

# DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDIES



**CROSS CHURCH**

K A N S A S C I T Y

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## Facilitator Guide

### Discovery Bible Study - Facilitators' Guide

#### What is Discovery Bible Study (DBS)?

DBS is a simple yet effective method for helping people become obedient disciples of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20). It is a way for groups to read and discuss the Bible using five types of strategic questions to discover God and His guidance for our daily lives. In DBS, no one is responsible for teaching – the group is simply reading, listening to, and discussing the Scripture together, trusting God’s Spirit to be their teacher and to reveal the truth of God’s Word through the discussion (John 14:15-17).

The focus of DBS is discipleship – not just gaining knowledge, but actually practicing the teachings of Jesus. DBS is dependent upon the Holy Spirit speaking to people through the Word of God to shape people into obedient disciples of Jesus. DBS is intended for both believers and those who are not yet believers. The Holy Spirit is working in the life of every participant to shape us into more obedient disciples of Jesus!

#### Inviting Someone To Study The Bible

One of the biggest roles you, as a believer, have in this process, is inviting people in. If a Discovery Bible Study were a baseball game, you would be the coach, sending players onto the field. How do you do that?

First, you need to find out who has an interest in “playing the game”; we call these people persons of peace. A person of peace will be open to relationship and to talking with you about spiritual things. They will have a hunger for the things of God, be quick to share what they’re learning with others, and bring you into their network of relationships. People who are willing to have meaningful conversations about spiritual things and who display these characteristics are the ones you should invite to begin a Discovery Bible Study with you.

Once you’ve identified a potential person of peace you need to actually **“make the ask.”** Ask if they’d like to read the Bible together. If they say yes, encourage them to bring others along with them. This will make the process much more dynamic. Imagine a baseball game with only one hitter in the line-up. It’s not impossible for one player to hit a homerun, but the chances of making it all the way to home base go way up when you have a whole team alongside of you.

Here are some helpful questions you can use to invite someone into a discovery group:

- What’s your religious background?
- Where are you now in your interest in spiritual things?
- Would you like to know more about this?
- Who else do you know that has spiritual interests similar to yours?

- Would you like to explore this together?
- Where can I meet you?
- Who else can you bring?

### Host & Facilitate the DBS as a Peer:

The leader of the DBS is a host and facilitator – not a teacher. Resist the urge to explain the Bible to participants, or to tell them what they should do to obey His Word. Instead, participate as a fellow disciple – one who is also seeking to hear from the Holy Spirit how to become a more obedient follower of Jesus. Allow the group to process out loud what the Holy Spirit is saying to them, and trust the Holy Spirit to reveal His Truth. Instead of teaching, focus on helping everyone feel welcome (hosting) and helping the discussion flow freely between participants (facilitating).

Jesus said, “If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads you into all truth.” –John

### FAQ

#### Can children participate in a DBS?

Absolutely YES! Children can and should be encouraged to participate. The effectiveness of DBS is in listening, discovering, and practicing. Both children and adults alike can hear from God’s Spirit through this powerful method of Bible study.

#### Can DBS groups meet online?

Yes, yes, YES!. We are hearing numerous stories of DBS groups using Zoom and other videoconferencing services with great success!

#### How many people should be in a DBS group?

Any group size between 3-8 people can hold a successful DBS together, but it is important that everyone has the chance to answer the questions. Thus, an ideal group size would be about 4-5 people. It is also possible to do the Scripture-reading, re-telling, and questions 1-2 in a larger group setting, then break up into smaller groups to discuss questions 3-4.

## Process

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) is a tool used by disciple-makers around the world to help non-believers discover God by reading His Word, obeying it, and sharing it with others.

Here are the core questions of the Discovery Bible Study. To learn why each of these questions were specifically crafted, keep reading below.

### CROSS Discovery Bible Study Acrostic

C – Connect and Review – (25%)

1. What are you thankful for this week?
2. What has stressed or challenged you this week? What do you need for things to be better?
3. What are the needs of the people in your community?
4. How can we help each other with the needs we expressed?
5. Did you change anything in your life as a result of last week's story?
6. Did you get a chance to share the story with [the person they identified]?
7. We identified several needs last week and planned to meet those needs. How did it go?

R – Read and Retell (20%)

8. The group reads the passage once together, using the same Bible translation.
9. Then one person reads it again while everyone else's Bible is closed, followed by another person explaining the passage in their own words.

O – Observe and Discover (25%)

10. What does this passage teach us about God?
11. What does this passage teach us about humanity?

S – Specify and Obey (20%)

12. If this passage is true, how does it change your view of God? Yourself? Other people?"
13. If we believe this passage is from God, how must we change?

S – Share and Serve (10%)

14. Who are you going to share this passage with before we meet again?
15. Who can I invite to study the Bible?

### One Additional Question

There is one more question that is needed at times—**“Where is that in this passage?”** The group is trained to ask this question when someone tries to bring in topics that are not included in the text as a way to keep the group on track. Here they are being disciplined to depend on Scripture as their source of spiritual authority.

### Why These Questions?

Each of the Discovery Questions is critical for embedding the DNA of church within the lives of men and women as they are being disciplined into a relationship with Jesus.

Removing any of the questions entirely will severely impact the group's ability to multiply into another group.

## Which passage of Scripture should we read and discuss? Recommended Passages for DBS

DBS is a powerful method for studying ANY portion of the Bible! Your group could work your way through a single Book of the Bible, discussing 8-10 verses per week. Or you could choose a Biblical topic and discuss all the verses in the Bible on that topic. Or you could follow a daily reading plan or lectionary for passages to read and discuss.

### 5 Passages About Salvation (Good for Unbelievers)

- Week 1: "All Have Sinned" (Genesis 3 and Romans 3:23)
- Week 2: "God Wants All People To Receive The Free Gift Of Salvation" (Romans 6:23 and 2 Peter 3:9)
- Week 3: "Jesus Is The Only Way To Be Saved" (John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5)
- Week 4: "The New Birth Is Required To Go To Heaven" (John 3:1-8)
- Week 5: "The New Birth Applied" (Acts 2:1-4, 37-39)

### 7 Commands of Christ (Good for New Believers)

- Week 1: "Repent and Believe" (Luke 7:36-50)
- Week 2: "Be Baptized" (Acts 8:26-40)
- Week 3: "Be Filled With The Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:1-4)
- Week 4: "Pray" (Matthew 6:5-15)
- Week 5: "Go and Make Disciples" (John 4:4-26)
- Week 6: "Love" (Luke 10:25-37)
- Week 7: "Give" (Mark 12:41-44)

### 7 Stories of Hope (Good for New Believers or Nonbelievers)

- Week 1: "The Sinful Woman" (Luke 7:36-50)
- Week 2: "Who Can Come to God?" (Luke 18:9-17)
- Week 3: "Who is Your God?" (Matthew 25:31-46)
- Week 4: "Who is Your God?" (Matthew 16:21-17:9)
- Week 5: "Who is Your God?" (Luke 22:66 – 23:25; 23:32-43)

— Week 6: "The Cost of Following Christ" (Luke 18:18-30; 19:1-10)

— Week 7: "Merciful King" (Matthew 18:21-35)

## Creation To Christ Study Verses

1. God Creates The World Genesis 1:1-25
2. God Creates Man and Woman Genesis 2:4-24
3. God's Command Is Broken Genesis 3:1-13
4. God Judges Sin Genesis 3:14-24
5. God Regrets His Creation Genesis 6:5-7:24
6. God's Covenant with Noah Genesis 8:11 -9:17
7. God's Covenant with Abram Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7
8. Abraham Gives His Son as an Offering Genesis 22:1-19
9. God Spares His People Exodus 12:1-28
10. The Commands of God Exodus 20:1-21
11. The Sin Offering Leviticus 4:1-35
12. God's Righteous Servant Isaiah 53
13. Jesus is Born Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
14. Jesus is Baptized Matthew 3; John 1:29-34
15. Jesus is Tested Matthew 4:1-11
16. Jesus and the Samaritan Woman John 4:1-26, 39-42
17. Jesus and the Paralyzed Man Luke 5:17-26
18. Jesus Calms the Storm Mark 4:35-41
19. Jesus and the Man with Evil Spirits Mark 5:1-20
20. Jesus Raises a Man from the Dead John 11:1-44
21. Jesus Teaches How to be Great Matthew 20:20-28
22. Jesus Talks about His Betrayal and the Covenant Matthew 26:17-30
23. Jesus is Betrayed and Faces Trial John 18:1-19:16
24. Jesus is Crucified Luke 23:32-56
25. Jesus is Resurrected Luke 24:1-35
26. Jesus Appears to the Disciples and Ascends to Heaven Luke 24:36-53
27. Jesus Teaches How To Enter The Kingdom of God – John 3:1-5, Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, 37-39

## Printed Overview

### Group guidelines

Read these five guidelines to the group as you begin the first three or four sessions.

1. Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs.
2. Focus only on what this passage is saying, not on other passages.
3. Focus only on what this group is seeing.
4. Give people time to respond. Silence is OK.
5. The facilitator should facilitate discussion, not teach.

### Facilitator guidelines

1. Keep the session on schedule and complete all sections, though not necessarily all questions.
2. Prepare before by studying passage, looking for main idea, and think of some examples, stories or applications from your own life.
3. Respond to questions by asking group, "What in the passage helps us answer that question?"
4. Respond to distracting comments by asking, "Where is that found in this passage?"
5. Respond to "strange" answers by asking, "Help us understand what you are thinking."