

## How we run a Discovery Bible Study

A great tool in the Kingdom of God!

Usually works best with 6 or less people.

Have one person moderate the group to make sure that the group discussion moves through all 6 points.

- Moderator is not to be the one who speaks the most just to keep it moving.

What are the 6 points of a Discovery Bible Study. (This is a General Guide and not set in stone)

Points to cover:

1. **Thankfulness:** Have each person in the group share **One** thing that they are thankful for from this last week. Should not take longer than one minute per person.
2. **Minister to Needs:** Have each person share **One** thing that was (or is) a struggle or challenge from this last week.
  - a. Ask if there is a way that members of the group could practically help each other. (Don't force people into serving but give people opportunity to meet the practical needs of others in the group)
  - b. Moderator or appointee prays a collective prayer including every person's need. Then moves on to next point.
  - c. If there is a corporate prayer time pray try to not intimidate new believers or pre believers by large long prayers. "One thought, one sentence" prayers are best in this case.
  - d. Don't get stuck here!
3. **Engage the Word of God:** Take a scripture or several scriptures and divide up the verses according to the number of people in the group.
  - a. Go around the group having each person read their scriptures out loud. So that the scripture is read collectively together.
  - b. Go around and have each person retell the verses that they read in their own words.
  - c. Then choose one person to retell the whole story and have everyone else fill in the blanks that are left out.

ALTERNATIVELY:

  - a. Go around the group having each person read their scriptures out loud. So that the scripture is read collectively together.
  - b. Have each person make up an action to demonstrate their portion of the scripture story.
  - c. Have everyone do the actions together as the story is retold in their own words.
4. **Listen:** Now everyone has heard the scriptures at least 3 times and engaged it personally. Have a moment of silence for each person to listen to what God is speaking to them personally through these scriptures. Have each person share in one minute what they felt the Lord speaking to them personally, (it could be

a particular verse that stood out to them or a personal revelation). It should not be “yesterdays revelation”, it is also not a competition to see who is most spiritual.

5. **Commitment to Obey:** Have each person make an “I WILL” statement out loud based on what God has spoken to them through or by the scripture. Ie. If God is speaking to someone about not fearing death, it would look like: “ This week .
6. **Reach Out:** Have every person ask God to show him or her one person they can encourage this coming week with the words that He just spoke to them. Have them write that persons name down. Also actively seek an opportunity to reach out to that person.
  - a. They don’t need to try to be evangelistic but rather share the encouragement that God spoke to them.

Next time you meet ask how it is going with their “I Will” commitment.

- Celebrate obedience together. Don’t allow discouragement at failure.
- If there was only partial obedience, celebrate the obedience that happened. Encourage towards full obedience.
- Also ask if they spoke with the one person God gave them to encourage.

Why do I love to use this format?

1. It is really simple and does not require a heavy load on the moderator. So literally anyone can moderate a group. This makes it very transferable.
2. People can do it before they are even born again! They are already being disciplined before they make a commitment for Christ.
3. Explanation of 6 points, these form a good foundation in a believer’s life.
  - a. Thankfulness is the foundation of worship
  - b. Sharing needs and meeting needs is the foundation of ministry
  - c. Engaging in the Word of God causes and internalization of the Word of God.
  - d. Listening to what God is saying in the context of scripture allows each person to learn to hear God’s voice personally.
  - e. The “I WILL” statement is a cognitive commitment to obeying God’s word.
  - f. Sharing what you learned from God with others makes outreach personal and real.
4. You can put almost any topic or content into the structure of a Discovery Bible Study. Anything from Discipleship topics to Leadership topics.
5. It stimulates group discussion and everyone participates; The Bible Study is not dominated by one person.
6. Every single person can leave the study having heard God speak to them personally.