



## Discipleship Groups

The following is the format to be used for Discipleship Groups.

### Gathering

*The people sit for a time of silence.*

### Opening

*The leaders reads the following aloud.*

Welcome to our Discipleship Group. May the Holy Spirit bless us and keep us during our time together. We are gathered to help each other become better followers of Jesus Christ, which happens naturally when we love him. We become better followers of Jesus by holding each other in his love and by encouraging each other to practice the disciplines he teaches. Please remember everything we say is to be held in confidence, which is one way we hold each other in love.

### Vows

*Members read vows for the following common practices – pray, worship, serve, learn, give, work and join.*

**By God's grace,** I will set aside time regularly for **prayer**, “praying to God in secret”(Mt. 6:6), working toward twenty minutes a day.

**By God's grace,** I will praise God, offering myself and receiving God's love and blessings with the rest of my Christian community in weekly “**worship** in the beauty of holiness”(Ps. 96:9).

**By God's grace,** I will endeavor to **serve** others everywhere I can, working toward giving an hour a week in service, remembering Jesus says “surely as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me”(Mt. 25:40).

**By God's grace,** I will “read, mark, **learn**, and inwardly digest”(BCP p. 236) the Holy Scriptures, trusting they are “inspired by God” for my “training in righteousness”( 2 Tim. 3:16), working toward knowledge of the entire book.

**By God's grace,** I will be a good steward of my money, working toward **giving** ten percent to the church and those in need, mindful that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”(Mt. 6:21).

**By God's grace,** I will do the **work** God sends me to do this week, remembering Jesus says “as the Father has sent me, so I send you”(Jn. 20:21) entrusting my Discipleship Group to test and support that work.

*The final practice is read in unison.*

**By God's grace,** we have **joined** ourselves to one another as this Discipleship Group, and we commit to meeting regularly for this season of our lives, believing that “if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us”(1 Jn. 4:12).



### **Check In and/or Activity**

Each person may check in for a specified time, as the group determines. Groups may choose to insert an activity such as sharing experiences with the vows, sharing spiritual autobiographies, naming the work God sends us to do this week or reading together appropriate books such as those of The Restoration Project.

### **Closing Prayer and Closing Words**

*The Leader leads a simple closing devotion such as saying the Lord's Prayer and then ends the meeting by reading aloud these Closing Words:*

Please remember that what we have said in this gathering was spoken in confidence. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*The members respond:*

Thanks be to God.