

Discovery Bible Study – Facilitator Guide

Review

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties and stresses have you experienced this past week?
[Optional] Have someone pray for what was shared above.
- How can this group help you?
- With whom did you share what you learned last week? What happened?
- How did you obey what you learned last week?
- In what ways did you experience God this past week?
[Optional] Go over “group rules” if there are new people.

Engage

- Step 1: Have participants take turns reading portions of the Bible passage out loud while the rest follow in their Bibles.
- Step 2: Ask participants if they don’t recognize any words. Have the group figure out the definitions.
- Step 3: Have one person read the entire passage out loud while the rest of the group listens. (Bibles closed)
- Step 4a: Have different people in the group retell the passage (one paragraph, a set of verses, or one verse at a time) in their own words.
- Step 4b: **For each section, ask the group** “What would you add? What do you see differently?”
- Step 5: Use the following questions to guide discovery and application:

Discover

- What did you like or find significant about this passage?
- What bothers you or what don’t you understand about this passage? Why?
- What does this passage tell us about God?*
- What does this passage tell us about people?*
- What does this passage tell us about the relationship between God and people?*
- What other questions do you have about this passage?

Obey

- If this passage is true, how does it change how you personally view God?*
- If this passage is true, how should it change how you personally treat others?*
- If this passage is true, how should it change how you personally live life?*
- What, specifically, will you do differently this coming week in light of this passage?

Share

- With whom will you share what you learned this week? What will you share?
 - God’s **Word** (how this passage has spoken to you/what this passage has shown you)
[Next two are optional]
 - God’s **Work** (how God is working in or changing your life)
 - God’s **Ways** (how God is answering prayer and providing for you)

Care

- Do you know anyone outside this group who needs help? How can you/we help them?

Prayer

- Have someone in the group close in prayer, thanking God for what you learned, and asking for God’s help/provision regarding needs (shared above).

** Use these for Exploring God (See verse sheet for alternate questions for other series)*

10 “Rules” for a Discovery Bible Study

GROUP RULES (Review as a group each time someone new joins.)

- 1) Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs (no person dominating)
- 2) Focus only on what **this passage** is saying (not other passages)
- 3) Focus only on what **this group** is seeing (not other people or materials)
- 4) Give people time to respond (don't be afraid of silence)

Note: Anyone can say “pass” if they don't have something to share.

- 5) Facilitate, don't teach (using the **Facilitator Guide**)

Note: The “coach” (outsider helping to start the group) is there to help advise outside of the group and to silently pray during the group, not lead.

FACILITATOR RULES (guidelines for the facilitator)

- 6) Keep the session on schedule –

- Complete all sections if possible

[Note: You may need to shorten the passage selection or have fewer people share.]

- Most important is the “Obey” section (encourage everyone to share)

- 7) Responding to questions –

- Ask, “**What in this passage helps us answer that question?**” (The goal is to help the group see that “even they” can understand the Bible) [Facilitators: Don't contribute your answer/comment to every question. Let the group try to figure it out.]
- If the question is not about the passage, say, “**Let's discuss this further after our group time...**” If it is a genuine question, they will make time afterwards. If not, then it probably wasn't too important to them. If you don't know the answer and no one else does, say, “*Let's do a separate study at another time on a passage that answers that question.*” (Then afterwards ask your coach for guidance.)

- 8) Distracting questions or discussions (unrelated issues or “digressions”)

- Ask, “**Where is that found in this passage?**”
- Or, suggest the group talk about it after the group meeting since, “**The goal for today is focusing on what this passage has to say.**”

- 9) “Strange” or “wrong” interpretations:

- Ask the group if they see the same thing (builds a culture of self-correction)
- Ask the question, “**Where is that found in this passage?**”
- If this fails, suggest that you and the person or whole group talk about it after the regular meeting because, “**The goal for today is focusing on what this passage has to say.**”

- 10) Close the group after the second or third week. If someone wants to bring a friend after that, help them start a new group with that friend and their friends.

Notes:

- Many of the “Obey” questions are phrased “**If this is true...**” so that people who don't yet fully trust the Bible can participate in this Bible study process comfortably. If you know everyone in the group believes in the truth of the Bible, you could change the statement to “**Since this is true...**”
- If people are having a hard time saying what they will do differently (**Obey** section), you can introduce them to the SPECK tool. (**S**in to repent of, **P**romise to embrace, **E**xample to follow or not, **C**ommand to obey, or **K**nowledge to adopt)