

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS FAQ

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## **IS A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP REALLY ABLE TO HELP ME?**

Yes, we think so. They're not perfect, no church is, but the people in your group are in it for the same reasons as you. They want to live together in God's family. They want to be there for one another through the ups and downs of life. They want to personally experience God's goodness, and they're willing to follow Him even if it means sacrificing. They want to be God's church, and they want to do it together with you.

Additionally, our group leaders are supported by specialized ministries in the MBC Training Institute. For example, if someone falls into financial distress and needs a hand, there are specialized counselors in the Institute who can help you and your group to help your friend in need. If someone gets overrun with grief and is struggling with depression, there are specialized counselors who can help you and your group to help your friend who's struggling.

## **CAN I CHANGE GROUPS?**

Sure, of course. We encourage you to try to give it a little time, like 4 months or so, before you make a change. You'll probably be surprised by how close you become with some of them over time. But yeah, it's up to you, and you can change when you believe it's best to. And it's not unusual for some of our folks to enjoy changing groups after a year or two, because they enjoy getting to know and investing in new people. That's perfectly fine; we're glad to see them enjoying themselves and following God. Most of our folks stay in a group longer than a year.

## **WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "MULTIPLYING GROUPS"?**

When a leader plants a discipleship group, they aim to multiply that group into two groups one day when the time is right. Some groups multiply in a year, others multiply after a few years. You and your group decide when to branch; the key is to follow God. When the group is healthy, and has the capacity to multiply, then prayerfully consider going for it and multiply yourselves!

## **CAN I JOIN A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP WITHOUT ATTENDING STARTING POINT?**

Yes, we can make exceptions and try to get you into a group. But we highly encourage you to attend Starting Point. Many of our discipleship group leaders will not be able to connect you into their group if you skip Starting Point because the leader won't have the resources to take you through 4 sessions of content. Starting Point is also the first step of a three-step process to connect with an MBC pastor and begin a relationship with them for care.

## **CAN I JOIN A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP AND NEVER BECOME A MEMBER OF MBC?**

Yes, we can make an exception for you. That said, we believe church membership is something taught by God in the Bible, it's one of His primary ways to care for and grow us, and it's one of the 12 traits of a Biblical church. God blessed us with a large church family. Discipleship groups are the primary way we live church family and membership at MBC.