

DR101

**An introduction to
Dakota Ridge Assembly**

<http://dakotaridge.org>



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NOTES

Session 1 Why Membership?

Why would anyone want to become a member of a church? There are a few reasons. Membership means...

“I believe in what this church believes in.”

Membership means that you agree with our doctrines as stated in the 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. These beliefs are found on <http://dakotaridge.org> and <http://ag.org>.

“I believe in what this church stands for.”

Membership means that you have embraced our vision as your own. You are committed to becoming a genuine Christ follower on your own, utilizing the resources that Dakota Ridge Assembly provides for you. More on that in Session 3.

“I am committed to advancing this church’s vision.”

Membership means that you are allowing your belief in our vision to turn into action. As a member you are committing to doing your part in making our vision become a reality in your life and community.

Ephesians 4:15-16 – “...speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Our Vision

“Equipping people to become genuine Christ followers.”

REMEMBER THIS!

You will not be tested on it, but you will be expected to live it.

Three words worth highlighting...

Equipping

A church cannot make anyone do anything. Although Jesus' mandate is to “make disciples,” we cannot create an intimate relationship with Jesus in your life. However, we can offer you resources—equip you—so you can come to know Jesus and grow in your relationship with him.

Genuine

Sometimes it's easy for people to claim Christianity. To say “I'm a Christian” is very different than living like Jesus. What we need...what the world needs are people who genuinely love Jesus and are personally committed to living life His way.

Followers

Our desire is to be people who truly live like Jesus. Following his ways, his nature and character, and his passion. We do not want to be Christians in name only. There is a difference between someone who is simply claiming Christianity and someone who is genuinely following Christ.

Session 2 Our Core Values

Core Value #1 – Gaining Friendships

Take a few minutes to write down four things that are most important to you in life.

Is there anything on your list that CANNOT be tied to a relationship? Y / N

There is nothing more important in life than relationships. Because of that, Gaining Friendships is our very FIRST Core Value.

Gaining Friendships means...

- Valued Relationships
 - With God
 - With other believers
 - With non-believers

John 3:16 – “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

- Connection with “the body.”
 - Cannot grow without connection.
 - Relationships are the best way to make disciples.

Core Value #2 – Growing in Christ

Growing in Christ means that as we grow in our relationship with him, we begin to take on his nature, values, and character in our own lives. This process is also known as holiness.

Salvation is only the starting point for our spiritual journey. After accepting Christ, we begin the process of becoming the person God created us to be all along. Just as human relationships continue to grow throughout life, so does our relationship with Christ.

Take a moment to write out some words that describe Jesus.

Do you have all of these characteristics in your life? Y / N

Chances are you circled N (no). That means that as long as you are alive, you can constantly be growing to become more like Jesus.

How does DRA help you to Grow in Christ?

- Sunday morning services
- Small Groups
- Wednesday evening Bible studies
- Auxiliary ministries (youth, sr. adults, men, women, etc.)

Ultimately, you are responsible for your own spiritual growth, but we can give you opportunities and create an environment that helps you grow. But what we offer can only supplement your own personal commitment to Jesus.

Ephesians 4:13-15 – “This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like that truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.”

Core Value #3 – Giving Back

We believe that discipleship is not only about *being*, but also *doing*. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, there should be a natural desire to begin to serve him. It's been said, "You are never more like Jesus than when you serve."

Matthew 20:27-28 – "...*whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.*"

The truth is, **God has a ministry for you in the church and a mission for you in the world.** He has given you special gifts and abilities for a specific purpose to use for His Kingdom.

Ephesians 4:16 - "*From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*"

The problem is many people have no idea what their gifts and abilities are, or how they can be used to serve God's Kingdom. You can discover your spiritual gifts and how they relate to *giving back* by taking a spiritual gifts inventory. We prefer *Uniquely You* by Dr. Mels Carbonell (<http://www.uniquelyyou.com>). This is a personality/spiritual gifts assessment that helps to match you to specific kinds of ministries in and out of the church.

There is a Uniquely You personality/spiritual gifts assessment included in your DR101 packet. Please complete this assessment so that we can talk about it on week 4 of this class.

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Session 3 Small Groups

Matthew 28:19 – “Go and make disciples...” That’s the ultimate goal of everything we do.

Take a look at our Core Values. Circle what you think describes discipleship?

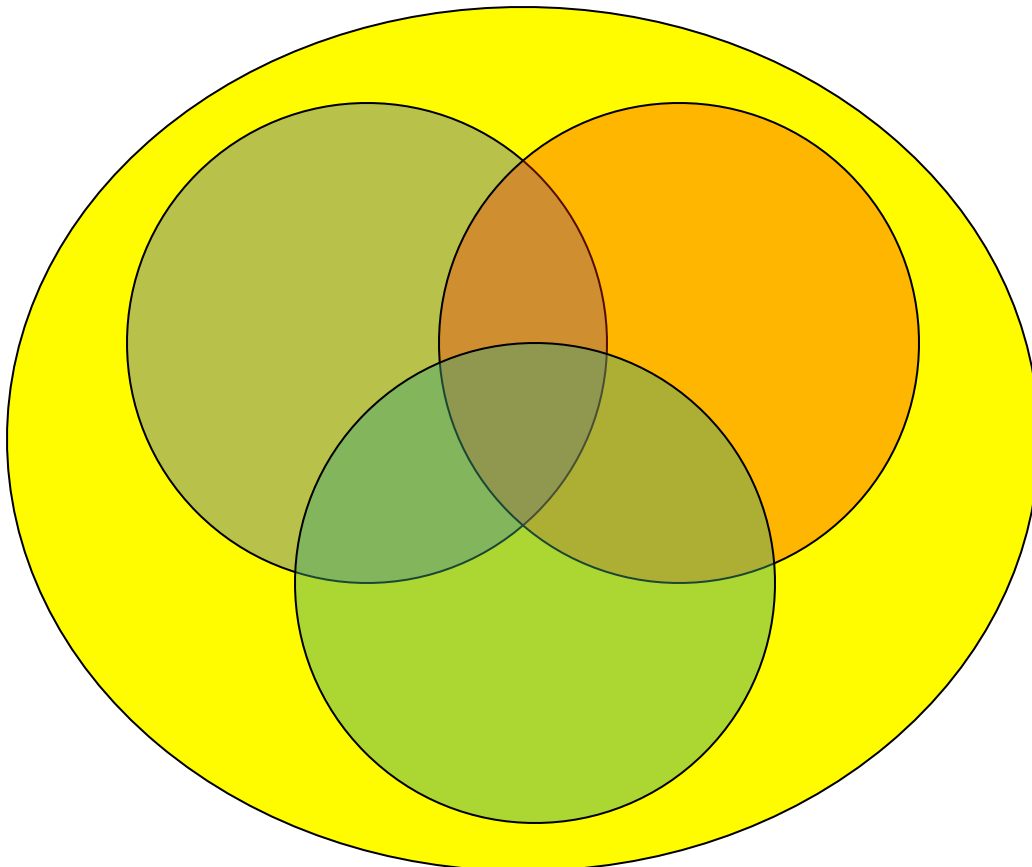
Gaining Friendships

Growing in Christ

Giving Back

What if discipleship was all three of them? Discipleship is like a three-legged table. It requires relationships with others, becoming like Jesus, and involvement in service. **We have established our Small Groups as the environment where discipleship takes place.**

Since our vision is to make disciples, Small Groups are very important to us. Members are committed to the vision of DRA. If you continue to membership, you will be expected to be part of a Small Group.



Appendix A Our Beliefs

(As seen on <http://www.dakotaridge.org>)

About God

- We believe that God loves people and invites us into a relationship of faith, friendship, and service.
- There is only one true God, eternally existent in three persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (the Trinity).
- God has revealed himself through the Bible. He inspired its writing, therefore it is completely trustworthy. It contains his design and plan for all mankind.

About People

- God created mankind good, but Adam and Eve's willful disobedience in the Garden of Eden caused sin to enter the world. Their sin separated them from God's presence and the close relationship they enjoyed.
- Because of Adam and Eve's sin, all who would come from them are born with a natural inclination to sin (violate God's standards).
- All people have sinned and have separated themselves from God.
- The good news is that God still loves people. Our relationship with God can be restored through Jesus Christ.

About Jesus Christ

- Jesus is the eternal Son of God, the Messiah, and the Savior of the world.
- He lived a sinless life, paid for our sins through his death on the Cross, and God raised him to life again.
- Our relationship with God is restored when we acknowledge and accept Jesus' work on the Cross. We call this "salvation."

About the Church

- The Church is more than a building, organization, or a service we attend once or twice a week. The Church is made up of all people, everywhere, regardless of denomination, who have accepted Jesus. This is why we sometimes refer to the Church as "The Body of Christ."
- The Church exists so we can help and encourage one another, to be a place where we can learn more about God and live a life that pleases him, and as a means for us to serve so that others can know him.

You can also see the official 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God at http://ag.org/top/Beliefs/Statement_of_Fundamental_Truths

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