

## Lesson 8: STARTING DISCOVERY GROUPS IN HOUSEHOLDS OF PEACE

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Realize how to see and reach *oikos* (both families and other groups)
- Understand the Discovery Group process that allows seeker groups to become committed disciples that form obeying churches.
- Let people and groups be disciplined into conversion over time through study of the Bible

**1) Review** Lesson 7 in a large group. Ask participants to share their experience in finding people of peace. Stop and pray for each potential PoP that is mentioned. Discuss obstacles and questions they may have encountered. Review memory verse.

**2) Illustration: “Too much Information”**

Show a busy picture (like the one below) for 15-20 seconds. (If you have a large group you may need more than copy of the picture)

- Tell the group that one person is going to be asked to describe the picture as best they can, so they need to pay attention to detail.
- After 15-20 seconds take the picture away and ask one person to describe the picture.
- Write out what they say if you have a white board or large sheets of paper.
- Once this person finishes, ask the group to continue describing the details. Write down what the group is able to capture separate from what one person captured. The group should have filled in many details.
- Discuss what can be learned about group dynamics.

Some ideas that should come out:

1. Group memory is better than individual memory
2. Individual knowledge becomes group knowledge and group knowledge becomes individual knowledge
3. Minority perspectives get the chance to impact the final understanding



### 3) Finding the *Oikos* – these can be families AND other “Groups of Peace”

There are many non-Christian “small groups” around us, not just families but also including clubs and interest groups. Can you think of other examples? We need to train ourselves to **see** these groups. If you find out about a group, explore: Where do they gather? How many gather? How often do they meet? What do they do together?

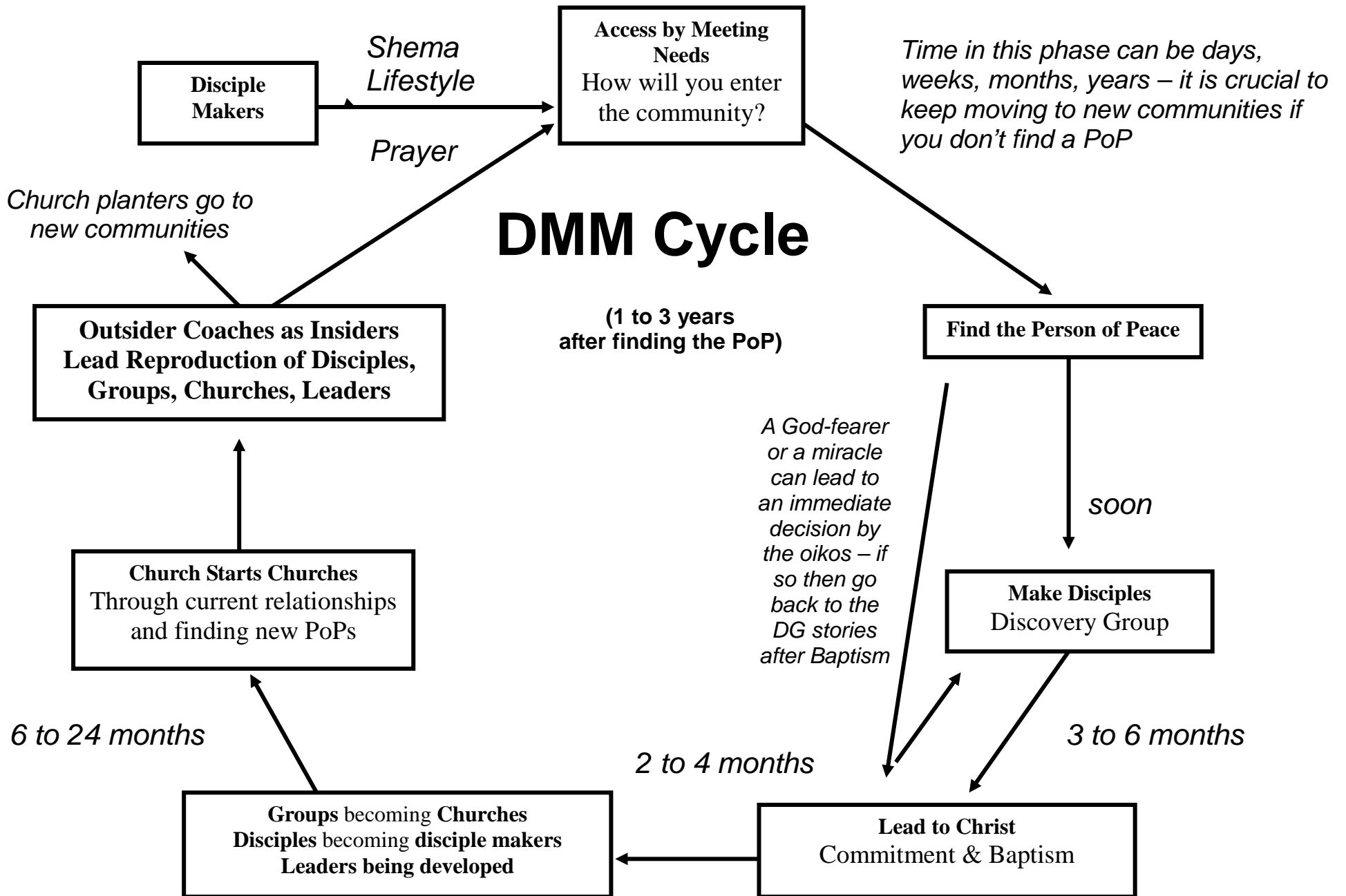
### 4) Summary of the typical process of planting a church in an *oikos* or group.

- Pray and live out Shema lifestyle (word and deed). Use appropriate tools.
- Look for a way into a group (sometimes called “access ministry”) – the best way to find *or be found by* an *oikos* of peace is to show God’s love and tell stories about Him.
- Find a Person of Peace. Remember a PoP may be a woman.
- Focus your attention on the family/*oikos* of the Person of Peace.
- If their response is positive, invite them to explore God’s Word together. Say: **“Would you and your family and friends like to learn more directly from God’s Holy Book?”**

\*\*\*Practice walking around the training room and asking this question in class.\*\*\*

- If they don’t want to study together, politely exit the group but keep the door open if things change in the future.
- Begin a chronological Bible Study (using the question-asking method) in the PoP’s house or another neutral venue (NOT a church building or your house!)
- You will coach a leader(s) at a separate time and the leader(s) will facilitate the DG.
- Help them become a house church over time as they continue the discovery process.

**Discuss:** Make copies of the DMM cycle on the next page OR draw it out on the board / flipchart. Go step by step through the cycle. Don’t try to discuss or answer questions – just explain that over a much longer period of time they can be trained on each aspect of the cycle as they first implement the parts they have learned.



## 5) Process of **Discovery Groups** (DG) - for *Oikos* Gatherings (Families/Groups of Peace)

Some key notes:

- **Invite the oikos:** One example is “You have been interested in discussing spiritual things with me. Would you and your family and friends like to learn more directly from God’s Holy Books?”
- **Set a time** as soon as possible – within 1-2 days if possible.
- **The “question-asker”** is the key role – their job is to facilitate question answering, not lecture.
- If possible **the outsider** (are they an outsider to the group – no matter if they are expat or local) **would coach 1-2 people from the group** on the process and not attend the group.
- If that is not possible, **the outsider would only be the question-asker 1-3 weeks** and turn it over to someone(s) inside the group. The outsider would stop attending as soon as possible.

See “Resource – Process of Discovery Groups.doc” for more thorough explanation.

**Danger!** If you lead the Discovery Group longer than 1-3 weeks, others will be very unlikely to ever lead without your help or start a new group!

## 6) **Practice: Discovery Group Method Using 7 Questions** - Practice this method using either the story from Genesis 3:1-13 or 6:5-8.

If feasible, the trainer can pick 2 people from each group(s) and coach them through the Discovery Group process and then have them go back and facilitate their groups. This is a good practice for coaching discovery groups. Try to pick the youngest or least experienced leader(s) in each group to be the “Question-asker” (or “Facilitator”). You can either roleplay as non-believers or discuss as believers.

**Important:** This is a “discovery method” in which participants are led to study directly from God’s word and find their own answers. So we don’t lecture or teach them. We just ask questions. **Practice NOT answering questions**, by saying, “What does the text say?” and “That will become clearer in later weeks.” If someone says something weird, **practice asking:** “where do you see that in the text?”

**Discovery Group Meeting**  
**Questions for Discovery Groups for Households of Peace**  
(who do not yet know Jesus)

1. **What are you thankful for?**
2. **What are you struggling with / stressed by? How about your family, friends, and neighbors?**

**REVIEW the previous story**

**Ask someone to retell the story from the last meeting.**

1. **What did this teach us about God?**
2. **What did this teach us about people?**
3. **How did you apply / obey?**
4. **Was there a group application / obedience?**
5. **Who did you tell (and how did they respond)?**

**READ multiple times and have everyone RE-TELL story**

1. **What does this teach us about God?**
2. **What does this teach us about ourselves / humans?**
3. **What do you need to apply / obey?**
4. **Is there some way we could apply this as a group?**
5. **Who are you going to tell?**

**Discovery Group De-brief**

Ask the large group to discuss what they learned from this process. Lead them in a discussion of the key discipling DNA in each question that will be important DNA when the group becomes a church. See the document "Resource - Discovery Group DNA.doc" for more details if you want.

**IMPORTANT:** There are some included Discovery Series listed in a Resource document. But remember that these are just *examples* – you need to pray and think through the best stories to address the worldview of those you are serving. For example, you would obviously want to use somewhat different story lists for Hindus than Muslims.

**Hand Gesture:** Ask how could you summarize the main teaching of this lesson with a body movement or hand gesture? Have all participants stand up and do the gesture together. (Example for Lesson 8 – Have students (pretend to) hold a Bible and look intently at it.) Now do all the gestures in order for all the lessons so far starting with lesson 1.

**If you are doing Simple Steps (with the average church member) then this is the last meeting. Ask who wants to meet next week to pray and discuss how you can become a practitioner's support group that will keep looking for PoPs and help each other train other people.**

**If you are doing First Steps (for average field worker) then you will continue for lessons 9-12.**

Some work until the next training session:

**Prayerwork:** Use some of the stories of the Biblical persons of peace to pray. Ask God to lead you to PoPs!

**Fieldwork:** Continue your work of going out with a partner and looking for PoPs.

**Memorize:** 2 Timothy 4:16