

What Is Discovery Bible Study?

Discovery Bible study is a simple, reproducible way to study the Bible with anyone, anywhere. The goal is to teach people to be self-feeding on the word of God so that they can grow to maturity. Growing in maturity can be defined by three areas of balanced growth: growing in knowledge, growing in faithfulness (obedience) and growing in sharing with others. Discovery Bible study has the potentiality of advancing a disciple of Jesus in all three areas.

Define your people:

Are they mostly Christians or non-Christians?

You can use DBS in a variety of settings:

- Personal study
- One-on-one or group disciple making
- Bible class teaching or preaching

Define your purpose:

Are you trying to disciple someone to be more Christ like? Maybe this is to strengthen your marriage. Or maybe you have a group of people you are discipling who have specific needs that you are aware of. It is important to know your audience in order to take the next step.

Define your scriptures:

- You will study one passage with each DBS.
- There are two ways to define the scriptures you will study: 1) you can get a list from the internet or 2) you can create your own list with your audience/people in mind
- With your audience in mind begin praying. Ask God to make clear the scriptures to cover in DBS
- Open your Bible and begin searching the scriptures for the book or passages that stand out.
- Take notes of what you find, what you believe the Holy Spirit is leading you to select.
- Make a scripture list of the specific verses you are going to cover each week

Example:

Study 1: Matthew 13:31-35

Study 2: Mark 3:23-27...

Delegate/Train:

You can lead the first few studies. After a few studies you can delegate items to them until they are able to do the entire study. Or you can encourage them to do DBS on their own starting week 1 to accelerate their readiness to self-feed and teach this to others.

Now you are ready to start your Discovery Bible Study!

Discovery Bible Study follows the same list of questions and activities every time.

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What challenges are you facing?

How did you live out your “I will” statement from the last DBS? (you won’t cover this Study 1)

Read the passage (get people involved)

Re-read the passage

Tell the passage in your own words (get people involved)

Re-tell the passage in your own words

What do we learn about God from this passage?

What do we learn about people (including ourselves) from this passage?

What is something you can do to obey what you have learned from this passage (come up with an “I will...” statement that will be reviewed next week. Keep it simple and concrete.

Who is someone you can share part of this lesson with this week?

How can we help you with any of the challenges you are facing?

Explanation:

You start with catching up and sharing. The “I will” is not about accountability and guilt. It is an opportunity to tell how you lived out the word and how God worked through what happened. This is a great time for non-Christians to pair up the Word of God, their participation and the work of God. If someone didn’t do it, have them try again. It is important we follow through on our commitment to live in obedience to God’s word.

Next, you get in the word – this is the most important part. We need to hear the word to understand the word to live the word. So we read, re-read, tell and re-tell. This allows the word to really be heard. It must be heard before it can be interpreted/understood and then applied and shared. Stick with the passage, don’t cross references other verses or bring in outside study resources (keep it simple so it is reproducible).

Then we interpret the word to understand it – what does it tell us about God/people?

Then we make a commitment. We are learning that every time we read the word, we need to make an effort to live out what we are learning. This is one simple, concrete item (nothing abstract and hard to know if you did it).

Last, we need to share what we are learning and living with others so they too can hear, learn and grow!

Discovery Bible Study is used all over the world in disciple making movements and we are excited that you are considering using it as well!