

This resource is for you as you prepare to lead a Discovery Bible Study. After you find the Person of Peace you guide them and their family through Discovering God Bible Studies. These studies introduce people to God and guide them to falling in love with Him. We designed this resource to help you with the process.

The most important parts of this resource are the Scripture list and the guide to Discovery Bible Study (both are found on the last page of this document). The Scripture list is a collection of narratives from the Bible designed to help people learn about God through studying Creation, the Fall, and Redemption. The guide to Discovery Bible Studies outlines a process that establishes patterns of healthy discipleship, even as you work with people who don't know about Jesus.

Using This Guide

In the last 15 years, over 40,000 churches sprang up in an area in North India known as the graveyard of missions and missionaries.' Some of these churches are tenth generation church plants and studies show that the tenth generation is as mature and Biblically sound as the first. While persecution in this area is high, so is the faith of the church. They walk and talk with God. They see miracles everyday. They share their faith. They plant more churches. They pray for the sick. They take care of the widows and orphans. Although many are illiterate, they study the Bible inductively. They believe we have a choice – we read or listen to God's Word, believe, and obey Him or we don't. There is no middle ground.

People ask, "Why don't we see church planting movements in the United States?" It is because we read God's Word, but are not obedient. We amass knowledge about God, but we don't do anything with our knowledge. We say we read God's Word inductively but we usually stop before we get to the hard part: obedience. Until we read God's Word and obey it, we will not see church planting movements in the United States.

Read, obey, and share – that is the discovery process in a nutshell. We read God's word out loud (if we are in a group) or write it word for word (if we are studying on our own.) Next, we put God's Words into our own words – just to make sure we really understand what His Word says and to make sure we can share it in informal situations. Finally, we commit to two things: to change our life to obey God's Word and share what God taught us with at least one other person. **Obedience and sharing must happen within the next 24 to 48 hours.** If too much time passes between reading God's Word and obeying it, people disobey God and establish a habit of negligent disobedience in their lives.

According to Scripture, if we read God's Word and disobey it we either don't love God (John 14:1-21) or we are a fool (James 1:22-2, Proverbs 10:8, 14:9, 14:16). If we don't share God's Word,

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we don't love others. (John 14, Matthew 22, 1 John 3:13) If we know what to do, but choose not to do it, we are disobedient. (James 4:17) But we often follow a religious system that does not require obedience (which makes the religion disobedient.) We judge spiritual maturity by what someone knows rather than if they obey what they know. If we judge spiritual maturity by obedience to God's Word, there are new Christians in North India who are more spiritually mature than many people who chose to follow Christ years ago. If we want to grow spiritually, we need to adopt a system that encourages behaviors that lead to spiritual growth. Discovery Bible Study is one process that encourages those behaviors.

Let's take a look at how Discovery Bible Study works for group study.

Prayer

When you meet with groups for Discovery Bible Study, go around the room and have everyone share one thing they are thankful for and one thing that is stressing them out. Eventually, point out to the group that prayer in its simplest form is telling God the things we are thankful for and talking with Him about what stresses them out. Transition this interaction from a group share time to an open, interactive prayer time. This form of prayers is very interactive and gets the quietest people involved in group prayer.

The Holy Spirit

Right after you pray, ask the group to share what God said to them in their personal time with Him since your last meeting. Asking this question at the beginning of every meeting encourages group members to have a personal time with God. It also reiterates every member's ability to hear God's voice. Giving them an opportunity to share allows room for the Holy Spirit to take the group study in a completely different direction than you planned. Be sensitive to the group and make sure they have this time.

Scripture

After everyone has a chance to share, have someone read Scripture out loud while everyone follows along in their Bible. When they are done, have someone else read the same passage out loud again. This time have everyone listen to the reading. When they are done, ask for a volunteer to retell the passage in their own words. When they finish, ask the group to fill in any points they feel were left out.

Reading, listening, and retelling Scripture is more important than you might think. This pattern allows different learning styles to engage Scripture. Everyone has time to think about the passage and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through God's Word. Retelling the passage allows them to think

through sharing this passage with someone outside the group. Allowing the group to add to the retelling encourages everyone to think about the main points in the passage. Even though going through the passage multiple times seems repetitive and time consuming, the process helps develop reproducing disciples.

Discovery Study

After your group retells the Scripture, you can study the passage by asking the same questions each week. Study must be question driven. Questions facilitate the discovery process. Questions allow your group to wrestle with Scripture and grow spiritually. Below are some sample questions to encourage interaction with Scripture:

- **Did anything in this passage capture your attention?**
- **What did you like about this passage?**
- **Did anything bother you? Why?**
- **What does this passage tell us about God?**
- **What does this passage tell us about Man?**
- **What does this passage tell us about living to please God?**

Keep discussion focused on Scripture. If you or someone else in your group is well-read, it will be hard to avoid introducing outside materials into the study. You, as the facilitator, need to work hard to limit the discussion of extra-Biblical or other Biblical materials. These materials are not bad, but they don't facilitate interaction with Scripture. In most cases extra-Biblical materials underscore the intelligence of the one introducing the materials rather than keeping Scripture at center stage. Sometimes this is not the case, but those moments are rare. Do your best to keep discussion focused on the Scripture that is the focus of the study.

Commitment

Knowledge of God's Word must translate into obedience or it is wasted. This next step begins with a statement and a question:

"If we believe God's Word is true, what must we change in our lives to obey God?"

Everyone in the group must answer this question before they leave. If they already obey this Scripture, have them share how they obey it. Ask them if there is anything else they need to do to increase their obedience to God's Word in this area of their life.

Keep this part of your time focused on specifics. For example, realizing that there is only one God is awesome, but that realization needs to become action. In this case you might encourage them with a follow up question: "Now that you believe there is one God, what do you need to change in

your life? What will you do differently?" Encourage your group to identify specific things to do to obey the passage.

After everyone shares how they are going to obey Scripture, have them identify someone who needs to hear what God said to the group. Encourage them to share what they learned with that person.

Before you wrap up, ask the group to identify people they know who are in need. Ask the group to identify ways to meet those needs in the next week.

Finally, close in prayer.

Summary

1. Share one thing you are thankful for and one thing that is stressing you out in a group prayer process.
2. Ask the group to share what God told them through His Word since the last meeting. Ask them to share how they were obedient to the previous week's Scripture.
3. Read Scripture out loud while people follow along in their Bibles.
4. Have someone else read the same passage out loud while the group listens.
5. Have someone in the group retell the passage in their own words. Allow the group to add to the retelling, if necessary.
6. Use discovery questions to encourage the group to engage the passage.
7. Challenge the group to obey God's Word. Have each person share what they are going to do to obey the passage over the next week.
8. Have the group identify people they will share the passage with during the next week.
9. Have the group identify people in need and commit to meeting those needs.
10. Close in prayer.

One last favor: keep notes on how each meeting went, and let us know how the group responded to the scriptures, questions and interaction. If there are ways we can better this curriculum... please make us aware of it!

The dates in the following table (next page) reflect the Sunday each topic will be taught. Ideally, we would like each group, Fight Club or Missional Family to meet for their Discovery Bible Study prior to the topic being taught on a Sunday. This allows the Spirit to teach each of us through the Scriptures without much human redirection.

God is good. Thank you for giving your time to lead this study!

Jan 24	<p>1. CREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. God Creates / Genesis 1:1-25 b. God Creates Man and Woman / Genesis 2:4-24
Jan 31	<p>2. SEPARATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Man and Woman Eat the Fruit / Genesis 3:1-24 b. God Regrets His Creation / Genesis 6:5-8
Feb 7	<p>3. GOD SAVES NOAH & HIS FAMILY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. God Saves Noah and His Family / Genesis 6:9-8:14 b. God's Covenant with Noah / Genesis 8:15-9:17
Feb 14	<p>4. GOD CALLS A PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. God's Covenant with Abraham / Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6; 17:1-7 b. Abraham Gives His Son as an Offering / Genesis 22:1-19
Feb 21	<p>5. GOD SAVES HIS PEOPLE & GIVES THE LAW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. God Delivers His People / Exodus 12:1-28 b. God Gives His Commands / Exodus 20:1-21
Feb 28	<p>6. SACRIFICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Sin Offering / Leviticus 4:1-35 b. Prophecy of God's Sacrificial Servant / Isaiah 53
Mar 6	<p>7. JESUS, SON OF MAN & SON OF GOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus is Born / Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20 b. Jesus is Baptized / Matthew 3; John 1:29-34 c. Jesus is Tested / Matthew 4:1-11
Mar 13	<p>8. CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus and the Religious Leader / John 3:1-21 b. Jesus and the Samaritan Woman / John 4:1-26, 39-42 c. Jesus and the Disciples / Luke 6:12-19
Mar 20	<p>9. JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead / John 11:1-44
Mar 27 <i>Easter</i>	<p>10. JESUS' FINAL DAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus Talks about His Betrayal and the Covenant / Matthew 26:17-30 b. Jesus is Betrayed and Faces Trial / John 18:1 - 19:16 c. Jesus is Crucified / Luke 23:32-56 d. Jesus is Resurrected / Luke 24:1-35
Apr 3	<p>11. JESUS' FINAL INSTRUCTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus' Final Instructions / Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:36-53 b. The Holy Spirit Empowers the Disciples and the Fellowship / Acts 2 c. <i>REVIEW</i> (What does it mean to be born again? John 3:1-21)

PRAY

Ask each person to share what they are thankful for and what is currently stressing them out. Share a short prayer thanking God for hearing each person in the room and ask Him to enlighten your study.

REVIEW

Who did you share last week's passage with?

Did you do anything different since our last meeting? Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

DISCOVER

What are you thankful for this week? What problems do you have this week? Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages (see chart): _____

- Did anything in this passage capture your attention?
- What did you like about this passage?
- Did anything bother you? Why?
- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What does this passage tell us about Man?
- What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

OBEY

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how their lives can change if they live like the passage is truth. Help them make specific statements about the results of any change.

*Help them move from a general statement to a specific statement.

If this passage is true how does this passage change how we see God?

If this passage is true how does this passage change how we treat others?

If this passage is true how does this passage change how we live?

What other questions do you have about this passage?

SHARE

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?

Do you know anyone who needs help?

What can this group do to help them?