

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE



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Starting a Discovery Bible Study is simple, but it's more than just asking questions and reading the Bible. It starts by building authentic relationships with those around you.

Here's how you can lay the foundation for a successful Discovery Bible Study:



PRAY

Ask God, "Who in my life needs to know You, or needs to know You better?" Don't be surprised by who God reveals. It might be someone you don't naturally click with!



ENGAGE

Invite the friends, family, and neighbors God reveals to read the Bible together every week for X weeks.



KEEP PRAYING!

Continually ask the Lord to use His word to bring the message of the gospel home to those who are reading the Bible with you.

Once you have your group together, here is the 7-question Discovery Bible Study format:

1

"What are you thankful for today?"

2

"What are you stressed about today?"

READ A SCRIPTURE SET ALOUD

Re-read it aloud in another version of the Bible. Have several people retell the passage in their own words.

3

"What does this passage teach us about God?"

4

"What does this passage teach us about people?"

5

"What does God want us to apply to our lives from this passage?"

6

"How will you obey what you learned from this passage?"

7

"With whom will you share the truth from this passage this week?"

DOs AND DON'Ts OF A DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY



DOs

Keep the Bible and the Holy Spirit at the center – not the opinion of the leader or participants.

Remember that discovery is a powerful learning method. It's often better than monologue teaching.

Focus on obedience-based discipling – not information-based knowledge. Being a disciple means putting into practice what Jesus lives.

Maintain high accountability with low control instead of low accountability with high control. Allow people to discover what God is saying to them directly from His word instead of very limited accountability where only a few who can say what the Bible means.

Remember that discipleship should be a lifestyle of discovering God – not just a program or method to learn information.

Maintain a missional focus outward – not an inward focus on a few believers.

Aim for intentional multiplication – not addition or extraction.



DON'Ts

Don't "give" the answer. Allow the group to discover directly from God's Word.

Don't directly correct "wrong" answers. Instead, ask questions like, "Where did you find that in this passage?" or, "Did anyone else see that in these verses?"

Don't discuss other passages. Limit the discussion to the current Scripture Set to ensure inclusivity, especially for those from non-religious backgrounds.

Don't speak in "Christian-ese." Use simple language.

Don't focus exclusively on information. Spend significant time on application and developing habits of hearing from God and taking steps of faith. Keep the focus on how we obey by faith God's voice, and on the review.

EXAMPLE SCRIPTURE SET

When we share our faith with others, we follow Jesus' example of asking questions and listening. This Scripture Set is the one we most often share to introduce God's redemption story to lost people. However, as you listen to family, friends, or colleagues, you might find out about their specific struggles or what aspects of God attract them. If so, it might be helpful to suggest they study 4–6 passages related to those issues before you introduce the Creation to Christ Scripture Set.

1. **Genesis 1:1-25 – Discover our Creator**
2. **Genesis 1:26-31 – The Image of God**
3. **Genesis 2:7-17 – God Provides and Instructs**
4. **Genesis 3:1-6 – Man Disobeys God**
5. **Genesis 3:7-13 – Results of Disobedience**
6. **Genesis 3:14-24 – Creation Cursed and Promise**
7. **Genesis 6:5-17 – Compounded Consequences**
8. **Genesis 11:1-9 – United in Rebellion**
9. **Genesis 12:1-3 – God's Promised Restoration**
10. **Genesis 22:1-19 – God Provides a Ram**
11. **Exodus 12:1-28 – A Passover Lamb**
12. **Isaiah 53 – Messiah Will Suffer**
13. **Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20 – God's Promised Savior**
14. **Matthew 3:13-17 – Jesus Baptized**
15. **John 1:29-34 – The Lamb of God**
16. **Matthew 4:1-11 – Jesus Tested**
17. **Luke 5:17-26 – Forgiving and Healing**
18. **Mark 4:35-41 – Power Over Nature**
19. **Mark 5:1-20 – Power Over Demons**
20. **John 11:1-44 – Power Over Death**
21. **John 18:1-11 – Jesus Betrayed and Arrested**
22. **Luke 23:32-56 – Crucified Yet Forgiving**
23. **Luke 24:1-35 – Jesus' Resurrection**
24. **Matthew 11:28-30 – Come to Jesus**
25. **John 3:1-7, 14-19 – Born Again**