

EQUIP

sharing your faith

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Below are the Format, Five Questions and sample Bible passages used for Discovery Bible Studies (DBS). DBS Groups should have at least 1 unbeliever and at least 2 believers (i.e. groups are better). This study could be done with anyone who is willing to have spiritual conversations.

1. FORMAT

- A. **THE PASSAGE** – Print out the passage to make sure everyone is reading from same translation, and so no one is intimidated by a Bible. One page for each person. No Bibles.
- B. **BREAKING THE ICE** – Start with asking how their week has been:
 - “What’s something you’re thankful for from this past week?”
 - “What has been challenging?”
 - Take a keen interest. Then hand out the Bible passage sheets.
- C. **STARTING THE CONVERSATION** – Once they have the passage in their hands tell them the purpose:
 - “Let’s read the Bible together, discover what it says, and find practical ways it can help us.”
 - Do not come with prepared study notes.
 - It is important to learn together as you read.
- D. **READING THE SCRIPTURE** – Get everyone involved by:
 - Reading through the Bible passage once.
 - Each person taking a turn reading a couple of verses until the passage is finished.
 - If there are 5 people and 10 verses, have each read two verses.
- E. **RETELL THE STORY**: After the first reading:
 - Have everyone turn over their page with the passage on it and ask if someone would like to try and re-tell the story in their own words.
 - Then others can add their thoughts, if anything was left out.
- F. **READ THE SCRIPTURE AGAIN** – Read through the passage a second time:
 - Everyone taking turns like before - to see if the group remembered it all, or if anything was left out.
 - Then move right into the Five Questions...

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2. THE FIVE QUESTIONS: After each question, let everyone have a chance to respond to the question & to one another's answers.

- A. "What do you like about what we read?" or "What is the first thing that jumps out at you that you like?"
- B. "What do you not like about what we read?" or "Is there anything in the passage that you disagree with?" or "Is there anything in this passage that is hard for you to read/hear?"
 - o Allow freedom in their responses. Do not be so quick to correct.
- C. "What don't you understand in this passage?"
- D. "What does this passage say about people?"
- E. "What does this passage say about Jesus/God?"

Then, at the end of these Five Qs, ask:

- o "Who can you tell this story to, that may be helped by it?" and
- o "What's one thing you can do this week to live out what you've learned from this story?"
- o Record and remember what each person says so you can pray for them and follow up.

NOTE: Always lead the group back to the Bible passage and what it is actually saying. If someone makes a statement about something that may not be found in the Bible passage, ask something like:

- o "Where in this story/passage is it saying that?" or
- o "How did you get that thought from this passage?"

3. SAMPLE BIBLE READINGS: Print out the Bible text with chapter and verse numbers. Do not include any headings or other notes.

- A. Luke 5:12-26 (Jesus heals)
- B. Luke 7:36-50 (Jesus forgives)
- C. Luke 13:1-17 (Jesus calls today)
- D. Luke 15:1-32 (Jesus loves to find the lost)
- E. Luke 16:1-14 (Give up to gain)
- F. Luke 17:11-19 (Ten Lepers)
- G. Luke 18:1-17 (Go to God)
- H. Luke 19:1-10 (Jesus saves the lost)
- I. Luke 23:32-56 (Jesus died for sins)
- J. Luke 24:1-35 (Jesus conquered sin and death)
- K. Mark 4:35-5:20 (Jesus is more powerful)
- L. Mark 5:21-43 (Jesus rescues the hopeless)
- M. John 3:1-21 (Jesus' work rescues us)
- N. John 4:1-26, 39-42 (Jesus is savior of the world)
- O. John 11:1-44 (Jesus is the Resurrection and Life)

NOTE: the parenthetical thoughts are only for your reference.