

IVHOP Discipleship Families - Top Ten Questions

1. What are IVHOP Discipleship Families?

IVHOP Discipleship Families are small communities of Bible-believing Christians doing life together to love God and people with an intentional focus on multiplying disciples.

2. Why do we need groups like these?

Due to modern technological advancements, our opportunities to connect are greater than ever, yet we live in the most relationally disconnected era of human history. IVHOP Discipleship Families set the stage for unifying members of the body of Christ from a variety of congregations and denominations by providing opportunities to form authentic relationships with one another. True discipleship is one of the greatest needs in the body of believers, and this happens best in the context of small, close-knit communities. IVHOP Discipleship Families help meet the demand for intimate fellowship while also providing a framework for multiplying disciples within a community.

3. What are the core principles of IVHOP Discipleship Families?

- *Biblical Simplicity* - Seeking to get back to the foundational elements of the gospel, our focus is on maintaining a simple structure where most of our time, money, and energy can be utilized for the furtherance of the kingdom both in and out of the group.
- *Authentic Connection* - Going beyond superficial associations, we seek to cultivate transformative relationships with God and one another for the goal of increased sanctification.
- *Edifying Participation* - Each member of the body of Christ has been equipped with a unique gift to build up one another (1 Cor. 14:26). Breaking away from spectator Christianity, we encourage engagement from each group member to edify the group as a whole.
- *Missional Multiplication* - Since Christ has commissioned us to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19), we focus on multiplying discipleship groups to reach our communities with the gospel.

4. What is the potential of IVHOP Discipleship Families?

These close-knit communities have the potential for transformational growth both inside and outside the group. Being a member of a group like this opens the door to sharing the raw and vulnerable areas of our life that are often avoided in Christian relationships. Moving outside of the individual group, the potential for the multiplication of disciples is endless, as you can see from the table below.

Year	Active Groups	People Discipled
1	1	12
2	2	24
3	4	48
4	8	96
5	16	192
6	32	384
7	64	768
8	128	1536
9	256	3072
10	512	6144

*Based on an average of 12 member groups multiplying each year

5. What is the make-up of an IVHOP Discipleship Family?

Each group is led by an individual or couple that has been equipped to effectively lead these micro-communities. Each leader has been trained to identify and delegate leadership responsibilities to emerging leaders that have the potential to lead a future group. Though leadership is vital to a healthy community, we also believe that each member of the group is responsible for leading in the areas God has equipped them to serve and take ownership of the group as a whole.

6. What do the weekly gatherings consist of?

Due to the group's commitment to Holy Spirit guidance, no two meetings will look exactly alike. Still, there remains a few key components that are crucial to have in our gatherings. These components are consistent with the practices that the early church devoted themselves to in Acts 2:42 "They were continually devoting themselves to the *apostles' teaching (Bible reading)* and to *fellowship (group discussion)*, to the *breaking of bread (taking communion/sharing meals)* and to *prayer (praying together)*" (NASB, emphasis and addition mine).

7. Do we ever gather in larger corporate settings?

Every other month we host a community-wide worship celebration open to each discipleship group and the general public. These experiences include corporate worship, teaching, prayer, prophecy/healing ministry, and an opportunity to fellowship with one another.

8. Are groups like these biblical?

The New Testament is filled with accounts of groups like these, and it appears that this was a key component to maintaining a solid biblical community in the early church (see Phil. 1:2, Act. 5:42, Act. 20:20, 1 Cor. 16:19, Rom. 16:5, Col. 4:15, 1 Cor. 14:26).

9. What is the size of these groups and how long do they last?

Most groups will have between 8 to 15 people to best cultivate an intimate and dynamic atmosphere in our gatherings. There is no predetermined time frame for the length of each group. The Spirit is our ultimate leader regarding when a group is ready to multiply—saying that, we expect that most groups will multiply within a time frame of 6 to 18 months.

10. Where do these groups meet?

The beautiful thing about gathering in small groups is that the possible meeting locations are endless. Groups can meet in homes, at businesses, in coffee shops, in parks, or wherever else they would like. The Illinois Valley House of Prayer's Main Campus is also an option that includes a warm group meeting space with an attached children's playroom.