

D.T.P. PURPOSE SHEET

Purpose: To more fully equip Junior High Students in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Plan: To form small groups of willing students with adult shepherds from the *Souled Out* (Junior High) Staff.

Structure: Groups are formed by gender with students committing themselves to a group for one semester at a time.

Agenda: Each meeting time will run for an average of 90 minutes and will consist of at least the following basic elements:

Catch up	Tell us how you are doing (in life, in quiet times, etc.)
Chew on it	Studying the Bible and Christian doctrine
Think it out	Discussing how this impacts us
Sink it in	Taking time to pray for one another
OWN IT	Memorizing scripture

Values: The strength of any group will be determined by the members commitment to the biblical values of honesty, sensitivity, care, trust, openness, love, perseverance, acceptance, and accountability.

Guidelines: Consistency and stability are essential in creating a positive group experience. It is with this in mind that we have established the following guidelines:

1. Each group member is to turn in a signed Covenant Sheet
2. Each member is expected to attend Sunday evenings consistently. We stress the importance of attendance for the purpose of deep community!
3. *Student are to contact their D.T.P. leader prior to any absences.*

Pitfalls: A small group can be destroyed by dishonesty, bitterness, inconsistency, disrespect, disloyalty (especially regarding issues of confidentiality), insensitivity, domination of the group's time by any member, etc. Relationships that count take hard work and time. Our desire is to see students develop the skills necessary to build relationships that count.

Unsure?: Students wishing to see what D.T.P. is all about may visit twice before being asked to sign a covenant committing to D.T.P.

Background: D.T.P. has grown to over 100 students along with 20+ adults. Our desire is to give every single student an opportunity to experience a small group setting for personal and spiritual growth. A foundational verse for D.T.P. is found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. *Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken (v. 12).* Our desire is to see these groups be powerful cords that provide students a place to find strength, hope, growth and support. Thus, the Church and the Student Ministry come together as large groups to celebrate, and in small groups to nurture and care!

The D.T.P. Covenant

Covenant (Kuv-e-nant), n. A written agreement; a deed; a free promise of God's blessing; a solemn agreement of fellowship and faith between members of a D.T.P. small group.

YOU ARE INVITED to be part of an experiment in spiritual adventure...not something for everybody...a challenge...and exercise in commitment and faith...a solemn agreement of fellowship and faith between members of Christ's Body.

THE D.T.P. COVENANT is simply an agreement between a group of people who are willing to make a semester covenant or agreement with each other; and genuinely seek to (a) grow in their relationships with Christ individually, and (b) grow in their relationships with each other as a group.

THOSE IN THE D.T.P. are willing to make a solemn agreement to:

1. Read carefully and prayerfully the Purpose Sheet (attached) for a complete understanding of D.T.P.
2. Attend weekly D.T.P. small group on Sunday evenings at West Campus (6:00–7:30)
3. To bring: your personal Bible, Study notebook, and pen/pencil to every D.T.P. meeting.

If you wish to make such a covenant or commitment, sign and return the attached sheet to the Student Ministry office.

THE D.T.P. COVENANT SHEET

Student Portion

Student Name _____ Phone _____

Student Email _____

Parent Email _____

_____ male _____ female grade: 7 8

Birth date: (day and year) _____

Yes, I am willing to be involved in the D.T.P. (Discipleship Training Program). I have read the material and do covenant to be a consistent, loyal and contributing member of the group. *I recognize the importance of faithfully attending and will always notify my small group leader if I am unable to attend!*

Student's signature: _____ Date ____ / ____ /08

Parent Portion

I have read the material and support my student's involvement in a Sunday evening D.T.P. (Discipleship Training Program). *I will do my part to help my student maintain this covenant throughout this semester and will always make the appropriate arrangements to have him/her in attendance each Sunday.* Thanks to the **Souled Out** Staff for their willingness to lead a D.T.P. group for students.

Parent's signature: _____ Date ____ / ____ /08

Aware of any upcoming family trips that would cause an absence?
Letting us know would be great:

Date received by D.T.P. leader: ____ / ____ /08

Date received by Youth Ministry Office: ____ / ____ /08