continue signing people up for *Daily Discipleship Groups*. Pray.

Afterwards. . . Call, encourage, converse, visit, and do all to support each other in following Christ.

6 Weeks later. . . Have a celebration. Share what has been learned. Make plans to revise, improve, and expand *Daily Discipleship Groups*. Look for ways to include more people especially those not currently involved in the groups.



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Written by John and Robin McCullough-Bade

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