



## Bible Studies and Discipleship Groups: What's the Difference?

Women's Ministry is excited to launch our plans for 2023-2024 with sign-ups open for Discipleship groups and Bible study. In contemplating which one or both to sign-up for, many ask the question- what is the difference? Although there is cross-pollination, the breakdown of what is primary is below:

### *Foundational/ Transformational*

- PPC Bible Studies unapologetically focus on knowing God's Word. Through our studies, we seek to give you a foundation by simply seeking the Word of God through verse-by-verse study through a book of the Bible or systematic theology, studying over-arching themes within God's Word.
- Through the Holy Spirit's work in and through us, the goal of our women's discipleship groups is to grow Christ-followers into faithful disciples who encourage other Christ-followers into faithfully following the Lord, repeating this process until Christ returns. Intentionally, discipleship groups are seeking to transform one another's lives through the Word and prayer to right thinking (sound doctrine) right feelings (heart change) and right living (actively participating in growing the Kingdom of God).

### *Semester Relationships/ Perennial Relationships*

- Our Bible studies meet weekly for 8-12 weeks/ semester for the intent of knowing and growing deeper in God's Word. Books of the Bible and thematic studies are intentionally chosen to help women grow in overall better understanding of the themes within God's Word, follow the current sermon series, or a leader's passion to teach a specific book of the Bible that God has placed upon their heart. Relationships are formed within these studies but are not the driver of establishing consistent accountability.
- Our discipleship groups meet 2x/ month throughout the entire school year. Most groups remain together for 2-4 years deepening their relationship with God and one another. We study practical application of God's Word, seeking to specifically answer how to live as a woman in God's world within our cultural context and life stages.

2023-2024 Theme: *Rediscovering Discernment*

### *Reproducible*

- Bible studies and discipleship are both intended to be reproducible. Both are intended to be used for God's glory, our good, and the common good.

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- Bible studies are intentionally open to the community, so that we as a church are seeking to equip not only those within our church but also utilize the gifts of our church and its members to grow a community of believers outside the walls of our church. We do not “seek knowledge that puffs up, but rather builds itself up in love.” (I Corinthians 8:1) As maturing believers, we must move from milk to solid food, growing as students to teachers in wisdom and discernment. (Hebrew 5:14)
- Discipleship groups intentionally seek to evangelize unbelievers, establish faithful followers, and equip leaders, moving individuals to maturity of replicating their faith into the lives of another. At PPC, we specifically seek to equip those within our local church body to love God and love others as we journey together. “It’s a community project, not just a personal pursuit... This is gospel-driven, Word-saturated, intentional one-anothering. (Sathianathan, *Grow a Disciple-making Culture in Your Church*, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-to-grow-a-disciple-making-culture-in-your-church/>)

If time and commitment are not an issue, I would recommend both.

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