



Gospel Tool Group Culture

In order to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, a high level of commitment to discipleship is important. In first century Palestine, disciples would earnestly seek to reshape/conform all aspects of their life to become like their rabbi. The Gospel Tool (GT) seeks to reclaim some of that original single-minded focus as participants immerse themselves in the story of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Purpose

Gospel Tool Groups (GT-Groups) will be one of our primary mechanisms for equipping believers to more effectively carry out the Great Commission. Your time together will be focused on growing as disciples who are being transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we learn to cooperate with God in the restoration of the world, each of us nurtures intimacy with Jesus Christ and becomes a more effective witness for Him.

Structure

There are four core practices that should be part of all GT Group meetings. Each one is important, but they do not need to happen in a particular order each week; there is a lot of room for flexibility in each GT Group meeting.

Worship - Worshiping God together through song, testimonies, etc

Care - Connecting personally and caring for needs

Prayer - Praying for each other, the neighborhood and the world

Equipping - Studying Scripture & the Gospel Tool lessons together

For example, one GT Group meeting may start with worship, proceed to the GT lesson discussion, move on to sharing care needs, and then conclude with prayer for one another. The next meeting may begin with care if the facilitator is aware of specific needs that one or more of the participants may be carrying, and then proceed to worship and prayer, followed by the equipping discussion.

It is important that the GT-Group facilitator remains attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in both the planning and the leading of the meetings. He/she prayerfully plans the flow of the evening ahead of time, deciding how and when to incorporate these four practices. During the group meeting, the Holy Spirit may lead the facilitator to adjust any aspect of these plans.

Suggestions for the Four Practices

The following lists of suggestions are not exhaustive; rather, they are examples to get you started. We encourage GT-Group facilitators to ask the Lord for fresh inspiration when planning each GT-Group meeting.

Worship

- Play some worship songs on your electronic device, so that participants can listen or even sing along.
- A participant with musical skills may want to lead the group in song.
- Invite participants to read aloud various scripture passages which describe the glory of the Lord.
- Invite a participant to share brief testimonies of ways that the Lord has worked in his/her life.
- Read a passage of scripture aloud and reflect on it together.

Care

- Ask the participants, *“Are any of you carrying any especially difficult burdens right now?”*
- Sharing highs and lows from the time since your last GT-Group meeting.
- When a GT-Group participant shares a need, see if there’s a way for the other participants to meet that need in the moment; perhaps move immediately into prayer.
- Lay hands on the sick and pray for healing.
- Offer encouragement to those who are discouraged.
- (Note: all care needs should be treated with confidentiality, in accordance with the GT-Group Covenant)

Prayer

- Pray the Lord’s Prayer together as a group.
- Pray that the Lord would grow a culture of discipleship in your church and in the other churches in your area.
- Pray for the needs of those in your group and in your neighborhood.
- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with people in your circle of influence who don’t yet believe.
- Pray for major global concerns.
- Pray for persecuted Christians around the world or in a specific location.
- Pray for revival and spiritual awakening in your region, nation, and the world.

Equipping

- Review the **Discussion Guide** prior to your meeting. We attempted to provide enough material to fill 75-90 minutes for each GT-Group meeting. As you get to know your group, you will be able to determine how much of it you may wish to cover. Give yourself the freedom to dwell longer on a question or activity if you sense the Holy Spirit is working there; do not worry if that would prevent you from covering all of the content in that week’s Discussion Guide.
- Familiarize yourself thoroughly with the **GT Lessons** from the previous two weeks.
- Ensure that you’re ready to discuss the spiritual disciplines listed in those Lessons.
- Try to engage *each* GT-Group participant in discussion. (At the end of this document we have included an appendix with some helpful suggestions.)

Anticipated Fruit

As GT-Groups give consistent attention to the four practices above, we anticipate that the Holy Spirit will work in such a way that participants begin to embody the Values and Goals summarized in the chart below. Participants in GT-Groups will monitor their growth in these areas by using the Self-Assessment tool which follows.

As the Holy Spirit continues to work through these growing disciples, a culture of discipleship will begin to take root in your church. As participants embrace these Values and Goals, they will grow in their ability to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to embody, proclaim, and advance the Kingdom of God.

Values	Goals
1. Abiding in Jesus Christ	1. Grow in relationship with God a. Intimacy b. Submission & humility
2. Rooted in God’s Word	2. Grow in knowledge and obedience to God’s Word a. Bible study b. Scripture meditation/memorization
3. Christ-centered relationships	3. Grow in relationship with Others a. Caring for one another b. Welcoming diversity
4. Vibrant and Growing Prayer Life	4. Grow in engaging in various prayer formats a. Comfortable praying alone and with others b. Ministering in prayer & listening to God
5. Transformation through the Spirit of Christ	5. Grow in cooperation with the Holy Spirit a. Engaging in the internal work for character transformation b. Practicing gifts and discernment together
6. Spirit-led Missional life	6. Grow in life on mission a. Sharing the Gospel in obedience to the Great Commission b. Stepping into opportunities to share God’s love with people