

INVITATION GUIDE

INTRO

This invitation guide is geared toward inviting friends into a CGROUP, existing or new. This is a high level of commitment.

Other options for strangers you're just meeting could include:
An invitation to watch online
An invitation to an in person gathering in a CU @ Home Group or monthly gathering.

PRAY

SUBMIT IT ALL TO GOD ASK FOR HIS GUIDANCE

The decision to lead a group is serious and we should treat it so.

Before starting a group or inviting someone into a group you should PRAY.

- To be led by Holy Spirit
- To be faithful in your commitment
- For discernment/wisdom about who to invite into your group

TELL THE TRUTH

KEEP IT SIMPLE

For a while now I've been learning to follow Jesus.

Following Jesus is important to me and so are you

Learning to love and live like Jesus has changed my heart and my life

WHAT HELPED YOU

BE REAL AND EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR REAL RELATIONSHIPS

Having a group of people I grow with has made all the difference

I can't do it alone.
No one can.

We were made for relationships and that's why I'm committed to a cgroup.

WHAT IS A CGROUP ?

BASIC INFO. DON'T OVER EXPLAIN

A Committed Discipleship Group:

Who help each other
love and live like Jesus.

Who share life struggles and help deal
with life in Godly ways.

Who are committed to meeting
regularly and following Jesus together.

CGROUP VALUES

BE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT THESE.
MORE DETAILS IN THE GUIDE

- Committed
- Confidential
- Changing
- Christ-Centered
- Accountable
- Connected
- Capable
- Commissioned
- Consistent

CHRIST UNITED 

MAKE IT PERSONAL

MOST IMPORTANT PART

I feel called to start a new
CGROUP, and you have been on
my heart.

I've been praying about a new
CGROUP, and you came to my
mind often.

I love you, and I know you've
been looking for more. I'd like
for you to really think about
being a part of my cgroup

GIVE 'EM WHAT THEY NEED/RESOURCES

COMMITTING TO A GROUP CAN BE A
CHALLENGE. FINDING INFO SHOULDN'T BE

CGROUP Guides are available
for download or email.

www.christislove.org/discipleship

<https://christislove.org/cgroup-sermon-based-guide/>

Download our App in your App
Store. Search Christ United and look
for the Logo

CHRIST UNITED 

COMMUNICATION PROMPTS



Hey friend, I've had you on my mind. Do you have some time to talk this week?

I've been praying about something, and I'd love to bounce it off of you. Any chance you're available?

I've had you on my mind/heart, and I feel like we need to catch up. When is a good time for you?

REMINDER: MAKE IT PERSONAL

“Cgroups are highly committed discipleship relationships that require time, effort, discipline, courage and most importantly, LOVE. Their purpose is to help you live like Jesus and to position you to help others live like Jesus.”

CGROUP LEADER EXPECTATIONS

TRAINING

1. Complete the Partnership Track
2. Participate in/or attend Discipleship Live
3. Connect with a staff mentor

COMMITMENTS

1. A regular daily practice of quiet time with the Lord including Bible reading, meditation, and prayer.
2. By His Holy Spirit, live a biblically moral life which bears fruit.
3. Participating in weekly Discipleship live via Zoom or Facebook Live.
 - When we meet in person for Discipleship Live, we expect leaders will meet in person (unless providentially prohibited).
 - Encourage your Cgroup members to participate in Discipleship Live.
4. Engagement in weekly Christ United worship services, including connection with a CU@home group (as you feel safe regarding COVID 19)
5. Following the Cgroup guide and training.
6. Leading your Cgroup with the expectation your Cgroup is for a season with new Cgroups being formed.
7. Participating In Cgroup leader training.
8. Regular connection with an assigned staff mentor.

PRAYER & PREPARATION GUIDE

Preparing for a Year of Life Changing Relationships!

DATE	FOCUS
Oct. 17 - January 3	Daily Prayer Preparing for the coming year
Oct. 17-24 (D.L. 21st)	Seeking God's Will Seeking and answering God's will for you personally
Oct. 25-31 (D.L. 28th)	Sharing with Cgroups Sharing the vision and the invitation with your Cgroups
Nov. 1.	Celebration Service / Casting the Vision Sharing the vision with the entire congregation, inviting them to join
Nov. 1-7 (D.L. 4th)	Invite 1 Personally extending invitations to those God has put on your heart for 2021
Nov. 8-14 (D.L. 11th)	Confirm Confirming the prayerful decisions of invitees
Nov. 15-21 (D.L. 18th)	Invite 2 Invitations to others if group is not full or some have declined
Nov. 22-28 (D.L. 25th)	Confirm 2 Confirming the prayerful decisions of second round invitees
Nov. 29 - Dec. 5 (D.L. 2nd)	Prep for 6th Making preparations for group to be commissioned on Dec. 6th
Dec. 6	Celebration Service Commission & Invitation Commissioning groups and giving final invitation to others

PRAYER & PREPARATION GUIDE (CONT.)

Preparing for a Year of Life Changing Relationships!

DATE	FOCUS
Dec 6-12 (D.L. 9th)	Follow Up New Following up with new people interested in Cgroup
Dec 13-19 (D.L. 16th)	Finalize Plans Finalizing plans including a commitment to time and place
Dec 20-26 (D.L. 23rd)	Christmas Encouragement Sending encouraging message to every member
Dec 27-Jan.2 (D.L. 30th)	Commitment Confirmation Confirming commitment and reminding all of start date
Jan 3	Celebration Service/Launch/Covenant Renewal Launching Cgroup 2021 and renewing covenant

CGROUPS & THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

01 • CIRCLES OF IMPACT

Unconnected Friends, Neighbors,
Coworkers, Teammates, Classmates

02 • COMMUNITY

Home Groups, Men's & Women's
Ministry, Youth Ministry, Family Ministry

03 • COMMITTED

C-Group Involvement

04 • COMMISSIONED

Become A C-Group Leader



DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

As a partner of Christ United, we want several things for you that will greatly increase your fruitfulness and fulfillment as a Follower of Christ. This will involve 4 areas of connection in the Church Body:

1. We want you to position yourself to be active in your Circles of Impact.
2. We want you to find a Community Group to connect with other brothers & sisters in Christ as well as unconnected friends.
3. As a Committed Christ Follower, we want you to be blessed with a Cgroups of 2-6 men or women meeting for a year of intentional discipleship in genuine relationships.
4. We want you to be Commissioned, helping others learn to love and live like Jesus.

CGROUPS & THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

CIRCLES OF IMPACT

We believe we all have circles of people we can impact in our everyday lives. These circles include friends from hobbies, hang outs and sports teams; relatives; friends from schools and associations; neighbors and acquaintances; friends from work and other spheres of impact. We want to be very genuine and sincere in our love for them. Because of our love for them, we want to be intentional in these relationships, sincerely desiring that these people have a Community that will nurture them.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

We believe spiritual growth is important. Community Groups are the second step in the Discipleship Pathway and are vital because they provide ways of connecting our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as our unconnected friends in community. Some examples of Community Groups are... CU @ Home Groups, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Dream Team, Big House, Crossroads, Refuge, Together in Christ, Life Groups, Sunday School Groups, and others.

During this time of COVID, Christ United will be focusing our energies on our CU @ Home Groups. CU @Home Group provides an opportunity to bring the worship experience into your home as you connect with other brothers and sisters of the faith as well as your neighbors and unconnected friends. Go to Christislove.org for Information and Training. You can also email us at discipleship@christislove.org.

Our Community Groups meet in our homes, neighborhoods, coffee shops and community centers. We strive to position ourselves to reach our neighborhoods, schools and workplaces.

COMMITTED CHRIST FOLLOWERS IN "C" GROUPS

Disciples making Disciple-Makers is important to Christ United; it's the third step in the Discipleship Pathway. A Cgroup is gender-specific closed group of 2-6 believers (including the leader) who meet together weekly for the purpose of learning to love and live like Jesus.

CGROUPS & THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

COMMITTED CHRIST FOLLOWERS IN “C” GROUPS (cont)

Cgroups follow a practical, step-by-step guide that equips believers to follow Jesus together. A person steps into a Cgroup by forming relationships with other believers in Community Groups or through everyday relationships (see Circles of Impact).

If you are having trouble connecting, please reach out to us at discipleship@christislove.org.

If you are ready to go deeper in your walk with Jesus, talk to your Community Group leader about joining or starting a new Cgroup.

COMMISSIONED

The fourth step of the Discipleship Pathway is Commissioned. All Christ Followers are commissioned by Jesus to make disciples. Once we have been discipled, we are privileged to lead others on the same journey we've been on. Having learned to love and live like Jesus, we are blessed to invite others to a relationship with Jesus and to walk with those who desire to follow Jesus.

DISCIPLESHIP LIVE

Discipleship LIVE is a super important resource for you to grow as a Disciple-Maker.

It is a weekly gathering of the Christ United family to be encouraged as we live out the life of a Follower of Christ. We articulate this lifestyle as well as give practical ways of living this lifestyle out and leading others to Follow Christ. For more information go to www.christislove.org/discipleship-live/

NOTES

THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Master Plan of Evangelism Outline

THE MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM

Further thoughts by Scotty Kessler

1. SELECTION: “He chose from the twelve.” (Luke 6:13) Men were his method. It all started by Jesus calling a few men to follow him. This revealed immediately the direction His evangelistic strategy would take. His concern was not with programs to reach multitudes, but with men whom the multitudes would follow. Men were to be his method of winning the world to the father. By employing this principle of selection, Jesus was employing the fundamental principle of concentration upon those he intended to use. (Pp.21, 24.) The principle of Selection is most difficult to fully grasp, and yet the most important aspect of discipleship. Disciple simply means “learner.” When available, Jesus can use anyone. His disciples were not well learned but wanted to follow him (Acts 4:13). Jesus kept a low profile to concentrate on his learners. His strategy was to devote himself primarily to a few men, rather than to the masses so that the masses could, at last, be saved. Jesus was deliberate in proportioning His life this way.

2. ASSOCIATION: The principle of Association is about “being together”. The model of the family shows us that discipleship takes time. The only way a father can properly raise his family is to be with it. Consequently, we are to stay with our pupils; be close to them. The prevalent theme throughout the Gospels is simply the fact that they were together. Christ’s whole ministry evolved around them. We must find ways to jointly do the work of life.

3. CONSECRATION: The Principle of consecration is one of obedience. All the disciples were asked to do was to follow Jesus. Jesus expected obedience. We must follow Christ to learn of Him. Here we stress the practical aspect of the faith and challenge each other to a greater depth of faith. “Take my yoke upon you.” (Matt. 11:29). Association with Jesus required obedience and loyalty. Absolute obedience to the will of God was the controlling principle of Jesus’ own life. (Pp 50,51,56,57).

THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP (CONT.)

4. IMPARTATION: The principle of Impartation observes how He gave them His Spirit (comforter, counselor). We must let the Spirit have His way, be fully yielded to his command. Work can only be done by His power. We need to trust our disciples to His leadership. His presence is the joyous experience of every disciple. We cannot separate the call to follow from the call to disciple. Each of us is to become servants. We are to look for disciples. Show one another how to live, how to love. Jesus gave himself away. He gave his disciples His peace (Jn.16: 33), Joy (Jn. 15:11), the Keys to the Kingdom (Mt.16: 11), His glory (Jn 17:22), He gave them everything he had and withheld nothing... not even his own life. (Pp.61, 63).

5. DEMONSTRATION: The principle of Demonstration observes that we must model the lesson. We are to be sanctified and set apart. For we are not our own, but we are bought with a price and are now His. Those we come alongside must see those priorities and values lived out. We are to share the inner life of our soul by being vulnerable. Our weaknesses need not impair discipleship when shining through is a transparent sincerity to follow Christ. We are to make clear what personal ministry means by how we live. Christ's disciples learned his way of living by observing him... He was the method. Practice with them what you expect them to learn. Be involved and keep growing. Set an expectation of reproduction. He demonstrated how to do business. For example, He showed the disciples how to pray. Unless the disciples grasped the meaning of prayer and learned how to practice it with consistency, not much would ever come from their lives. Another aspect of Jesus' life which was vividly portrayed to the disciples was the importance and use of the Holy Scriptures. This was evident both in Jesus' maintenance of his own personal relationship with the Father and in his winning others to himself. He never ceased to use the scriptures in his conversations with the disciples. All this served to show them how they too should know and use the scriptures in their own lives. Moreover, the ability of Jesus to recall so freely Old Testament passages must have impressed the disciples with the necessity of learning the scriptures by heart and letting them become the authority of their lives.

THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP (CONT.)

6. DELEGATION: We are to provoke ministry by making specific assignments, which utilize gifts and skills. First duties can be routine tasks, and then more and more demanding ministries and responsibilities can be added. Help them take leadership. To foster such a perspective, we ask the following questions in our time together:

- Who are you praying for to come into the kingdom and what are you doing about it?
- Who are you currently discipling and what are you doing together?
- Who are you prayerfully considering to pursue in discipleship and what are you doing to create such a relationship?
- Who are you prayerfully considering to disciple you and what are you doing to create that relationship?

7. SUPERVISION: The principle of supervision calls disciples to accountability. Accordingly, not too long after the twelve were sent out, they gathered “together with Jesus” to tell “what things they had done.” (Mk. 6:30, Lk. 9:10) As supervisors, we are to be patient yet determined. Yet we have not been called to hold the fort, but to storm the heights. Keep on your disciples with frequent times of review. Always ask questions to help them process, and work on attitude and character traits. Affirm strengths and self-worth. We can avoid becoming authoritative by letting the Word speak for itself. In a supervisory role, we are to keep the focus on Christ and off ourselves. There is only one authority, that being Christ Jesus.

8. REPRODUCTION: The principle of reproduction anticipates fruitfulness in the life of the follower. We are called to make disciples who will, in turn, make disciples. We must develop a vision for multiplication. Dream about their role in the harvest and anticipate the final ingathering. See by faith what God is preparing for his disciples. Today we are working; we will rest in the world to come (Jn. 5:17.) Those whom we come alongside can be taught. Skill is from practice and vision from God. What is needed is not better methods, but better men and women who know their Redeemer from personal experience. They see His vision and feel His passion for the Lost world... and are willing to be nothing so that he might be everything...desiring Christ to reproduce His life in and through them according to his own good pleasure. Go forth and bring fruit (Jn. 15:16).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a CGROUP?

A Cgroup is gender-specific closed group of 2-6 believers (including the leader) who meet together weekly for the purpose of learning to love and live like Jesus. Cgroups follow a practical, step-by-step guide that equips believers to follow Jesus together. A person steps into a Cgroup by forming relationships with other believers in Community Groups or through everyday relationships (see Circles of Impact).

- If you are having trouble connecting, please reach out to us at discipleship@christislove.org.

What does the “C” stand for?

“Committed” Christ Followers following Christ together.

How do I find a Cgroup?

Begin by forming relationships in Community groups. As you develop relationships with other Christ Followers, pray for God to lead you those who are ready for the commitment of a Cgroup.

When you are ready to join a Cgroup, talk to your Community Group leader. If you are having trouble connecting, please reach out to us at discipleship@christislove.org.

How do I lead a Cgroup?

The requirements for leading a Cgroup are that you are a fully devoted follower of Christ and that you have been discipled. It is important that all leaders understand the commitment to relationships created in a Cgroup, and also understand the principles of Discipleship. It is also important that each Cgroup Leader understand and commit to the Leader Expectations set by Christ United. See Cgroup Leader Expectations for more information.

How many people should be in a Cgroup?

The ideal size of a Cgroup would be 3 to 6 people in your group. 6 being the max due to accountability and lines of communication. The more people in the group the weaker the accountability and the harder it is to stay in communication with one another. Only having one other in the group would not be ideal but would be a start if you were recruiting others into the discipleship relationship.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where should we meet?

Find a meeting place around your community! Restaurants, coffee shops, parks, diners, bookstores, and public tabling are all great options. We want our Faith to be visible to the community!

How often do we meet?

A Cgroup meets a minimum of 1.5hrs a week to go through guide. Outside of that 1.5hrs, we ask that the group be involved in Community Groups for approximately 1.5hrs which would give a total of 3hrs a week to live out Discipleship Lifestyle. Total number of hours would be minimum of 3hrs.

Is there an attendance requirement?

Absolutely! We have High Expectations for our Cgroups and expect everyone to be FAITHFUL, AVAILABLE, TEACHABLE participants with a little bit of COURAGE! It is important for you to remember that discipleship is about our relationships with the people we're living life with.

Do we have to follow the guide?

Yes! We Consistently follow the guide because it is based on God's Word and it helps equip each member to lead Cgroups and to make disciples. The guide helps us to live out and teach others how to live out the principles of Discipleship. A Great Resource on Principles of Discipleship is The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman.

What does Unconnected Friend mean?

An Unconnected Friend could be someone who does not have a relationship with Jesus. We want to connect these friends to the 2nd step of the Discipleship Pathway- Community Groups. An Unconnected Friend could also be someone who has a relationship with Jesus but does not have a discipleship relationship with other believers. We want to connect these friends to the 2nd & 3rd steps of the Discipleship Pathway- Community Groups & Cgroups.

When should I ask someone to leave the Cgroup?

We never want anyone to leave the group, but by setting the expectations high, others may not be able to commit to the times and values set by the group.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We are looking to surround ourselves with FAITHFUL, AVAILABLE, TEACHABLE people with a little bit of COURAGE. This means we want others who are eager to learn and grow in the Knowledge of God but also eager to live it out! Having a Teachable spirit and making themselves available to learn and grow is crucial.

If others in your group show signs of complacency by missing meetings and opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus, we encourage you to confront these issues right away. For Cgroups to make the 4th step into Commissioned, all group members need to be Faithful to the Values of C-Group.

How long should I be in a Cgroup before I start my own?

We encourage you to be with your Cgroup for 12 months. However, some people may be empowered to start a Cgroup for their Unconnected Friends sooner. That's ok! We want everyone to understand how to live out the principles of Discipleship before leading others. Talk to your Cgroup leader about starting a new Cgroup, so they can help you with this transition.

What if I don't know the answer to a question?

There is absolutely no shame in not knowing the answer to a question! Simply confess that you don't know the answer then encourage the group to research the answer together. If you still can't find the answer, send your questions to discipleship@christislove.org.

NEWS FOR CGROUPS

JOURNALS: There will be a Cgroup weekly journal to help us identify how God is working and how we are growing in Him!

THE 5L'S:

Each of our ten discipleship teaching themes are connected with each of the 5 L's

Love of the Lord,

Love of the Lord's Family,

Love of the Lost,

Love of the Least,

Love of Learning

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: We will learn together the discipline of weekly scripture memorization.

WEEKLY RECORDINGS: Because the teachings are not sermon based and we are seeking to connect with the men and women of our church body there will be weekly recordings of the teachings specific to men's Cgroups and women's Cgroups. Depending on the length your Cgroup connects, you can watch the teaching together or prior to your time together.

PRAYER: Please be praying throughout your time together for how the Lord will multiply your Cgroup at the end of the year!

