

## Discovery Bible Study

### BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

When you meet with your group for Discovery Bible Study, invite everyone to **share one thing they are thankful for and one thing that is a concern or that they are struggling with. Perhaps there is something 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 they are **anxious or worried about.** Transition this interaction from a group share time to an open, interactive prayer time.

### REVIEWING THE PAST WEEK: OBEYING 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.** It will be exciting to hear how God has spoken to them and will be of great encouragement to the others in the group.

Next, ask them to share any experience of **sharing the previous week's story with someone else.** Remember, one of the primary goals is for each person to **share God's story with another person in a natural way that spreads the Good News of Jesus throughout their community.**

Finally, ask how they did at **following through on obeying the lesson from last week's story. This is what sets Discovery Bible Study apart from most discipleship studies – it is obedience oriented!**

### READING AND RETELLING SCRIPTURE

After everyone has a chance to share, have **someone read the Scripture passage out loud** while everyone follows along in his or her Bible. **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. Next, ask for another volunteer to retell the passage again in their own words, hopefully filling in any holes in the story.**

**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 THROUGH QUESTIONS

After your group **retells** the Scripture, you can study the passage. Your discussion must be **question driven. Questions facilitate the discovery process.** Questions allow your group to wrestle with Scripture and grow spiritually. Below are **sample questions** to encourage interaction with Scripture:

- What words or phrases in this passage **captured your attention?** (what perhaps surprised you)
- What in this passage, if anything, would you say **bothered, concerned, or disturbed** you?  
(What makes you feel uncomfortable?) Why?
- **What does this passage tell us/reveal about: God? (God's character, heart, nature)**
- **What does this passage tell us/reveal about: People? (attitudes, beliefs, character, values, etc.)**
- **What are the lessons this passage reveals about: Being a Follower of Jesus?**
- **What is the lesson JUST for ME? (What does God want ME to OBEY from this passage?)**
- **How should I respond to what Jesus is saying to me? "I will...."**
- **Who is someone I could tell this week what I've learned from this story?**

Do your best to keep the discussion focused on Scripture. **You, as the facilitator, need to work hard to limit the discussion of extra-Biblical or other Biblical materials. These materials are helpful, but they don't facilitate interaction with Scripture.**

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### **COMMITMENT TO OBEY THE SCRIPTURES**

Knowledge of God's Word must translate into **obedience** or it is wasted. This is why we ask the question: **"Since we believe God's Word is true, what is God asking you to change in your life in order to become more like Jesus?" "What do you sense God saying to you as it relates to obeying this lesson from the Scriptures?"**

It is crucial to allow time for everyone to **write down what their step(s) of obedience will be before they leave**. If time allows, it will be encouraging for the group to have a few share what they feel God is saying to them. If they are already obeying the major lesson in this Scripture, have them share *how* they obey it.

**Keep this part of your time focused on specifics.** For example, realizing that there is only one God is vital, but that realization needs to become **action**. Therefore, you might encourage them with a follow up question: **"Now that you believe there is only one true 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 text.

After everyone has a chance to reflect upon **how they are going to obey Scripture**, have them **identify someone who needs to hear what God has been saying to them from this passage**. 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 **causing you concern** and take those things to God in prayer.
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 and **with whom they might have shared the story**.
3. Have **someone read the Scripture passage** out loud while people follow along in their Bibles.
4. **Have someone else retell the same passage** out loud while the group listens. Allow the group to add or delete any elements to the retelling, if necessary.
5. **Have another person in the group retell the passage again filling in anything that was left out** in his or her own words.
6. **Use discovery questions** to encourage the group to engage the passage.
7. **Challenge the group to obey God's Word**. Have people **write down what he or she is going to do to obey what God has said to them** through 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.

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### **FOCUS ON PERSONAL OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD; THIS WILL PRODUCE AUTHENTIC DISCIPLES!**

**John 8:31 - "If you *obey my teaching*, you are *truly my disciples*."**

Other translations of **John 8:31:**

**"If you *obey my word*" "If you *obey my teaching*" "If you *remain in my word*."  
"If you *live according to and abide in my teaching*," "If you *make my word your home*."  
"If you are *faithful to what I have said*." "If you *do what I have told you*"  
"If you *continue to practice what I have taught you*."**

**John 15:8 - "When you *produce much fruit*, you are *truly my disciples*."**