

Discipleship Groups at Revolve

What do groups look like at Revolve?

Our goal is for every follower of Jesus who attends Revolve Church to be involved in discipleship relationships. Discipleship Groups are the primary way that we make that available to people at Revolve, but that is not to suggest that other manifestations aren't valid.

Some groups form through a process of church systems (e.g. people come to Revolve, like it, decide to stay, and fill out a card to get plugged in). These types of groups are called Discipleship Groups and they are made up of people from across Cape May County who meet regularly to connect with God, connect with one another, and to connect with God's mission (at time this includes meeting for a meal). Discipleship Groups are overseen by leaders who have gone through both Doctrine (Fight Club) and our Disciple Making Training (the Hub).

Other groups form more organically as people with shared social circles go to Revolve. In these cases, people didn't necessarily fill out a card to get plugged in, but they looked around at one another and said, "Hey, let's get together regularly for discipleship and encouragement." We encourage these groups to use the Discovery Bible Study (www.revolvechurchnj.com/discover) and share in the process of facilitation and leadership. In the past, these groups have been formed by people who have gone through the Hub.

If you are starting a Discovery Bible Study, please let us know at info@revolvechurchnj.com so that our elders can stay connected for coaching.

How often do groups meet?

Since groups are more than weekly Bible studies (as you will see below), they are encouraged to meet as frequently as they are able. For some groups, this means a formal meeting once a week with informal lunches, coffee breaks, or dinners throughout the month. For others it means a big family style meal once a month and then various discipleship huddles whenever available. For many, it means regular engagement during the week through shared Bible reading plans, hanging out at the playground, helping with chores around the house, constant digital communication, and even running errands together.

We encourage groups to share life with high frequency, but understand that the structure will vary.

Who should join a group?

It is our hope that every regular attender of Revolve is involved in some sort of discipleship relationship, either one that uses the Discovery Bible Study and occurs organically, or a Discipleship Group that forms through the on-ramps of the church.

What about people who don't go to Revolve?

In our experience, having people who attend other churches involved in our groups creates sideways energy that pulls groups off course and can dramatically alter a group's DNA. If you have friends who are involved in other churches, we strongly suggest that they attend groups hosted by their church. If they don't have groups at their church, you can show them how to start one using this document and they can form one within their church family.

If you have a friend who does not go to church and may or may not be a believer, we encourage you to gather him or her together with other friends from that same social circle and start a Discovery Bible Study. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring the gospel to new segments of our county that may not be familiar with the gospel. Rather than pulling them out of their social circle into your group, it is far more potent to bring the gospel INTO their world and let the Word of God transform THEIR community.

That being said, if this happens (and we hope that it does!) we would not consider this to be a Revolve Discipleship Group, but rather a Discovery Bible Study. In other words, we would not funnel people from Revolve into it and would not treat it as an entity of Revolve in an official capacity (the same way we wouldn't view a workplace Bible study as part of Revolve). This is to protect the integrity of the group as well as to foster community for those who attend Revolve so that they can be connected with other Revolve people.

How do people join a group?

To join a Discipleship Group:

- Fill out a blue connection card (or a digital card) and we will place you.
 - OR
- Invite people to join the group that you are already leading or a part of (with your group's permission).

To join a Discovery Bible Study:

- Learn how to facilitate a Discovery Bible Study by having someone show you or attending the Hub.
- Gather some friends from your circle of relationships.
- Let us know by emailing us at info@revolvechurchnj.com so that we can encourage you and coach you well!
- Start meeting!

How big are the groups?

Generally speaking, the size of the group depends upon the dynamics of the group, especially the number of kids. That being said, we have found that the ideal range is somewhere between 5 and 10 adults.

What do groups do?

We encourage all groups to use the facilitation structure listed below. If groups stick with this framework, they will hit all the core pieces of a healthy discipleship community as outlined in the Connect Triangle. If you do not want to use the DBS for your group, please keep the DNA intact (prayer, accountability, word, obedience, etc).

As you read through the facilitator's guide remember that if you follow through on the action steps, you will find yourself connecting with one another and the world around you naturally.

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

INVITE PEOPLE TO COME EARLY TO MINGLE

PRAY (consider smaller groups of 3 or 4 if your group is larger)

Go around the group and pray...

- Telling God something you are thankful for this week
- Telling God something you are stressed about this week

ACCOUNTABILITY IN HUDDLES

- What is God teaching you this week in your personal time with him and what are you doing about it?
- How did you live out last week's lesson?
- Have you been able to share about God with anyone this week?

DISCOVER GOD IN HIS WORD (Come together, no longer in a huddle for prayer)

Read today's passage all together. What did you like? What is unclear? What is the progression of events or flow of thought? Get a handle on the passage and then retell it in your own words.

Discuss the following questions all together:

- What does this teach about God? Spend time making an exhaustive list.
- What does this teach about people? Again, make an exhaustive list.

HEAR AND OBEY GOD'S WORD

- How should this change how you live? Are there any sins to avoid, promises to claim, examples to follow, or commands to obey?

- Spend a minute and ask God to show you what he wants you to do in obedience to this passage. Share it and write it down.
- With whom will you share today's lesson? Write it down for accountability!

PRAY IN HUDDLES

Go around the group and pray...

- Worship God by telling him all the amazing things you discovered about him in this passage.
- Respond to what you discovered about yourself in this passage by confessing or thanking God, and asking for his help in what you have committed to do.

LIVE THE GOSPEL WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK, LEARN AND PLAY

- Do you know someone who needs help? How can your group demonstrate and declare the love of Jesus in their situation?
- Do you know someone who would be interested in discovering God through the Word? Start reading the Bible with them!
- How are existing discipling relationships going?

What curriculum or content do the groups study?

Some groups choose to study passages of Scripture that parallel the sermons each week.

Other groups choose to do what we call a journey. A journey is a list of scriptures designed to discover what the Scripture says about a certain topic or book of the Bible. So, your group might do a series of DBS's through Matthew or do a discovery journey on what the Bible says about parenting. As we create more journeys, [we will publish them online for easy access.](#)

Many groups simply decide to slowly read through a book of the Bible together and discover God's truth week to week.

What should I do to prepare as a facilitator?

Our goal is to make facilitation as simple as possible because we believe that discipleship should be replicable. The best facilitators do not lecture, but they do spur on conversation. We have found that if you stick to the above framework, you will have plenty of things to talk about!

So that you are actively raising new potential leaders, it is strongly encouraged that everyone in your group takes turns facilitating (e.g. asking the questions) when they are willing.

In terms of personal preparation, the best thing that you can do as a facilitator is to walk in daily repentance, obedience, and intimacy with the Lord.

How will we prepare YOU?

We encourage all leaders and potential leaders at Revolve to be equipped by:

- Joining an existing group
- Attending Doctrine
- Attending the Hub
- Submitting to coaching sessions

Groups with Kids

How much or how little you engage the children in your group is at your discretion. Every group functions differently in this area. Some suggestions:

- If you have little kids, consider rotating weeks where one week the men watch the kids while the ladies have a more structured time and the next week it switches. Consider coming together for a less formal meeting once a month.
- Consider hiring a sitter by chipping in money.
- Have one person a week take turns involve the kids in their own DG.
- If age allows, consider involving your children in the discussion.

Day-to-Day Shepherding of your Group

While members of your discipleship community are not formally Pastors, it is possible (and encouraged) for group members to “pastor” or shepherd each other through daily life as they speak the gospel into each situation. This can be done casually, as it is about having a relationship where “iron sharpens iron” (Proverbs 27:17).

- As frequently as possible, direct group members towards Scripture that speaks into their current situation.
- Consider doing a Discovery Study 1-on-1 or in small huddles to encourage one another and apply the scripture *together* to the situation.
- Pray together in relation to the situation.

Day-to-Day Evangelism as a Group

Groups are encouraged to “stir up one another to love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24) and to forward the spread of the Gospel where they live, learn, work and play.

- Encourage one another in disciple-making opportunities through accountability, coaching and prayer
- Gather together for prayer walks through your neighborhoods
- Develop missionary rhythms together (patterns of activity that develop potential relationships for the gospel)
- Organize more formal opportunities to share the gospel or serve those around you as your group feels led. Remember, this is more naturally done in community with those you

share your life with. Your group will grow closer together as you share these opportunities together.

What Is the Protocol for Hospital Visitation?

Your group is the frontline of care.

1. The church is the body of Christ. The pastor and staff make up just a small part of that body. The staff isn't dodging or delegating hospital visits, we are empowering you to go in the name of Jesus.
 - a. Know that we are here for you and are always willing to help when needed.
2. How to visit the Hospital
 - a. Call ahead to confirm if visitors are welcome.
 - b. Ask if any family members or those with the patient are in need of food/snacks/etc. Bring those items with you.
 - c. Drive to the hospital. During your drive, pray for the patient and their family. Ask God to grant you wisdom and empathy as you visit with them. Do not be afraid of what to say. Be open to God's spirit and follow His leading. No one is expecting you to have the answers to questions. We are called to just be there.
 - d. Go to the front desk and ask them the room number of the patient. You can let them know you are from Revolve Church.
 - e. Find the patient's room.
 - f. Knock first and only enter once someone calls out to you or open the door (Do not just walk into a hospital room. You may see more than you bargained for.)
 - g. Visit with the patient and family. Ask how they are doing; share any cards or items you brought for them. Laugh, cry, live life.
 - h. Be sensitive to the patient and the Holy Spirit. Do not stay too long. Try to keep it to 5-15 minutes. This is for your benefit and theirs.
 - i. Ask again if there are any pressing needs that your group can handle.
 - j. Pray with them.
 - k. Exit.
3. *Escalation: The following situations are times where you need to inform the elders
 - a. Prolonged Stay @ Hospital
 - b. Prolonged Sickness
 - c. Emergencies or matters requiring immediate attention
 - d. Cancer
 - e. Minors in Hospital