

Facilitating a Discovery Bible Study

If you have a spiritual hunger and curiosity to not only know God, but allow him to transform your life, and you want others to know him too, then Discovery Bible Study (DBS) might be a great tool for you to use.

Hundreds of people's lives have been transformed through this simple process. A DBS can be held anywhere—at home, restaurant, jail cell, or a park.

At each gathering:

1. Discuss the **CONNECT** questions.
2. Read the passage as a group.
3. Ask someone in the group to restate the passage in his or her own words. Choose this person randomly and do not forewarn. This way, everyone will concentrate on the passage because they may be chosen to give the summary.
4. Then, open it up to the others to add anything important that the first person may have left out, or to add any other thoughts about the passage.
5. Proceed to the **DISCOVER** questions: work through each verse or paragraph in the passage and explore what it says and what it *means*. Keep coming back to the passage – do not allow them to drift off. Should they drift off, bring them back with questions like: “Where does it say that in this passage?”
6. Give people a few minutes (3 minutes is good) to consider how they will obey this passage. Then have everyone share their obedience (“I will”) statement.
7. Ask the **MULTIPLY** questions

A sample DBS is attached as well as a template you can adjust depending on the text you choose to study.

A Party at Levi's

EXPLORE MARK 2:1-17

CONNECT

How did God show up in your life this week? What are you thankful for? What is causing stress in your life right now? Were there any lessons you applied or shared? Did you follow through on your "I will" and "I will tell" statements?

DISCOVER

Read the passage.

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So, he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this! Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

DISCOVER

Read the passage again.

Repeat it in your own words.

What do you think the passage means? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about people?

(If this is God is speaking to you...) What will you do about it?

MULTIPLY

How can we show kindness to one another? Who else can we show kindness to?

Who can we tell and how will we tell what we are learning?

Discovery Bible Study Template

Choose a Text or Use the One From This Week's Sermon

CONNECT

How did God show up in your life this week?

What are you thankful for?

What is causing stress in your life right now?

Were there any lessons you applied or shared?

Did you follow through on your "I will" and "I will tell" statements from our last meeting?

DISCOVER

Read the passage.

Read the passage again.

Have someone from the group repeat it in their own words.

Open it up to others in the group to add anything important that the first person may have left out, or to add any other thoughts about the passage.

Ask the following questions:

What do you think the passage means?

What do you learn about God?

What do you learn about people?

What will you do with what you've learned?

MULTIPLY

How can we show kindness to one another?

Who else can we show kindness to?

Who can we tell and how will we tell what we are learning?