

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Broken Vessels, Beloved, God We Live for You, Potter's Hands

WELCOME

Eureka. What can you say is the most useful product ever made? What made it very useful?

WORD

ACTS 2:40–47

⁴²*They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...*

⁴⁶*Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Every product has a designer who knows how it is best used and normally writes it down in a manual. This is the principle of design.

God is our Designer. Not only does He know what is best for us, He also wants us to live it out and experience it. But in order to fulfill what is best for our lives, we must follow His instructions which can only be fully known through His Word. This is why it is God's purpose for us to study His Word, to become Christ-like and to grow in Him.

But to fulfill God's purposes and design for the best use of our lives, we need to be part of a discipleship group (in CCF, we call it Dgroup). We can learn this model from **Acts 2:40–47** wherein the early Christians, after coming to know Jesus, met together from house to house for teaching, breaking of bread, and prayer.

VOLT IN TO A DGROUP

The most miserable people are often those who care for nothing but themselves. The most blessed, on the other hand, are those who help others. This can be illustrated by comparing the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. While both get their water from the Jordan River, only the Sea of Galilee is full of life. This is because it gives out water. The Dead Sea does not give out what it receives and ends up lifeless.

God saved us so that we can serve. After coming to Christ, one avenue to practice serving is through the spiritual family provided by a Dgroup. If we 'volt-in' to a Dgroup, we get to have a space where we can learn how to help and bless others. And in doing so, we get to be blessed in return as well.

In a Dgroup, Christ is honored and the 3 C's are experienced: Care, Character Development and Cooperation:

Care (Galatians 6:2) – The Bible commands us that we are to bear one another's burden. This is reiterated in more than a hundred verses wherein "one another" is mentioned.

We are to be part of a small group that shows care and love for each other (**Hebrews 10:24–25**). To love means serving one another. If so, love can only grow in a community. In Dgroups, we don't just meet for the sake of meeting. We meet to care for each other and help one another grow in discipleship. We need to be part of a Dgroup because if we isolate ourselves, we miss an important space wherein we can love others, and learn to be patient and kind.

Character Development (Hebrews 3:13) – We live in a sinful world and there are times we fall into sin which we may not be able to deal alone. In such circumstances, a Dgroup can provide the accountability we need as each one keeps watch over the other.

The Bible says we are to encourage and build up one another (**Hebrews 10:25**). Those who discontinue meeting with fellow believers and who refuse to submit to accountability are in danger of falling into a downward spiral of sin. Dgroups help us not to fall away from God. We may also have 'blind spots' which calls for a loving accountability partner. One who can tell us about it and help us improve our character further into the path of Christlikeness.

WORD (cont'd)

Many times, we think we are correct and we want to argue. But the reality is because we are all different, we also see things differently from others. Therefore, it is important to listen and be able to understand the perspective of others. Despite our differences, we should love each other and be willing to get corrected as well. In a Dgroup, listening to understand and learning to empathize with others is not only encouraged but also practiced.

Cooperate (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10, 12) – The Bible tells us we need each other. It is God's gift and God's design for His people. Sadly many do not realize this. Those who are not interested to join a Dgroup miss being able to enjoy the benefits that goes with it.

God never designed us to be alone. God wants us to be part of a community. The Bible tells us that since

we are all part of the Body of Christ, we need each other. As members of one body, all the members do not have the same function. But being together and connected will produce synergy that makes each one stronger and the whole greater than the sum of its individual parts.

We need to surrender our weaknesses to the Lord. God is always gracious to make Himself be our strength. Despite of these individual weaknesses, when we volt in together as a group, we become stronger.

God's plan is for us to be together. If we want people to know Jesus, we should show them how we love each other as followers of Christ in our family and in our Dgroup (**John 13:35**).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. First Century Dgroup.** What activities did the first century Christians usually do in their small groups according to **Acts 2:26–27**?
- 2. Vitamin C.** Which among the “3 Cs” do you value most in your Dgroup?
- 3. Let's Volt In.** How can you help each other experience the “3 Cs” in your Dgroup? Please be specific.

WORKS

MY DGROUP IS...

Take a moment to describe your Dgroup.

Now, reflect on your purpose for being part of this Dgroup then share your motivation for attending.

If you are not yet leading a Dgroup but is being prompted to, pray for God's leading and talk to your Dgroup leader about it.

Log on to <http://www.ccf.org.ph/smallgroups/> for more information on how you can start leading a Dgroup.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends