

How Do I Prepare for D-Group?

1. Prayer

- Colossians 1:9-12 “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light”
- Intercede daily for your teens
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to come
- Turn to the Cloud of Witnesses on their behalf (Mary Especially)

2. Sustaining my Faith Life

- Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will”
- The Sacraments (Mass / Reconciliation)
- Spiritual Reading
- Seeking to be formed myself
- Inviting the Holy Spirit into my life (More Deeply / More Fully) **Without him you can do nothing**
- Where is my Community / Authentic Friendship? Who is my D-Group?

3. Have a plan

- Proverbs 16:3 “Commit to the LORD whatever you do and he will establish your plans”
- **Big Picture:** Theme / Topics / Look ahead
 - In 8th Grade we give you the overall plan
 - In 9th – 12th Grade you need to develop a plan (*we can help with Resources*)
- **Small Picture:** Have a plan for your time together – What I call a roadmap

4. Engage the Materials / Resources

- James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you”
- What do I think about what I’m hearing?
- What don’t I know about what I’m hearing?
- What is my personal experience / my filter?
- What are 1 or 2 nuggets that I want my teens to get?

5. Ask for Understanding (Looking at the Bigger Picture)

- Proverbs 2:6 “For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding”
- Psalm 119:130 “The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple”
- What is happening culturally, nationally, locally?
- What is the teens lived reality? (It’s their filter)
- This might mean going off script or incorporating cultural themes into the content

6. Ask this Question: What is the ultimate goal of your time together?

- Fostering Authentic Friendship rooted in trust = This takes time
- Listening: What are they really saying = Looking under their words & actions
- Mentoring: “Demonstrate what you hope to produce” (An intentional disciple)
- Remember the goal is Christ himself
- Philippians 3:12-14: “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

7. Other Wisdom:

- Plan something together with your teens that is not small group time (Service, Recreation, Prayer, Faith Event)
- Use scripture with your teens
- Start to / continue to reach out and engage parents
- Remember this is a marathon not a sprint (It will take time)