

Disciplemaking Small Groups as Friendships

Small Groups as Disciplemaking Learning Communities

Seven DLC (Small Group) Indicators can help us align and strengthen our group encouragement through having enabled by God's Kavanah and it's 4 disciplemaking practices.

Indicator #1

**A Jesus-like way of life together
is our disciplemaking bullseye.**

Indicator #2

**Mutual Community is Our Conduit for
Disciplemaking**

Indicator #3

We are Intentional about Time Together

Indicator #4

Our Primary Text is the Bible

Indicator #5

We Engage in Haver Learning

Indicator #6

We Share An Obsession with King Jesus

Indicator #7

We Multiply Jesus-Like Disciplemakers

The whole point of Jesus fueling friendships (small groups) was making disciples who would make more disciples... who would make even more disciples... who would even make... well, you get the idea. And it worked. Fabulously. (See Acts 17:6.) And it's still working. Fabulously.... when we are intentional enough to carefully imitate the Jesus of the Bible, together.

A **Disciplemaking Learning Community** is a small group or a web of relationships that commits to support a Jesus-like way of living. As this way of life becomes the norm in our family, friendships and career the small group DLC continues to support Kavanah fueled multiplication. This is precisely why a DLC is not simply any small group or a come-when-you-can group. A DLC is radically and fundamentally different because it's reason for existence is to fuel Jesus-like disciplemaking, together. DLC's can fuel families, youth ministries, women's or men's ministries, church staff's and church communities.

Have you ever wondered what would it might have felt like to be in Jesus' small group or his band of friends? We'd like to suggest **four God powered practices** that teachers in Jesus day and your friends at Cadre see at the heart of Jesus' small group and friendships:

1. **Studying Scripture** to know and love God.
2. **Prayerfulness** about everything.
3. **Loving** people extravagantly.
4. **Time together** grows our mutual community.

These four practices are enabled by God's active presence and power as an Aramaic concept called **Kavanah** [ka-vah-NAH].

[See 2 Th. 1:11-12 to get a picture of how friends praying with God's presence and power result in prompting and a life that honors Jesus.]

I challenge you and those in your small group & band of friends to study the Gospel of Mark and take note of every instance you see some aspect of Kavanah practices as a way of life for Jesus and his friends. Why? A *Jesus-like disciplemaking way of life, together, is the bullseye of disciplemaking friendships. This way of life is aligned and prioritized as we daily express **the Disciplemaker's Prayer...***

the disciplemaker's prayer

Deut. 6:1-3,4-9, Mark3:13-14; 12:30-31 Matt. 28:18-20, John 17, Acts 1:8



Heavenly Father,

Thank you for giving me a disciplemaking way of life in Christ Jesus. As I go through every part of this day, help me to love you and love the people who cross my path—starting with my family. Don't let me miss the adventures you are sending my way to live and speak the Good News about Jesus today. Draw my heart to you and to specific people you want me to pull close for Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships. By your Word and Spirit, transform me into a follower of Jesus who loves you, loves people, and makes disciples—who make disciples, *ad infinitum*. —In Jesus' name, amen.

signature

date

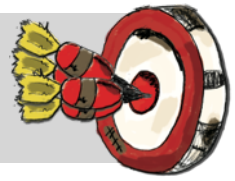
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As we follow Jesus together, each person must tenaciously seek to embrace this Jesus-like disciplemaking way of life. But it can't stop there. God overflows these same disciplemaking values into our relationships with family, friends, coworkers and neighbors. In our *Disciplemaking Is Relationships* training, we equip you to own and support this **D3 Disciplemaking way of life**.

Here's something very interesting: A DLC can form so naturally and relationally that it doesn't feel forced or programmatic. How? As you pray and seek to connect with people on your short DLC prayer list, Jesus can begin to build your DLC into a small group without ever using the term DLC. No joke. I love it when this happens. It's so natural and organic. It's Jesus-like disciplemaking as a lifestyle—together. And that's the point.

Seven DLC (Small Group) Indicators can help us align and grow our disciplemaking small groups & friendships:

A Jesus-like way of life together is our disciplemaking bullseye.



The focus of disciplemaking small groups is *not* on what has come to typically be understood as discipleship—small group book studies, one-on-one Bible studies, a curriculum series, mentoring programs personal growth booklets, devotional guides, seminars, and the like—rather the focus of disciplemaking small groups (DLC's) friendships and the friendship that result from them is on how each follower of Jesus is developing a Jesus-like disciplemaking lifestyle—together.

Disciplemaking friends learn how to encourage and equip each other in the heart AND hands of God's kavanah and it's four priorities.

No Kavanah • Hitting Target but Missing Bullseye • Hitting the Kavanah Bullseye

1

2

3

4

5

Describe how this happens in your small group (DLC), friends & family:

Study2Know overflows into Study2Share

Praying overflows to prayerfulness

Being loved overflows to loving

Understanding a life of worship overflows to **time & life together** (C323)



Describe how this is happening in your small group, friendships and family?

Currently, how are your small groups (**DLC's**) supporting and multiplying a Jesus-like way of life and disciplemaking friendships?

Mutual Community is Our conduit for Disciplemaking

Mutual community is a you, me and the Holy Spirit partnership where we lean into each other 100/100. Disciplemaking is more like a gym where the small group shepherd is a trainer/coach who helps the group own the shared weight of study, prayer, love and life together. We need to learn to move from a group style that is delivered **to** people or **for** them, into a community where we experience being **with** God, together.

What does a small group look like when it's done "**to**" the participants?

What does a small group look like when it's done "**for**" the participants?

What does a small group look like when it's done "**with**" the participants?

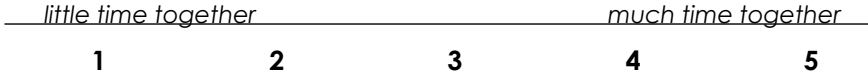
Describe how this is happening in your small group, friendships and family?

Currently, how is your small group (DLC) supporting and multiplying mutual community and more of a "with" than a to or for group style?

DLC Indicator #3

We are Intentional about Time Together

Disciplemaking friendships require regular time together—including the context of everyday life. How would a small group or shared family meal together at least once a month or an extended time with your group enrich or fuel your friendships?



Describe how time together is happening in your small group (DLC)?

*Currently, how is your small group (**DLC**) supporting and multiplying the practice of intentional time together as disciplemaking friends?*

Using the chart below plot names from your family, friendship and ministry. Share stories about what your experiencing.

Much Time	<p>Much Time Little Kavanah</p>	<p>Much Time Much Kavanah</p>
little Time	<p>Little Time Little Kavanah</p>	<p>Little Time Much Kavanah</p>
	without Kavanah	with Kavanah

In light of the above, what adjustment is God prompting you to make?

How might you make these adjustments?

How can you share this tool with your **DLC's**?

Our Primary Text is the Bible

The Bible is the first and foremost text of disciplemaking small groups and friendships—with the life of Jesus revealing the way we were always meant to live.

<i>books/curriculum</i>				<i>Bible</i>
1	2	3	4	5

Describe how this is happening in your small group, friendships and family?

Why does having Scripture together enrich and deepen our grasp of God and His Word beyond what studying alone provides?

How does the mutual community of you, me and the Holy Spirit work together to correct and align our understanding of Scripture?

*Currently, how is your small group **(DLC)** supporting and multiplying the practice of utilizing the Bible as our primary text for disciplemaking friendships?*

We Engage in Haver Learning

Disciplemaking friendships practice grappling in two's and three's over Scripture for living it everyday. Small groups can benefit from a first-century understanding of haverim/havruta learning where a Rabbi/teacher guided questions and Scripture study for disciplemaking friendships of two to five.

<i>Solo Learning</i>		<i>Discussing</i>		<i>Havering</i>
1	2	3	4	5

Do you tend to dominate in a small group dialogue or do you hide as a group get's larger? How would wrestling in smaller pairs during your small group (DLC) study time benefit from a greater shared weight that haver pairs can provide?

Describe how this is happening in your small group, friendships and family?

Currently, how is your small group (DLC) supporting and multiplying haver learning?

We Share An Obsession with King Jesus

Our small groups (DLC) and discipling friendships should produce the fruit of a constant celebration and submission to King Jesus. See 2 Th. 1:11-12.

<u>Me or We Obsession</u>	<u>Leader Obsession</u>	<u>King Jesus Obsession</u>
1	2	3
4	5	

Describe how this is happening in your small group, friendships and family?

*Currently, how are your small groups (**DLC**'s) supporting and multiplying an obsession with King Jesus?*

We Multiply Jesus-Like Disciplemakers

Disciplemaking friendships result in more Jesus-like friendships.

being a disciple making disciples multiplying disciplemakers
1 2 3 4 5

Describe how this is happening in your small group, friendships and family?

*Currently, how are your small groups (**DLC**'s) supporting and multiplying Jesus-like disciplemakers?*

Kavanah

Fueled Friendships...

How do I Initiate/Sustain Disciplemaking Friendships?

1:
Say Yes To God
Kavanah as Normal
"Send Me"

2:
Say Yes To Friendships
1 to 1's or Triads

3:
Prayerfully Set the Initial D-Combo



No Zero Settings
WORD • PRAYER
LOVE • TOGETHER

4:
Prayerfully Re-Set the D-Combo & Invite/Initiate Addl. Friendships
1 to 1's or Triads
initiate or grow your small group

Kavanah

Fueled Friendships...

How do I initiate/Sustain A Disciplemaking Friendship?

HOW DO I RESPOND?

Option 1:
They Initiate

Will you disciple me?

John 1:35-40
Andrew

Option 2:
I/We Initiate

Want to get time with God, together?

Mt. 9:9-13
Matthew

Option 3:
Mutual Initiation

Let's get time with God together!

John 1:42, 45
Andrew/Peter
Phillip/Nathaniel

Option 4:
No One Initiates

"?"

Mt. 13:18-23
No Fruit is NOT Normal

FRIENDS

Kavanah
Fueled Friendships...



Study2KnowGod
Prayerfulness
Loved2Love
Life Together