

# 4X4 GROUPS



MEN'S MINISTRY

## WHAT IS A "4X4 GROUP?"

A "4x4 group" is a group for men in which men can experience authenticity, connection, accountability, encouragement, and ultimately growth from being in relationship with other godly men.

## WHAT IS THE GOAL OF A "4X4 GROUP?"

The goal of this group is to fulfill the mandate given to us in Proverbs 27:17: Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

*What does this mean?*

It means that in the context of Christian friendship and fellowship, Christian brothers can help "sharpen each other" (that is to grow one another and help make each other more useful and effective for the sake of the gospel) by encouragement, correction, feedback, and holding one another accountable. So the goal is to help one another to grow in our followership of Christ through genuine and honest relationship.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN A "4X4 GROUP?"

- Time spent is Intentional, Deliberate, & Focused
- Sharing our lives with one another (getting real, honest, and transparent about what's really going on in our world – our struggles and our victories)
- Encouraging one another in our walk with Christ
- Praying for one another
- Holding one another accountable
- Confession, Correction, & Truth-telling
- Putting into action the "one anothers" of the New Testament (love one another, bear one another's burdens, confess your sins to one another, etc.)
- Whatever is said in the group STAYS in the group

## **WHY ARE THESE CALLED “4X4 GROUPS”?**

Sometimes these groups are called “Accountability Groups” or “Forum of Four” groups. 250 years ago, John Wesley called these “cell groups.” Jesus had a “4 x 4 group” consisting of Himself, Peter, James, and John. The names change but the concept is the same: the idea is 4 men sharing their lives with each other, four lives invested into four other lives (4x4), all working toward the same goal – to sharpen each other for the glory of God.

## **HOW DO I START A “4X4” GROUP?**

- First of all PRAY. Seek the Lord that He might bring together this group according to His plan and His power. Ask Him to show you 3 other men you can invite into a 4x4 group with you. The DVBC Men’s Ministry will not assign you to/place you in a 4x4 group, that is completely up to you and the Holy Spirit.
- Place yourself in contexts where you can get to know other godly men (if you don’t have any settings in your life to do that already, DVBC provides you with a number of these contexts: Men’s Bible Study, Men’s Retreat, Affinity Groups, the FORGE, etc.).
- If you have 3 other men you can approach, share this description with them and ask them if they would be willing to join you in making this happen.
- Plan times to meet that are regular and consistent and that all the men in the group will make a priority.