

Discovery Bible Study

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) was created to be a simple framework to aid us in our mission “to make disciples of all nations.” It provides an avenue for us to study the word of God in a way that will point each of us to Jesus, get us into the rhythm of following Him more closely, and help us learn to disciple others more intentionally along the way.

As we said earlier, it provides a way for us to approach the scriptures that is not only simple and easily replicated, but truly moves us and those we study with to be better disciples of Jesus. Because of its simplicity, DBS can be used to study any portion of the Bible and with anyone regardless of your or their Biblical knowledge. It will inevitably help get your group, other community, or those you wish to begin studying within the routine of reading God’s word, learning how to better apply what you read, and journeying alongside one another in that application.

Below, we will go through each step of DBS, explaining both what to do and what you’re trying to accomplish.

Part 1: Share as a group

The first portion of DBS is a great way to connect with your community, get to know one another on a more personal level, and challenge each other to be more intentionally engaged with the struggles and needs of your group. Start by taking turns sharing your answers to each of the questions below.

1. Thankfulness

What is something you are thankful for that happened last week?

Depending on who you are meeting with, this may or may not include some group members being thankful “to God.” Over time, the hope is that they will start seeing God as the reason for all the things they’re thankful for.

2. Challenges

What challenges are you currently facing?

Here, everyone is free to share a struggle, problem, or concern that they or someone they know is facing. This is meant to help provide a safe place for people to admit their challenges. As the one leading the group, sometimes you must be the first to show that this is a safe place to be vulnerable.

3. Assistance

How can this group help you with the challenges you are facing?

This will probably flow naturally out of the conversation, but it is always good to make the point that the group is there to help each other through all kinds of challenges...spiritual and otherwise.

4. Accountability

How did you practice and share with someone what you read last week?

This is a time for you to challenge yourselves as a group to be intentional and follow through on trying to live out the Word. Here, you will go over the “application” portion that you cover in Part 2 of DBS. Though this can definitely be the toughest part of DBS, it can also be the most powerful. Creating an atmosphere of mutual accountability toward applying God’s word will not only help your group become more like Jesus, but will strengthen your group in the process.

Part 2: Study as a group

The second portion of DBS can be used in your group setting or in your own personal study. We call this the S.O.A.P. portion.

S. Scripture

Read the passage aloud, then re-**read** it using a different version of the Bible. Next, **describe** the passage in your own words. Finally, **write** the passage down and try to commit it to memory. This allows for God’s word to be communicated in several different ways in the hope that it will bring up new discoveries.

O. Observation

Share or write down the answers to the following questions:

What do you learn about God from this passage?

This question helps us to think about the scripture from the perspective of the original author...God. What does He want us to know about Him from what we read?

What do you learn about people from this passage?

This question lets us think about how what we read relates to the core nature of people. What does it reveal about the character, ability, or mindset of God’s creation?

A. Application

Share or write down the answers to the following questions:

How will you put these verses into practice? “I will...”

Each person will make an “I will...” statement that is directly related to how you will live out the scripture you just read. The goal is for it to be practical, measurable, and able to be completed before your next time together

Who do you know that needs to hear what God has revealed to you in this passage?

This shifts the focus outward to those we know and care about.

P. Prayer

Take time to pray over the time you spent in God’s word.

Give THANKS for all the things mention that you are thankful for
Ask for HELP with each of the challenges you are facing
Ask for better UNDERSTANDING of what you read
Ask for COURAGE to apply it