

## ***Disciple-Making Clusters FAQ's***

### ***What Is a Disciple-Making Cluster?***

A disciple-making cluster is a group of 3-5 people, men with men or women with women. They commit to meet together each week for about 9 months. The purpose of these clusters is to take your journey as a disciple of Jesus to the next level and to be a practical and transformative environment where generations of disciples can begin to be made.

### ***How Is It Different from a Growth Group?***

Growth Groups are usually mixed gender Bible study groups of up to 12 people that meet to study a particular book or topic. In most groups there is one group leader who facilitates discussion. The primary purpose of these groups is to learn and to build relationships.

A disciple-making cluster is a highly focused group of only 3-5 people who you will get to know deeply over the course of your cluster. You'll get real with one another through accountability and you'll be able to take the things that you learn and apply them directly to your life each week. The purpose of a discipleship cluster is to make disciples who:  
Are being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit and becoming equipped with the Word of God, in order to live in increasingly consistent obedience to it, and who are in turn equipping others so that they too will come to follow Jesus as disciples.

From day one each member of a cluster commits to take what they learn and begin a cluster of their own after the 9 months together ends.

### ***What Can I Expect?***

Each week when the cluster meets you'll:

- Recite memory verse to each other.
- Open Scripture and discuss weekly reading assignment.
- Practice accountability.
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for specific people to come to Christ and for opportunities to share with them.

You'll also commit to engaging in weekly assignments

- Complete reading for each week.
- You'll spend 9 weeks travelling through Transformed 1      You'll spend an additional 9 weeks travelling through a new Transformed 2 resource.
- As topics, questions or struggles arise that are pertinent to your cluster you'll carve out 3-4 weeks at a time to read and study material related to these issues of your choice.
- You'll work together through Daily Bible Reading Plan (5 days each week).
- You'll choose 2 of these days to go deeper in your own Bible study by keeping a READ Journal which you will share via text or facebook group with your cluster for encouragement and accountability.
- You'll also be asked to prepare to lead the cluster 3 or 4 times during the 9 month period to help to prepare you for leading your own future cluster.

### ***Didn't We Already Do the Discipleship Thing In Growth Groups Last Year?***

The purpose of using the Transformed 1 study in Growth Groups last year was to familiarize our church with this tool and begin to lay a common foundation for us. It was in a sense a quick start version. While not everyone who participates in a Growth Group will feel ready to join a cluster, for those who God is prompting, this will be a more focused and intentional next step to equip us all to be the kind of disciples who make disciples.

### ***Is It For Me?***

If you are serious about growing in your walk with Christ and engaging in His commission to be a disciple who makes disciples then a cluster is definitely for you! However, we're looking for people who are willing to commit not only to be in a cluster for the next 9 months, but to apply the things that you learn to your life.

### ***When Will the Clusters Meet?***

Each cluster will meet at a time that is convenient for them. Usually they will spend about 90 minutes together and can meet anywhere from someone's home to a restaurant or coffee house or at the church building. Times and locations can be decided by each cluster leader.

### ***I'd Like to Lead a Cluster but Am I Ready?***

If you are willing to commit the time and invest yourself in the lives of 3-4 other people, then yes. We will provide you with simple and practical resources for every one of your cluster meetings. You'll also have access to a Disciple-making coach who will walk with you through the whole journey and help you to grow deeper in your own journey with Christ.

### ***Where Do I Find the People for My Cluster?***

While we may be able to connect you to some people who are interested in being a part of a cluster, the best way is to begin seeking God in prayer and ask Him to bring to mind several people who you could invite to participate. You should try to look for people who are faithful (people who will follow through on commitments), teachable (people who are eager to learn) and available (people who will be able to work with your schedule).

### ***Why a Cluster Instead of 1on1?***

There is a place for 1on1 disciple-making but the advantage of a cluster is that it provides a far better environment to equip people to become disciple-makers themselves. In a 1on1 setting there is always the disciple-maker and the disciple and so no matter how hard you might try to provide an environment where the disciple is learning to lead it always feels a bit strange. In a cluster there is a greater sense of being on journey together and each person gets to lead and learn from several others who are peers on the journey. This approach makes it much easier for people to go on and lead clusters of their own in the future.

### ***How do I get involved?***

Reach out to me at [tim@orchardmchenry.org](mailto:tim@orchardmchenry.org) I'm looking forward to hearing from you.