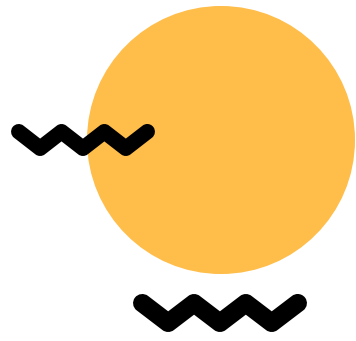


Pathway to Spiritual Growth

Intentional Relational Discipleship



Pathway 1
Facilitator



Discovery Bible Study (DBS) Training Pathway 1

Context: Every time people meet to study the Bible, ask the same questions. By doing so everyone will learn the pattern and know how to use it. Therefore the questions become memorized and are easily transferred.

Guiding Principles:

1. Let the Bible (God's Word) speak and the Holy Spirit be the teacher. (Jn 14:26)
2. Trust God to work in the hearts of people as they read/study His Word.
3. Be patient with the discussion. Be comfortable with periods of silence.
4. Keep the focus of the discussion on the passage.
5. Help people grow in their faith through obedience.
6. The goal is for the participants to be able to teach this to someone else right away. So keep it simple and reproducible.

Discussion Questions/Flow:

1. What are you **thankful** for this week?
2. What are you **concerned** about that we can pray for? Do you have a need or know someone who has a need we can help meet?
3. After the first week, ask, "How did you do on **last week's obedience** statement?"
4. After the first week, ask, "Did you **share** with anyone what you learned from last week's passage? How did that go?"
5. Let's move to this week's **passage**. Would someone please read it out loud? Can someone read it in a different translation?
6. **Observation**--Who would like to summarize the passage in their own words? Paraphrase the scripture. What does it say?
7. **Interpretation**--In light of what we already know about God, what does this passage mean? What does it say about God, about man or life?)
8. **Application**--If these things are true, what is God saying to you? How will it change the way you think about God and how you live your life differently? How can I obey what I've learned
9. Who can you tell about what you learned?
10. Let's pray about the needs and our obedience.

Significant but Simple Guidelines

- You are a facilitator not a teacher. Do not allow one person to teach or explain.
 - A good facilitator does not give answers, but asks good questions.
- Depending on the group, hand out the list of verses to study. (You may be using our participant's guide—they will be there). Sometimes people are overwhelmed if they see too many at once so it may be better to give them out one week at a time.

- Ask everyone to come to the study prepared to share what they've learned.
- Give everyone a chance to share even if you have to call on people to share.
- Don't only read the passages; put them into practice. Obedience is the goal!
- Making gospel conversation a part of your everyday life by talking to others outside this group about what you are learning from your study.
- Meet practical needs in the group and in the community. Look for ways to serve together.
- After week two, someone besides yourself should be facilitating the group. Continue to rotate the facilitation. It is easy.
- Pray! There is a salvation prayer list in this guide. The Holy Spirit has to work in people's hearts so we need to intercede.

NOTE 1: No teaching or explaining. Ask questions – don't give answers.

How do I know when I am teaching or explaining in a Discovery group?

- I hear the sound of my voice more than others.
- People do not interrupt me (I Corinthians 14:30).
- After I have spoken, the group goes silent.
- I share prior knowledge rather than revelation from the Bible.
- I am more concerned with correcting others than I am about them hearing from God.
- The members of the group are receiving truth from me and not the Bible.
- I participate in the discussion, but struggle to make and keep obedience statements.
- I find it easy to apply the Bible to the mistakes of others, but difficult to apply the Bible to correct my own lifestyle.

NOTE 2: No bringing in other passages

- Stay in the passage you are reading.
- Focus on the one central truth in "this" passage.
- Use the question, "Where do you get that from this passage?" as a segue back to the passage when group members express opinions or try to bring in other passages.
- Those not familiar with the Bible will feel uncomfortable if people bounce around the Bible and will not feel confident to teach it to others if they think they have to be a Bible expert.

FACILITATION GUIDE

Suggested times for each section

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Community Questions | (20 minutes) |
| What are you thankful for this week? What is stressing you out? Do you have a need , or know anyone with a need, that this group can meet? | |
| Accountability (This could also be used as the first activity) | (10 minutes) |
| How did you do with last week's "I will" statement? With whom did you share last week's lesson? | |
| What is God saying? (today's passage) | (35 minutes) |
| Read the designated passage aloud in at least two different versions if available. Have one person retell the passage in their own words. You may want to appoint that person before you begin reading. Ask others to add their insights, or to add to what may have been missed. | |
| What will I do about what God is saying? | (20 minutes) |
| Develop a statement that will put into practice what you learned. For example, " I will take ten minutes a day to reflect on how much God loves me" or "I will begin to recycle because God has given me the earth to take care of." To get them to make good "I will" statements, you might need to give them a few minutes of silence to think first. Then ask someone to start sharing what they will do. Work to get the "I will" statement specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound. Record the obedience statements on the back of the sheet so you can follow up next week. | |
| With whom will you share what you learned? | (5 minutes) |
| Share with at least one person, preferably who is not in a relationship with God and already in your relational network. | |
| Caring (This may have happened in the community questions) | (5 minutes) |
| Are there things that can be done to meet needs in or outside the group? How can the group meet these needs? | |

Survey of the Bible

You probably need to give a brief introduction to the Bible if you are meeting with those who have never been introduced to Scripture.

- I. What is the Bible?
 1. The Bible is one continuous story of God written by 40 men (66 books)
Continuous theme from the first book, Genesis to the last book, Revelation. The theme of the entire book is to point people to the Savior that God provides in order to restore the broken relationship between God and man.
 2. There are different versions of the Bible. Each have their own features, but all have the same message.
 3. Bottom-line: The Bible is without error in its original writings and in its teaching because as Christians we believe it is the inspired Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16
- II. How to navigate the Bible.
 1. Discover his/her own version of the Bible (New International Version, New American Standard Bible, New English Version, New Living Translation)
 2. Discover his/her own Bible's features, (table of contents, Old Testament, New Testament, books, chapters, verses, maps, reference material).
 3. Discover how to find verses--book, chapter, verse(s). ie. John 20:30-31
- III. The Message of the Bible:
 1. The OT is the history and faith of the Jewish people, also called the Hebrews, Israelites, Israel and Judah. The OT is one continuous story that points to the first coming of Jesus.
 2. The NT writers in the Gospels and Acts give us a historical narrative of the birth, life, teachings, death and resurrection of the long-awaited Redeemer-the man Jesus of Nazareth who is Lord and Savior and the first century church. The letters written to various churches and individuals teach doctrine and how we should live in response to what we learn. The NT ends with the revelation of end times and the second coming of Christ.
 3. Similarities between the OT and NT. The focus audiences of both is the nation of Israel who worshipped a single God. Teaching of God the Father, God the Son (Savior/Redeemer) and God the Holy Spirit (counselor, comforter, power).
 4. Brief summary of each Testament:
 - a. OT: the Law (5); Israel's history (12); Wisdom Books (5); Major Prophets (5); Minor Prophets (12) = 39 books
 - b. NT: History (5); Letters (21); Prophecy (1) = 27 books.

Discovery Bible Study

Pathway 1 -- Use the 3 column study method

| Week | Core Story | Passages | Verses to write |
|------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | What does the bible say about itself? | 2 Timothy 3:16-17 | All |
| 2 | God Creates | Genesis 1:1-25 | Gen 1:1,3,9,12,14,20,24 |
| 3 | God Creates Man & Woman | Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; 15-25 | Gen 2:7-9; 15-24 |
| 4 | How Sin Came into the World | Genesis 3:1-24 | Gen 3:1-7 |
| 5 | Noah & the Great Flood | Genesis 6:5-22 | Gen 6:9-13,17,22 |
| 6 | The Tower of Babel | Genesis 11:1-9 | All |
| 7 | Abram/Abraham Father of Nations | Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6 | Gen 15:1-6 |
| 8 | God Tests Abraham's Faith/Obedience | Genesis 22:1-18 | Gen 22:1-2,9-18 |
| 9 | God Spares His People | Exodus 12:1-28 | Exodus 12:21-28 |
| 10 | Moses & the Ten Commandments | Exodus 19:5-9; 20:1-21 | Exodus 20:2-17 |
| 11 | The Sin Offering | Leviticus 4:1-2, 13-21, 27-31 | Leviticus 4:13-21 |
| 12 | God's Offering for Sinners | Isaiah 53:1-12 | All |
| 13 | Jesus is Born | Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20 | Luke 1:28-38 |
| 14 | Jesus is Baptized & Tested | Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-11 | Matthew 3:3-17 |
| 15 | Jesus & the Paralyzed Man | Luke 5:17-26 | All |
| 16 | Jesus Talks about His Betrayal & the Covenant | Matthew 26:17-30 | Matthew 26:20-30 |
| 17 | Jesus is Betrayed & Faces Trial | John 18:1-40; 19:1-16 | John 19:5-16 |
| 18 | Jesus is Crucified | Luke 23:32-56 | Luke 23:32-34,39-43,46-48 |
| 19 | The Resurrection | Luke 24:1-53 | Luke 24:36-48 |
| 20 | How to Enter into the Kingdom of God | John 3:1-21; Mark 16:15-18 | John 3:16-21; Mark 16:15-18 |

*Weeks in red are core curriculum for a shorter plan

Three Column Study

| Scripture | Write in your own words... | How will I obey? I will... |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | |

I will through the help of God...

Have everyone share an "I will statement"

| Name | I will through the help of God |
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Salvation Prayer List

| Date | Name | Statement about the person | Action taken |
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