

Discipleship Basic Principles & Guidelines
DNA = Discipleship/Discipline – Nurture – Accountability

DNA is a discipleship group relationship with the explicit purpose of being disciple-makers through studying, meditating on, and keeping the commandments of Jesus. A healthy, personal spiritual life and relationship with Christ is the highest priority and leads to a healthy growing DNA. My personal relationship with Christ impacts the DNA. Likewise, the DNA impacts my personal relationship with Christ. The foundation of healthy DNAs is a personal, healthy, daily relationship with Christ.

What it is:

- A process developed to facilitate obeying and keeping the Great Commission to disciple the nations by keeping all that Jesus commanded us, His disciples.
- Life on life – Relationships of Christ-filled disciples to help one another become more like Jesus and follow Him
- Mutual edification and sharing of insights
- Nurturing relationships where Christ is expressed and personal care takes place
- All participating, interacting
- We are all disciples of Jesus together
- Honesty, transparency, trust, confidentiality (what is shared here, stays here)
- Accountability for observing, obeying, and keeping the commands
- Structured focus AND freedom for the Holy Spirit to speak and move
- Small – ideally 2 to 4 people; multiply if gets over 4
- Can meet anywhere that enables honest and open sharing – a home, restaurant, park, etc.
- Easily reproducible, yet unique to each context and according to the individual members
- Building block of a healthy church (gathering of the ekklesia, the called-out ones)
- A part of a network of disciple-makers and a network of communication

What it is NOT:

- A curriculum, class, or teacher instructing pupils (me telling you/ them; or you telling me/us);
- A rigid, inflexible plan or agenda that must be followed
- Identical groups that are duplicated or copied everywhere
- An authority structure or hierarchy of “discipler” over “disciplee”
- A “pyramid” scheme under any one person’s authority (only under Jesus’ authority)
- Chatting and talking about other things (that is fellowship but not discipleship)
- One person doing all the talking
- A Bible study or book study that focuses on knowledge
- “Everything is fine and I am blessed” attitude
- A large group fellowship or study
- A personal group that remains the same for years

BEFORE DNA

- Daily pray, study, and meditate on the command and story
- Continually listen to what the Holy Spirit says about how to obey and keep the current command
- Memorize the command and be able to say it, and practice and be able to tell the story
- Use the questions provided on the command and story monthly handout to guide your daily meditations
- Listen to the Holy Spirit to see if there is anything He wants you to say or share when you meet for DNA
- Pray for your DNA partners regularly
- Review previous command and your action steps – reflect on how you are really doing in keeping the command

DURING DNA

- Follow the structure, guidelines, and questions (to help keep on track and focused) without becoming legalistic or rigid
- Make sure you cover and discuss all the questions on the DNA tool when you meet
- Do not be in a hurry or legalistic – the structure is a tool but not the “law” – the Holy Spirit is in control of the time
- Take turns being the facilitator (not just one person always leading)
- Each person recites the command and discuss and recount the story
- Share insights from your own study and meditation
- Encourage one another to be honest, practical, real-life application
- Avoid tangents that have nothing to do with the command and story, unless specifically led by the Holy Spirit
- Each person shares and contributes; no one person dominates
- Listen to the Holy Spirit and follow His lead – may need to stop and pray, or He may give one member a word for another member
- It may help to have a notebook or use the Notes feature on your phone to record insights and areas that each person says he/she needs to do to keep the command and story
 - It is important to review what each person said he/she would do in order to hold one another accountable
- Share answers to prayer and prayer requests – but do not spend too much time talking about things. Spend most of the time in prayer

AFTER DNA

- Be a doer of Jesus’ word!
- Pray for your DNA partners
- Communicate with your DNA partners as prompted by the Spirit
- Follow Jesus as He leads