

We believe that the church is the family of God on the mission of God. We love one another as brothers and sisters. Yet we are also missionaries who are teaming up to advance God's kingdom. We believe this is best lived out in the context of covenant membership in a local church. This DG Pathway is designed to be the first step to learn about what KCC believes and how we strive to live out those beliefs in life together. If you are interested in locking arms with others who have the same desire to know Jesus and make Him known in the world, this Pathway is for you.

### CONSIDER



- What is the church? What does covenant membership mean?
- Who should become a church member? What are the requirements?
- Is local church membership biblical? What do church members do?
- How does the gospel affect my daily life and continue to shape me?
- Why do you want to be a member at KCC?

### PRAY



Ask God to...

- give you a love for Him that produces a love for other Christians
- give you a right mind and heart regarding covenant membership to a local church body
- convince you by His Spirit and His Word of the importance of covenant membership to a local body
- help you function in increasingly healthy ways at KCC



### READ/LISTEN

- *Membership Matters Podcast* (w/class guide handouts). Find podcast at <https://kingscrossdefiance.com/membership-matters>.
- *I Am a Church Member*, Thom Rainer

Example Membership Matters DG Pathway:

Read and meet every other week to discuss *I Am a Church Member (IACM)* and *Membership Matters Podcast (MMP)*.

Meeting 1: *IACM Intro, Chs. 1-2, and MMP 1-2*

Meeting 2: *IACM Chs. 3-4 and MMP 3-4*

Meeting 3: *IACM Chs. 5-6 and MMP 5-6*

### DO



- **Commit** each day to reading Scripture, praying, and worshipping God.
- **Join** a Discipleship Group with one or more members of KCC at least three times over a roughly two month period to discuss covenant membership.
- **Meet** with a KCC pastor to continue the process of covenant membership.
- **Explore** joining the church as a covenant member.
- **Covenant** to live life with other Christians.
- **Use** your spiritual gifts to build up other believers.
- **Give** generously and joyfully to help further the gospel through KCC.
- **Inform** Pastor Matt that your DG is meeting so we can pray for and encourage you ([matthew.parks@kingscrossdefiance.com](mailto:matthew.parks@kingscrossdefiance.com)).

# WHAT IS A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP?

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## PURPOSE

The **mission** of our church is to make gospel-centered disciples who delight in Christ, declare His cross and display His love.

The **purpose** of DG's is to equip everyone in our church to have a part in coming alongside others to help them follow Jesus. DG's are groups of 2-4 people of the same gender who meet regularly (usually weekly or bi-weekly) to either discover Christ or grow in Christ. We read the Scriptures and solid Bible-saturated books, pray, and share in the joys and struggles of following Jesus together.

We understand not everyone is an avid reader, but God has revealed himself through words, so let's grow together in our love for Scripture. DG's meet for a defined length of time (usually a few months) or until a Pathway is finished. Then the person/s participating is challenged to go lead someone else through the same Pathway they just finished, with help from your DG leader.

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## COMMITMENT

Jesus says that if we want to follow Him, we must be committed and willing to take up our cross at great cost to ourselves. Indeed, Jesus says that if we do not bear our own cross we cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:25-33). Following Jesus requires sacrifices of our own schedule, comfort, and priorities. But the reward of following Jesus and suffering for Him is incomparably greater than the cost (Matthew 13:44).

With that in mind, DG's are an opportunity to make sacrifices for the spiritual good of others, and for the glory of God. Before agreeing to participate in this DG Pathway you must pray about it and discuss it with those whom it may affect (eg. your spouse, if married). We want your commitment to be whole-hearted.

- I agree to finish this DG Pathway. Given the significant investment that others are making in me. I acknowledge the need for punctuality and uninterrupted attendance.
- I agree to be honest and forthright. I will speak the truth in love and be willing to receive feedback, even if it hurts. We can only help one another if we are transparent and vulnerable.
- I commit to completing the assignments and coming prepared to engage fully.
- I commit to regular prayer for those in my group.
- I commit to the consistent disciplines of reading Scripture, prayer, and attending the Sunday gathering (if I'm able), during this DG Pathway.
- I commit to leading at least one other person through this DG Pathway in the near future.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_