



DPL PROJECT

A GUIDE FOR
NEW BELIEVERS

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Class project for Discipleship & Spiritual Formation

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OVERVIEW/ TERMS TO KNOW

What is a DPL?

A DPL, or Discipleship Process Leader, is a disciple maker. He or she will be a guide for new believers as they begin their walk with Christ. The DPL project is an avenue for Christians to make disciples.

Why do I need a guide or DPL?

Growing in your faith is the top priority of a new believer. The DPL is meant to guide the new believer through this crucial beginning of a lifelong journey. It is not that a new believer could not do this by himself or herself, but having a guide to answer questions and provide support through the beginning of this journey will be extremely beneficial in the long run.

What is a new believer?

New believers are the church's future as they are the new disciples who follow Jesus, but many tend to fall away because their faith is not taken seriously by themselves or others.

OVERVIEW/ TERMS TO KNOW

Purpose of this process:

This process aims to catch new believers at a crucial time and encourage, develop and deploy them as effective and genuine disciples of Christ who follow His command to go and make disciples.

What are LIFE Groups?

LIFE Groups are our small group Bible studies where people in the same stage of life gather together on Sundays or Wednesdays to study God's word, pray for and encourage one another, and grow deeper in their relationships with other believers and God.

Relationships in Discipleship:

The discipleship process is built on relationships; the relationship between the new believer and God, new believer and DPL, new believer and church, and so many more. Relationships are how we communicate and create accountability in our daily walk with Jesus Christ.

STEP 1 Connect With
Your DPL

STEP 2 Begin The Bible
Reading Plan

STEP 3 Study & Practice
The Prayer Guide

STEP 4 Connect With A
LIFE Group

STEP 5 Start Serving

STEP 6 Start Inviting Others/
Sharing The Gospel

STEP 7 Become A DPL

STEP 1

Connect With Your DPL

“Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another”

Proverbs 27:17

- After a person becomes a new believer, the hope is that someone in First West led them to their salvation. This person would naturally become their DPL. If a pastor or person at another church led them to Christ, a person who already has a relationship with them at the church would become their DPL. Typically, a DPL will be around the same age as the new believer except in cases involving a parent and child.
- If a child becomes a new believer, it is the parent’s biblical responsibility to disciple him/her and become his/her DPL.
Deuteronomy 6:7
- The DPL would be encouraged to meet one-on-one with the new believer to share expectations and goals throughout the process.
- The DPL and the new believer would be given their materials, and the DPL would follow up with them if they have yet to get baptized and hold them accountable to getting baptized.

*More scripture to focus on: 1 Thessalonians 5:11,
1 Thessalonians 2:11-12, Romans 1:12, Romans 15:4*

STEP 2

Begin The Bible Reading Plan

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your word. I have sought you with all my heart; don't let me wander from your commands. I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.”

Psalms 119:9-11

- Read the book of Mark, chapter by chapter, and reflect on the questions asked in the New Believer Guide.
- Read the book of Proverbs, chapter by chapter, and reflect on the questions asked in the New Believer Guide.

Why Mark and Proverbs?

Mark is the shortest gospel, or record of the life of Jesus, out of the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. All of them recount the life and ministry of Jesus, so choosing to read Mark provides a quick and easy avenue to learn more about Jesus. Proverbs is known for its poetic wisdom. Reading through Proverbs will provide applicable wisdom for situations in life that most people will face.

- The DPL and the new believer will both read through Mark, and the DPL will be able to answer any questions. For Proverbs, the DPL will encourage the new believer to read through it with less reliance on the DPL and use other resources, such as online commentaries/websites, to answer questions independently and develop his or her effective bible study method.

More scripture to focus on: Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, Matthew 24:35

BIBLE READING PLAN

Read Mark 1

What does God reveal about himself in this passage?

What does God reveal about humanity in this passage?

How can this passage apply to us today?

BIBLE READING PLAN

Read Mark 2

What does God reveal about himself in this passage?

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Read Mark 3

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BIBLE READING PLAN

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BIBLE READING PLAN

Read Mark 6

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BIBLE READING PLAN

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BIBLE READING PLAN

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BIBLE READING PLAN

Read Proverbs 27

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Read Proverbs 28

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Read Proverbs 29

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Read Proverbs 30

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BIBLE READING PLAN

Read Proverbs 31

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What does God reveal about humanity in this passage?

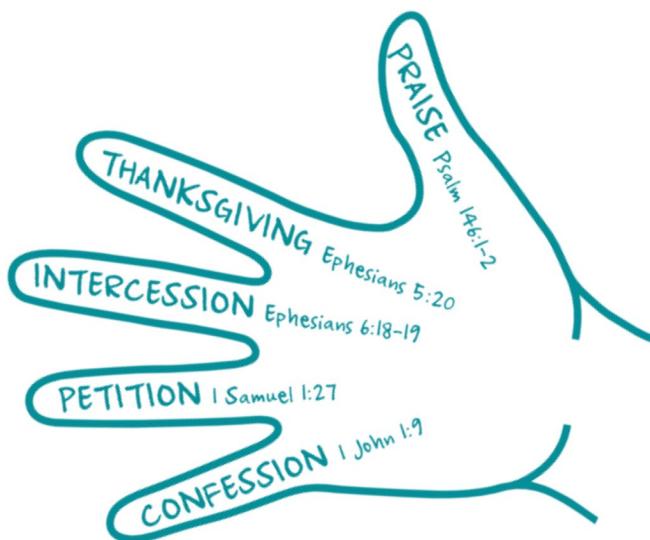
How can this passage apply to us today?

STEP 3 Study & Practice The Prayer Guide

“Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Matthew 6:9-13

In any relationship, communication is a key part of growth, and that face applies even more to our relationship with God. Praying is how we communicate with God and is a key part to growing your relationship with Him. Prayer can seem overwhelming and you may think “I don’t know how to pray” or “I don’t know what to pray for”, but just think of it as a conversation. “Okay, but I still don’t know what to talk to God about.” Below is a prayer resource known as the “prayer hand”. Each finger represents something that you can talk to God about and we will cover each of the five elements and what each means.



PRAYER GUIDE

1. Confession – 1 John 1:9 tells us “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Tell God about the sins that you have committed and ask for His forgiveness. Of course, He already knows our sin, even before we have committed it, but He wants to hear from us.

• *I agree with God about my sin.*

2. Petition – 1 Samuel 1:27-28a says “I prayed for this boy, and since the Lord gave me what I asked him for, I now give the boy to the Lord.” Ask the Lord to provide for your needs.

• *I ask God to provide for my needs.*

3. Intercession – Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18-19, “Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.” Pray that the Lord will provide for the needs of the people around you. Pray for your family, your coworkers, your friends, and your pastors at church!

• *I ask God to provide for the needs of others.*

PRAYER GUIDE

4. Thanksgiving – Paul also says in Ephesians 5:20, “giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,” Thank God for His blessings and for what He is doing! We give Him thanks for the things he has given us.

• I thank God for what He has done in, through and for me. I thank Him for His answers to prayers in the lives of those around me and for His ongoing work across the nation and the world.

5. Praise – The psalmist writes in Psalms 146:1-2, “Hallelujah! My soul, praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I live.” We praise God for who He is.

• I let my enjoyment and adoration of God overflow into words. As the thumb is able to touch all four other fingers, so praise should permeate every part of my prayer life.

More scripture to focus on: Psalms 66:19,

Proverbs 15:29, Mark 11:24, Romans 12:12, Colossians 4:2

STEP 4 Connect With A LIFE Group

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42-47

- At First West, our LIFE Groups are a core ministry of the church. This is where people are encouraged, challenged, and grow in their faith.
- Throughout the process, the DPL would encourage the new believer to join and get involved in a LIFE Group. The DPL would attend the same life stage life groups and contact their leaders to ensure the new believer feels welcome and known when visiting.
- By the end of the process, the new believer would consistently be in a LIFE Group, which would continue to disciple, encourage, and teach the new believer while possibly transitioning into a D-Group naturally.

More scripture to reflect on: Romans 12:15, Galatians 6:2, James 5:16, Matthew 18:20

STEP 5 Start Serving

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45

- Ask your DPL to show you our Next Steps card and discuss opportunities available to serve. The DPL, and hopefully a LIFE Group, will present and help the new believer find ways to serve after a few weeks of consistency and growth.
- The DPL would help assess what areas of the church the new believer would like to serve in (children, students, college, young adults, worship, greeter, etc.....) and begin taking steps to get them involved and serving.
- The new believer will let the DPL know what ministries he or she would be interested in serving in. The DPL would then contact the affiliated person in that ministry and connect them to the new believer.

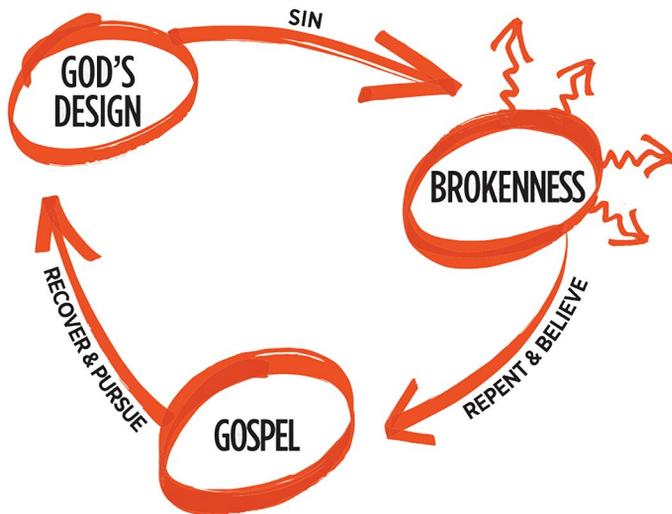
More scripture to reflect on: Matthew 25:35-40, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Galatians 5:13

STEP 6 Start Inviting Others/ Sharing The Gospel

“Then he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’”

Mark 16:15

- The DPL would help the new believer talk about their testimony and how to share it with others effectively.
- The new believer would also be taught the three circles as another evangelistic tool.
- The DPL would encourage and hold the new believer accountable for sharing their faith with others. They would also be encouraged to invite people they know to church, with the prayer that the new believer would become a DPL for another new believer.



More scripture to reflect on: Matthew 28:19-20

STEP 7

Become A DPL

“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35

- The process is multiplied and begins again as the new believer shares his or her faith or grabs someone else who needs intentional discipleship and becomes his or her DPL.



FIRST WEST

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