



High School Ministries Midweek Discipleship Small Groups 2015-2016 Overview

Welcome!

We are busy preparing for this fall and our midweek discipleship small groups for high school students. Enclosed is the application to be a part of a D-group (discipleship group). D-groups are the backbone of our ministry to high school students. This is one of the most effective ways for students to grow and go deeper in their relationships with Jesus. It is our hope that this information will be beneficial to you as you consider participating in this important ministry.

What Are High School D-Groups (Discipleship Small Groups)?

D-groups are discipleship focused small groups for high school students. These groups are made up of 6-10 students (single gender, usually close within grade range and geographically as best as possible) that meet midweek during the school year. D-groups are designed to help students move from the weekend large group gathering to a smaller, more intimate and personal relationship driven experience. At HCC, the Sunday morning High School Life Stage gathering is large and geared toward the "crowd." It is a great place for students to connect with others, bring friends, hear and respond to relevant biblical teaching and experience the benefit of a larger community of believers. However, in this Sunday gathering, developing life-on-life relationships, personal tools, and accountability can be difficult. D-groups fill the need for meaningful personal relationships with peers and caring adults that can help lead to practical application, accountability and life transformation.

D-groups are a key place for students to form strong friendships with other students, build accountable relationships with caring adult leader(s), learn more about God by developing the skills to grow closer to Him. Each group will be encouraged to establish authentic accountability, have consistent times of personal Bible study and prayer, get involved in hands-on ministry and share their faith with others.

When And Where Do They Meet?

D-groups meet in "host" homes or at the church mid-week during the school year from approximately 6:30-8:30pm. Groups meet on different nights of the week depending on leader availability. We anticipate having 10-15 D-groups this fall with approximately 80-100 students participating. Groups meet throughout Renton and Kent.

What Does A Typical D-Group Gathering Look Like?

Each D-group is committed to balancing the values and priorities that we believe create the opportunity for life transformation and spiritual growth to take place. These values and priorities include: relationship building, prayer, Bible study & Bible study skills, and application of God's Word to personal life.

While groups are designed to be highly relational and we will encourage strengthening relationships in the group, the priority emphasis is on personal spiritual growth, encouragement and accountability.

Throughout the year, groups will also schedule occasional activities or events for their group in addition to the midweek meeting (sometimes in combination with other groups) in coordination with the Student Ministries team.

What About Our Leaders?

HCC Student Ministries has a growing team of incredibly dedicated, screened and trained team members who desire to invest in high school students and come alongside parents. Our High School Ministries team members who serve in the role of D-group leaders are there to encourage, guide, and help strengthen students' walks with Christ by pointing students to Jesus and His Word. Each volunteer team member is supported by the Student Ministries staff and will receive regular coaching and expected to submit to and follow the staff leadership of HCC and adhere to all expectations for safety and accountability.

We ask all D-group leaders to work alongside the Student Ministries team to care for our students. We ask our leaders to place a priority on communicating well with students and parents. Likewise, we encourage parents to contact D-group leaders if they have any questions as well as the Student Ministries Staff team to maintain regular communication.

What is the Commitment?

Being part of a D-group is a privilege. We expect each D-group member to commit to the following:

1. Come to group prepared, equipped with a Bible, a pen, a notebook and a good attitude.
2. Be consistent in attendance and communicate with your leader when you will be absent.
3. Respect your leaders. They are giving you their time because they WANT to minister to you.
4. Respect and be kind to others students in your group.
5. Respect your host home or meeting space. Please help cleanup at the end of every night.

Please prayerfully consider your commitment to these items before agreeing to participate.

How Do I Students Involved?

We ask all students who would like to participate in a D-group to complete the 'Discipleship Group Registration' application. This will greatly help us with the placement process. This registration form is enclosed with this overview and is also available online at our website (www.highlandsc.org) or at High School Life Stage on Sunday.

Once you have completed the application, please return it to the Student Ministries office. You can mail it, email it (kamis@highlandsc.org) or hand it to a staff member on the weekend. **Our initial push for placement in groups will take place beginning in early August and it is our intent to have the initial groups confirmed by the by the beginning of September.** We will do our best to accommodate student schedules with our leaders availability and apologize in advance if we cannot accommodate a student with limited availability. We will do everything possible to place every student who desires to be a part of a group. We also appreciate your understand and flexibility with our leaders availability.

We are asking that all registration forms for the initial placement of fall D-groups be turned in no later than by the end of church on Sunday, August 23 so we can assign groups. After placement has been completed, you will receive confirmation no later than September 8. It is our intention to launch all D-groups the week of September 14. We will place new students who have interest in D-groups throughout the year based on availability by contacting the church office. Students need to re-register each year to participate.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Student Ministries Office at 425-255-4751.

We hope students prayerfully consider being a part of this important and exciting midweek ministry of our High School Ministries. This is often the highlight and most spiritually impactful commitment of a students experience during their high school years.