



You Can Lead A Discovery Bible Study

Get your friends and family
together to learn and grow
spiritually

There are many reasons to start a Discovery Bible Study and invite your friends:

- Some people are timid about attending a church
- Some people are hesitant to attend a Bible study class where they don't know anyone
- Some people can't attend church on Sunday because of work, but they could attend a small group during the week
- Many people enjoy being in a group where they get to talk, participate, read and discuss what they are learning.

Reasons some people hesitate to lead a Bible study:

- They don't feel like they know enough about the Bible
- They don't feel they have time to prepare for hours
- They are looking for a different kind of group where there is less lecture and more discussion

What helps people learn most effectively?

- People learn best when they participate the most.
- We remember and understand best when we read, think, discuss, memorize, explain and apply what the Bible says, not just listen to what someone else says.

Guidelines for a Discovery Bible Study

1. The facilitator should facilitate discussion, not teach.
2. Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs.
3. Focus on what this group is seeing in the Bible passage.
4. Focus on what this passage is saying, not on other passages.
5. Give people time to respond. Silence is OK.

How to prepare and start a new group

- Invite friends, family and new acquaintances so you will have 4 to 10 people in your group.
- Choose a day and time you will meet each week, either in-person or online. Allow 1 ½ hours for your meeting.
- Choose 10 parables, events or passages from the Bible and use one each week for your 10-week small group study.
- Give the group members the list of 13 guidelines you will use. They can refer to the list each week when you meet.

Study Guide to use each week as your group meets:

1. "What are you thankful for?"
2. "What is causing you stress?"
3. "Who needs help and how could we help them?"
4. Ask someone to retell the story from last week in their own words.
5. "What did you do differently last week because of that story?"

Study Guide (cont.)

6. "Who did you tell about what you learned last week?"
7. Have one person (or two if the passage is long) read the Bible passage out loud.
8. Have someone else retell the story by memory while the rest of the group fills in what is missing.
9. Have someone read the story or passage out loud again.

Study Guide (cont.)

10. Ask the group "What are some things this passage teaches us about God and Christ?"
11. Ask the group "What can we learn about people in this passage?"
12. Ask the group "As a result of reading this passage, what is an area of your life you want God to help you change?"

Study Guide (cont.)

13. "Who could you talk to this week to tell about this Bible story and tell what you learned?"

At the end of the 10 weeks:

Evaluate

- What did you learn that would help you improve the next time you lead a group?

Invite People To Be In The Next Group

- When you start your group again for another 10 weeks, you can invite the same people, different people or a mixture. Some groups continue with the same people for many years.

Help others learn to lead

- The second time you lead a group, try to only lead the discussion 3 or 4 times during the 10 weeks.
- Ask a couple of others, or more than that, to take turns leading the discussion using the same guidelines each week.
- Encourage others who are interested to try starting and leading a new group of their own when they are ready.