Discovery Bible Study

Facilitators' Reference

The method employed by Discovery Bible Study is meant to promote the idea that it is the Holy Spirit, not a person, who is leading and teaching the group. A facilitator is appointed each week to keep the group on track, and everyone in the group should take turns acting as the facilitator.

The questions below are meant to be a reference, both to help new facilitators remember the questions, and to help refresh the wording and intent of the questions in the minds of long-time facilitators.

This version of the DBS questions was developed by Colby Weinhofer to maintain the intent of the original DBS questions, while also emphasizing the universal nature of the truths of Scripture over simply a literal reading. It also emphasizes the need to engage emotion and action in addition to just cognition when interacting with Scripture.

Also included are optional parts (marked with a ⬡ symbol) that can be incorporated if the DBS is being used as the primary gathering for a decentralized faith community (cell-church network)



view on your phone or tablet



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CONNECT

Center Ourselves and the Group

Invite the group to do something to center themselves (and the group as a whole) to reflect a posture of openness and worship as they prepare to engage.

For example:

- *sing a worship song together*
- *listen to a worship song together*
- *have a moment of reflective meditation*

Share God's Work

Ask something like *How have you seen God at work recently, for example*:

- *What is something you experienced that made you think about God?*
- *In what areas of your life have you felt invited to trust God more?*
- *What is a situation where you are actively looking for God's guidance?*
- *How have you tried to align your thoughts or actions with God's heart?*
- *Where did you feel challenged or encouraged to follow Jesus in your day-to-day life?*
- *Where have you noticed something — in your in your heart or your life — that seemed like God might be at work this week, even if you're not certain?*
- *Where are you hoping to see God at work?*

Invite God's Presence

Lead the group in thanking God for the ways he has been at work and inviting him to speak to the group as you read his word together.

DISCOVER

Read the Passage

Have the group read the passage together, preferably twice / in two different versions.

Restate the Author's Message

If applicable, this can also be preceded by summarizing previous parts of the book the group has read.

If a story: Ask the group to summarize the content of the story.

If something else: Ask the group to summarize what the author was trying to communicate to the original audience.

Preferably, have the group do this without looking at their Bibles, as people tend to parrot back the words of the text rather than put it in their own words.

Note Your Response

Ask something like *How did you feel when you read this passage, for example*:

- *something that caught your attention*
- *something you appreciated*
- *something you were bothered by*
- *something you found hard to understand*

Note: Help the group avoid the tendency to wander into principles or application (this will come later). This is just a time for the group to note their emotional responses and engage with those emotions. Also avoid the temptation to function as the teacher and try to address people's comments (this is the Holy Spirit's job).

Uncover the Principles

Ask something like *What universal Biblical truths are being revealed in this passage?* You can also encourage them to think about how the passage reflect the Bible's central focus on Jesus?

To help draw out principles, ask something like *What are the things we discover*

- *about the nature of God or how he relates to people?*
- *about the nature of humanity or how we should relate to God?*
- *about how people should relate to each other?*

Then ask something like *How can these ideas be generalized, as opposed to something based on specific time, culture, or life circumstances?*

ACT

Implement the Principles in Your Life

Ask something like *After reading this passage, what effect will it have on your life?*

- *How will you feel differently?*
- *How will you think differently?*
- *How will you behave differently?*

Then ask something like *What is one way you could put this passage into action in your life over the next week(s)?*

Preferably, have everyone make a note of their action step somewhere they can look back on it at the next gathering.

Share What You Learned

Ask something like *Is there some way you can share what we talked about today with someone in your life?*

- *by telling them*
- *by demonstrating it in your life*

Care for Those Around You 

Ask something like *Is there some need you're aware of that the group could help meet?*

If appropriate to the group, this could also be a time to collect funds to meet current / future needs or to contribute to a ministry effort.

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