

MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES (MCs) DEFINED

Definition: A Missional Community (MC) is a gospel community that lives out the mission of God together by demonstrating the gospel in tangible forms and declaring the gospel to one another and to those around us.

To Clarify: A MC is NOT primarily: a Small Group, a Bible Study, a Support Group, a Social Activist Group, or just a Weekly Meeting. Instead, it is a missional group with shared leadership that is built on the foundation on the gospel to help and encourage its more people to live their lives with gospel intentionality. To achieve this, each MC has a clearly-defined mission to display and declare the gospel. The plan is for multiplication growth by sowing the seeds of multiplication into everything (from the outset) to make disciples, create new leaders and birth new MCs, doing our part to fulfil the Great Commission (*Matthew 18:18-20*).

MC Vision: The shared values of Gospel, Family, and Mission guide everything the Missional Community does.

MC Size: 6-14 adults + non-Christians. There are three layers of relationship – a) Committed Core, who take responsibility for the life of the community, b) Young Christians, c) Not-Yet Christians. This usually means approximately 4-8 Core, 4-8 young Christians around the core, and 10-15 non-Christians that the MC feels called to love and influence with the Gospel – this is their Mission Focus. When the group gets to the 12-14 adults size, it's moving towards multiplying.

MC Activities: A normal week could mean having 4 or 5 points of contact between people. Sometimes that could be just a few people and sometimes many. A MC is a shared life together, so it's going to mean many types of things, happening in many relational forms, at a wide variety of times and places, but would typically include a weekly or fortnightly DNA group to generate new MC leaders, and a diverse schedule of meals and parties as the relational context for mission in the everyday stuff of life (e.g. *Matthew 9:10*).

DISCOVER, NURTURE, ACT (DNA) GROUPS DEFINED

Definition: A "DNA group" is a small group of people – men with men, women with women - who meet together 2-4 times a month to care deeply for one another and to foster growth as disciples of Jesus (disciple = someone who is learning to apply the gospel to every part of their lives). The 'DNA' acronym stands for three key components of discipleship: Discover, Nurture, and Act. The goal is to help one another to discover Jesus in the Scriptures, nurture the truths of the gospel in our hearts, and faithfully act on what the Spirit calls us to do. Discipleship requires life-on-life interaction, and can only happen in community. We grow primarily through the experience of life in a MC. A DNA group can be a key catalyst for growth and transformation in our lives. One of the main ways this happens is by giving each other regular reminders of the truth of the gospel (*Hebrews 3:12-13*).

DNA group activities: DNA groups foster discipleship relationships that help each person grow to become more like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. The goal is not merely to hang out and have fun, or even to build friendships, though hopefully all of that will happen! The goal is to challenge one another to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (*2 Peter 3:18*). As disciples, we should experience transformation at every level, affecting our whole person: head, heart, and hands. The specific discipleship goals for a DNA group meeting can be understood by unpacking the acronym 'DNA':

- Discover: led by the Holy Spirit, the group will Study the Bible and Ask the Four Questions (Who is God is?, What he's done for us in Christ Jesus?, Who are we as a result?, and how should we live out of our new identity?) The goal is to teach the head.
- Nurture: led by the Holy Spirit, the group will Repent and Believe in the gospel. The goal is to shepherd the heart.
- Act: led by the Holy Spirit, the group will Listen and Obey, as he calls us to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. The goal is to empower the hands.

These meetings consist of sharing personal stories and struggles, asking questions, listening to each other, reading scripture, praying, speaking the truth in love, repenting and confessing sin, listening to the Holy Spirit, and submitting to one another. Beyond the weekly meeting, however, DNA groups should seek to build trusting relationships by sharing everyday life together in their MC.