



DGroup Overview

Goals

- To mirror adult DGroups but not be exactly the same—more specific to college-age
 - **Gospel Dialogue** – Understanding the implications of the Gospel in the life of the Christian; utilizing the Bible to answer hard questions, form theological foundations, and develop practices and habits for effective Bible study.
 - **Transparent Friendship** – Participation in honest and transparent discussion of sinful behaviors and struggles through accountability and trust; regularly committing to meet together and participate in each other’s lives.
 - **Seeking the Lost** – Identifying and sharing one another’s “ones” and actively praying and encouraging ongoing efforts to share the Gospel; host *Eleos* parties with the purpose of reaching lost friends through community.

Details

- Groups consist of 1-2 facilitator(s) plus 4-5 people, max.
- Groups are comprised of all guys or all girls; groups are not mixed gender.
- Groups meet once a week, for an hour and a half.
- Groups meet (1) in a home, (2) off church-campus in a public place with little distraction, or (3) on church-campus for childcare needs.
- Groups follow the academic year calendar – Sept. to Dec., Jan. to May.
- Group facilitators meet at the beginning of each term for debriefing and training.

Practical Execution

- Freshman Groups: begin the week of October 27th; co-led by older student and adult.
- Sophomore, Junior, Senior Groups: combined ages; begin the week of September 29th; led by 1-2 adults.
- Students that are leading groups are being led (by adult co-leader) but also leading (freshmen), and have specific responsibilities within the context of the group.
- Students leading freshman groups are also in a separate group that meets every other week led by a coach.
- Each DGroup is paired with another to host two *Eleos* Parties per semester.

Eleos Parties

Eleos Parties are based off of Matthew 9:9-13. The idea is that each person invites their “one” to this party/get together so that they can experience community and therefore experience Christ in a beautiful way. This is by no means a bait and switch. We are not aiming to trick someone into coming to these parties so that we can instantly share the gospel with them. Rather, this is an opportunity to invite unbelievers into gospel-centered community with the intention of continuing to build relationships with them, meeting each other’s “ones” and allowing them to see the difference in the way believers live on a regular and casual basis in community with one another.

Covenant

Our mission at Shades is to send transformed people to influence their world for Christ. We believe small groups offer a vital place where life-change happens. Therefore, DGroups provide intentional structure for transformational discipleship where we engage in gospel dialogue, transparent friendships, and seeking the lost.

To this end, I commit to the following:

- To be present at weekly meetings.
- To pray weekly for the other members of the DGroup.
- To pursue gospel dialogue, transparent friendships, and seeking the lost.
- To contribute to a culture of honesty; free of shame and rooted in the grace of Jesus.
- To regularly attend corporate worship and Sunday School.
- To build at least one relationship with someone far from God with the purpose of sharing the gospel with them before the end of the DGroup.
- To host and participate in two Eleos Parties per semester.
- To reproduce what I’ve learned and how I’ve grown by co-facilitating a Freshman group when this DGroup finishes.

I have considered my current responsibilities and availability and want to commit to this DGroup and the people who will also join in this journey. Together with them, I commit to meeting with God, connecting with others, and living with purpose in this context, trusting Jesus and his Spirit to shape me into greater likeness of Christ.

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____