

HOW TO LEAD A DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

The DBS process is intentionally simple so that it can launch and reproduce in any context. Here is the basic sequence:

1. Identify people around you who are spiritually curious.
2. Invite them to discover what God has to say about life.
3. Ask the discovery questions (see below). No one needs to teach, just discover it together!
4. Let the Holy Spirit lead and transform lives! Trust God to be much better at teaching truth than we are.
5. Multiply by encouraging members of the group to start new groups with other friends and family.

To facilitate a DBS, you'll need a couple of participants, a Bible story, and a few simple questions. Once the group has gathered, start by sharing the responses to these questions with each other:

What are you thankful for?

What's a challenge you're facing right now?

If this group has gathered previously, ask: How did you do with your last "I WILL" statement? Did you share with others?

Next, it's time to ask the "discovery questions" which help us to discover what the Bible says and take action. The acronym H.O.P.E. is a helpful way to remember these steps: *Hear, Observe, Practice, and Encourage*.

HEAR from God through the scripture passage.

- Read the story out loud.
- Have someone re-tell it in their own words.

OBSERVE what it says.

- What stands out to you?
- What does this story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about people?

Put it into PRACTICE.

- How can you *personally* and *specifically* live out what God is showing you in this text?
- Write down an "I WILL _____" statement for the week ahead.

ENCOURAGE someone.

- Who are you going to tell about what you discovered this week?

Make sure everyone gets a chance to contribute to the conversation. Allow time for everyone to write down their “I will” statements and make notes about who they plan to talk to in the week ahead.

And that’s it! Plan for the next time you’ll gather to share your experiences from the week and to examine another scripture together.

WHO SHOULD I INVITE?

Many believers ask how to find people to invite into a DBS. You need to identify “people of peace”—people who are spiritually curious and open to learning more about what the Bible says. You may be surprised at some of the people in your life who are interested!

Here are three tips for finding people of peace:

1. Ask God to highlight people to you and start praying for them.
2. Engage in spiritual questions. Ask people questions about spiritual things, or ask them how you can pray for them. See who is open to deeper conversation.
3. Ask if they’d like to learn more about what God and the Bible has to say about one of the study topics listed below.