


Discovery Bible Study

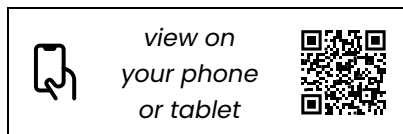
Facilitators' Reference

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)



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

How have you seen God at work recently?

For example:

- *helping you put into practice something we learned*
- *giving you a chance to share something we learned*
- *doing something to help you or someone else*
- *speaking to you in a specific way*
- *answering a specific prayer*

Invite God's Presence

Thank God for the ways he has been at work and invite him to speak to us as we read his word together.

DISCOVER

Read the Passage

Let's 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:

Summarize the content of the story.

If something else:

Summarize what the author was trying to communicate to the original audience.

Preferably, this is done without looking at your Bible as you tend to parrot back the words of the text rather than put it in your own words.

Note Your Response

How did you feel when you read this passage?

For example, something that

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

This is just a time to note our emotional responses and engage with those emotions. At this point, try to avoid the tendency to wander into principles or application (this will come later). 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

What universal Biblical truths are being revealed in this passage?

How does this passage reflect the Bible's central focus on Jesus?

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?*

How can the principles in this passage be understood broadly, as opposed to something based on specific time, culture, or life circumstances?

Implement the Principles in Your Life

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?*

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

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

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.