



Parent to Parent Invitation

Share this with parents to use as a template for inviting other parents into the process of starting small groups for their children.

It can be easily copied and pasted into an email. Text in red is meant to be customized.

Note: If your small groups are going to be meeting only at the parish at set times, remove the paragraph "D-Groups are FLEXIBLE."

Dear _____,

You may have heard that our parish is doing something new for our [high school/middle school] students – a model known as small group Discipleship.

I have been speaking with [my son/daughter's name], and your [son/daughter] came up as someone specifically [he/she] would like to be in a group with.

Because this is likely a new concept, I want to take a moment to explain what Discipleship is. Discipleship groups (or D-Groups) are groups of 4-8 teens, divided by gender, that meet on a regular basis with adult mentors who lead them in conversation about their faith and how we live it out. Groups are flexible, parent-partnered, Catholic, and "the next level."

D-Groups are FLEXIBLE. Groups are encouraged to meet at times that work best for that specific group. While many parish programs are confined to a specific day and time, D-Groups can meet any day of the week (before school, after school, evenings!) and where they want. Groups are encouraged to meet in comfortable environments such as homes and coffee shops.

D-Groups are PARENT-PARTNERED. In most programs, you drop your child off at the church and pick them up a couple hours later with not a whole lot of information as to what they just did. Because D-Groups meet in homes, you have a chance to get to know the teens in your child's group as well as their mentors. And when it comes to content, parents receive an email after every week with videos recapping the content of the discussion as well as the discussion questions to help you process with your teen. Instead of asking, "How was group tonight?" you can ask specific questions about specific topics.

D-Groups are CATHOLIC. Everyone has questions about what the Catholic Church teaches and how faith relates to life. D-Groups provide an opportunity to ask those questions and get reliable answers from the heart of the Church. Solid catechetical content will be provided by YDisciple, a youth discipleship platform powered by NET Ministries. (For more information on YDisciple, visit YDinciple.com.)

D-Groups are THE NEXT LEVEL. [Include only if this is used for post-confirmation ministry: Now that your teen has been Confirmed, it is time to tap into the grace received in that sacrament.] D-Groups are for teens who desire to grow deeper in their faith, or simply desire that elusive “something more.” This is accomplished through learning how to strengthen your prayer life, diving into sacred scripture, having adult mentors who have ‘been there,’ and peers who will walk with you.

Discipleship is not yet another program, it is an apprenticeship in the Christian Life.

[If you have information on who the adult mentor(s) will be, this is the time to say who he/she is. Otherwise, insert the following:

The other benefit to the flexibility of these groups, is they are not assigned an adult mentor arbitrarily. It is recommended that a parent of one of the teens in the group is not the leader. Other than that, we can talk amongst ourselves - parent and teens alike - and think about who in our parish might be a good role model for our kids. If we cannot come up with a name, Annie Grandell already has a list of qualified adults who are chomping at the bit to get involved in this ministry.]

I do want to emphasize that this is a commitment. Groups are encouraged to meet almost every week. Because groups are small, the presence or absence of a member is strongly felt. That being said, we are not asking your family to commit to this group for the next year. We ask that you commit only to the first 5 weeks. These weeks are about setting the foundation for what these groups are about. Only AFTER these 5 weeks are you and your teen asked to make a further commitment.

If this is something you are interested in for [your son/daughter], have a conversation with [him/her]. Tell [him/her] that you think having a group like this is important and it is something you want for [him/her]. If your teen is interested, let me know and we will get the ball rolling to get this group off the ground!

If you have any questions about this group in particular or about Discipleship in general, feel free to ask me or [Insert Parish Coordinator’s name and contact info.]

Your favorite way to sign off,

Your name