



Discovery Bible Study - Facilitators' Guide

Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads you into all truth." –John 14:15-17

What is Discovery Bible Study (DBS)?

DBS is a simple yet effective method for helping people become obedient disciples of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20). It is a way for groups to read and discuss the Bible using four strategic questions to discover God and His guidance for our daily lives. In DBS, no one is responsible for teaching – the group is simply reading, listening to, and discussing the Scripture together, trusting God's Spirit to be their teacher and to reveal the truth of God's Word through the discussion (John 14:15-17).

The focus of DBS is discipleship – not just gaining knowledge, but actually practicing the teachings of Jesus. DBS is dependent upon the Holy Spirit speaking to people through the Word of God to shape people into obedient disciples of Jesus. DBS is intended for both believers and those who are not yet believers. The Holy Spirit is working in the life of **every** participant to shape us into more obedient disciples of Jesus!

Host & Facilitate the DBS as a Peer:

The leader of the DBS is a host and facilitator – not a teacher. Resist the urge to explain the Bible to participants, or to tell them what they should do to obey His Word. Instead, participate as a fellow disciple – one who is also seeking to hear from the Holy Spirit how to become a more obedient follower of Jesus. Allow the group to process out loud what the Holy Spirit is saying to them, and trust the Holy Spirit to reveal His Truth. Instead of teaching, focus on helping everyone feel welcome (hosting) and helping the discussion flow freely between participants (facilitating).

Frequently Asked Questions

Can children participate in a DBS?

Absolutely YES! Children can and should be encouraged to participate. The effectiveness of DBS is in listening, discovering, and practicing. Both children and adults alike can hear from God's Spirit through this powerful method of Bible study.

Can DBS groups meet online?

Yes, yes, YES!. We are hearing numerous stories of DBS groups using Zoom and other video-conferencing services with great success!


How many people should be in a DBS group?

Any group size between 3-8 people can hold a successful DBS together, but it is important that everyone has the chance to answer the questions. Thus, an ideal group size would be about 4-5 people. It is also possible to do the Scripture-reading, re-telling, and questions 1-2 in a larger group setting, then break up into smaller groups to discuss questions 3-4.


Learn More: 1000-Churches.com

DBS Meeting Outline


A DBS Group Meeting has three segments: Look Back, Look Up, Look Forward:

Look Back  This segment is to check-in with each other since your last meeting together:

- *How are you today? How has your week been?*
- *How did you do with your “I will” statements from last week?* (You will not have this question at your first meeting, but it is THE essential discipleship question of every subsequent meeting! DBS aims for discipleship to result in obedient responses to what the Holy Spirit is saying.)

Look Up  This segment is to read, re-tell, listen to, and discuss the Bible passage together:

- *PRAY – One participant prays, welcoming the Spirit of God among you, and ask Him to reveal His Truth to your group through God’s Word.*
- *READ – Several participants read through today’s Bible passage aloud, 2-3 times, from different translations of the Bible, if available.*
- *RE-TELL – 1-2 participants then take turns re-telling the passage orally, as best they can from memory. This is not a performance – it is a chance for the group to listen for God in the passage again, and to help fill in any details that were missed.*
- *DISCUSS – Have a group discussion using the following four questions:*
 - 1- *What do these verses say about God?*
 - 2- *What do these verses say about people?*
 - 3- *If these verses are true, then what should I start or stop doing in response?*
 - 4- *Who is someone I will share these discoveries with this week?*

Look Forward  This segment is to foster active obedience to Jesus in the group this week:

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” –James 1:22

- *After the group fully discusses the four questions above, take time to have everyone make two “I will” statements out of their answers to questions 3 and 4.*
- *“This week, I will start _____.” Or, “This week, I will stop _____.”*
- *“This week, I will share (one discovery) with (name of person).”*

Which passage of Scripture should we read and discuss?

DBS is a powerful method for studying ANY portion of the Bible! Your group could work your way through a single Book of the Bible, discussing 8-10 verses per week. Or you could choose a Biblical topic and discuss all the verses in the Bible on that topic. Or you could follow a daily reading plan or lectionary for passages to read and discuss.

7 Stories of Hope (Good for New Believers or Nonbelievers)

- Week 1: **"The Sinful Woman"** (Luke 7:36-50)
- Week 2: **"Who Can Come to God?"** (Luke 18:9-17)
- Week 3: **"Who is Your God?"** (Matthew 25:31-46)
- Week 4: **"Who is Your God?"** (Matthew 16:21-17:9)
- Week 5: **"Who is Your God?"** (Luke 22:66 – 23:25; 23:32-43)
- Week 6: **"The Cost of Following Christ"** (Luke 18:18-30; 19:1-10)
- Week 7: **"Merciful King"** (Matthew 18:21-35)

7 Commands of Christ (Good for Existing Believers)

- Week 1: **"Repent and Believe"** (Luke 7:36-50)
- Week 2: **"Be Baptized"** (Acts 8:26-40)
- Week 3: **"Pray"** (Matthew 6:5-15)
- Week 4: **"Go and Make Disciples"** (John 4:4-26)
- Week 5: **"Love"** (Luke 10:25-37)
- Week 6: **"Communion"** (Luke 22:7-20)
- Week 7: **"Give"** (Mark 12:41-44)

Stories of the Bible in 20 Weeks (A Good Follow Up to the 7-Week Studies)

- Week 1: **"What Does the Bible Say About Itself?"** (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Week 2: **"God Created"** (Genesis 1:1-25)
- Week 3: **"God Created Man and Woman"** (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7-9, 15-25)
- Week 4: **"How Sin Came into the World"** (Genesis 3:1-24)
- Week 5: **"Noah and the Flood"** (Genesis 6:5-22)
- Week 6: **"The Tower of Babel"** (Genesis 11:1-9)
- Week 7: **"Abraham: Father of the Nations"** (Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6)
- Week 8: **"God Tests the Faith and Obedience"** (Genesis 22:1-18)
- Week 9: **"God Sets His People Free"** (Exodus 12:1-28)
- Week 10: **"Moses and the 10 Commandments"** (Exodus 19:5-9, 20:1-21)
- Week 11: **"The Sin Offering"** (Leviticus 4:1-2, 13-21, 27-31)
- Week 12: **"God's Offering for Sinners"** (Isaiah 53:1-12)
- Week 13: **"The Birth of Jesus"** (Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20)
- Week 14: **"Jesus is Baptized and Tempted"** (Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-11)
- Week 15: **"Jesus and the Paralyzed Man"** (Luke 5:17-26)
- Week 16: **"Jesus Talks of His Betrayal and the Covenant"** (Matthew 26:17-30)
- Week 17: **"Jesus is Betrayed"** (John 18:1-19:16)
- Week 18: **"Jesus is Crucified"** (Luke 23:32-56)
- Week 19: **"The Resurrection"** (Luke 24:1-53)
- Week 20: **"How to Enter the Kingdom of God"** (John 3:1-21, Mark 16:15-18)