



Discovery Bible Study

Discovery Bible Study is a way of exploring the Bible that helps us discover firsthand what it says about God, about people, and what it means to follow Jesus with intentionality. This spiritual formation practice is for those who are already comfortable looking at the Bible; and it is a nonthreatening way to engage with people before they know anything about the Bible, or before they are following Jesus.

Discovery Bible Study is based on the belief that God's word is powerful (Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16) and God's Spirit is faithful to lead us into all truth (John 16:13).

Whether you use this method individually or facilitate a small group or cohort, you are essentially co-leading with God's Spirit, who is the major player in guiding both disciples and seekers toward Jesus.

Discovery Bible Study Format

Connect

1. What are you thankful for?
2. What is causing stress or challenging in your life right now?
3. How did you do with your "I will" statement from last time?

Discover

1. Read the passage aloud, then retell the passage in your own words.
2. What stands out to you? Note anything you may not understand or may want to discuss.
3. What does this passage tell you about God? about people?

Go

1. How will you respond to God about this passage?
2. Create an "I believe" and an "I will" statement. Write them down.
3. Who can you tell about what you are learning and how can you tell them?

A Few Tips:

- Discovering spiritual truths and acting on them is a powerful way to learn and transform.
- Doing this in a community provides the support and challenge we need.
- The Discovery Bible Study method relies on the Holy Spirit's leading, rather than on the skills of a gifted facilitator.
- This sequential format is easy to learn and practice. If you are in a group, share responsibility for facilitating!
- The Discovery Bible Study method focuses on obedience over gaining knowledge. By creating "I believe" and "I will" statements, people experience God during the week as they follow Him, not merely learn about Him.
- As people are following Jesus, others notice. Being ready to share with others is also an important part of this spiritual formation practice.
- Discovery Bible Study helps people at all stages of their journey toward Jesus have a voice in a group discovery process. The simple questions keep a group focused on the passage and on track through this process.
- Each participant will be gaining insight and making personal application, not just a few.
- This process provides a cycle – it's easy to tie sessions together with the "I Will" statement check-ins.