

Discovery Bible Study (DBS)

We “**discover**” from Scripture what God wants us to know. This is how the name, “Discovery Bible Study” came about. It’s not a lecturing method as much as a teaching through questions and facilitation method. We let the Holy Spirit be our teacher.

John 6:44-45 NIV, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.”

John 14:26 KJV, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

The DBS Process has 4 sections:

1. 3 initial fellowship questions-LOVING ONE ANOTHER
2. Review of the last meeting and questions-LOOKING BACK
3. Reading this week’s text and questions-LOOKING UP
4. Deciding what our response should be-LOOKING FORWARD

Section 1 - 3 initial fellowship questions - LOVING ONE ANOTHER

1. **What are you thankful for?** (*Reinforces the DNA of thanksgiving.* Eph 5:19,20, Phil 4:6)
2. **What are you struggling with/stressed about?** How about your family, friends, and neighbors? (You want them to share and consider others’ needs in order to develop the *DNA of loving each other practically.* Gal 6:2.)
3. **What can our group do to help one of these needs?** Discuss if there are ways the group can help each other and others outside the group. (*Key DNA is shaping everyone to minister to others.* 1 John 3:16-18)

Section 2 - Review of the last meeting and questions – LOOKING BACK

1. **Can anyone remember and share in their own words the passage we applied last time?** (Only one person needs to answer this question. Ask the group to help them remember the story correctly. Look it up if necessary. Don’t need to be exact. This builds the *DNA of treasuring the Word of God* so much so that you remember it and think about it between group meetings.) Psalm 119:11
2. **Did you do what you said you should do the last time we met?** (*Key DNA is personal obedience.* This is not meant to be implemented legalistically, but rather with grace, knowing that we “all have fallen short...”. However, asking this question helps us from being “hearers only, and not a doer”.) James 1:22-24
3. **Did you SHARE with the person you said you would share with?** (This builds *the DNA of sharing the Word of God with others.* It is important we share our faith with others. Romans 1:16, 10:14-15)

Section 3 - Reading this week’s text and questions – LOOKING UP

- Have 2 people read the Bible text out loud (ideally in 2 different translations).
- Have each person in the group repeat it in their own words (the group can help and correct). **Retell what the text says, not what you got out of it. Application of the text comes after we understand what the text says.**
(Do not skip this step. If we can’t re-tell it, we don’t know it!)
(Learning to retell it in the group helps us share it outside of the group later)

- If time is an issue, just have 1 or 2 people repeat it in their own words.
1. **What does this passage teach us about God?** (His character, nature, promises)
(*Key DNA is coming to know and love God as He has revealed Himself in His Word.*)
 2. **What does this passage teach us about people?** (Our character, struggles, tendencies)
(*Key DNA is coming to know we are sinners in desperate need of God.*)

OPTIONAL: You can add other simple questions to bring out main points if they are missing - but keep it simple. Other questions sometimes used:

What did you like most about the story?

How does the story teach us to trust/obey God or lead/warn us to change?

Keep these thoughts in mind as you lead the group through the above 2 questions:

- Even if you know the Bible well, pause and listen to hear from the Holy Spirit. Perhaps there is something new He wants you to see in the text that you may miss if you instead assume you already know everything there is in the text. Prov 18:13.
- Be OK with silence in the group as people read and reread the passage and think about what they are reading. Be willing to step back and let the Holy Spirit be the teacher. Eccl 5:1,2.
- There is one more question that is needed at times — **“Where do you see that in this passage?”** The group is trained to ask this question when someone says something completely wrong or tries to bring in topics that are not included in the text. It is a way to keep the group on track. Here they are being disciplined to depend on Scripture as their source of spiritual authority. Instead of you pointing out that they are wrong, the group learns to use Scripture as their guide.

Section 4 - Deciding what our response should be – LOOKING FORWARD

1. **What should you do/obey (this week) in response to this passage?** (Use “I will _____” as is appropriate for the situation.) It may be a heart or attitude change or something you start or stop doing. Keep in mind James 4:13-17.
(*Key DNA is personal obedience.*)
Let people pray for a minute to hear what God may tell them they should do.
This question is left out by most American Bible Studies. But it is where life change happens. Obeying the Word is how we are changed. Please don’t skip it.
Don’t assume everyone will or should have an answer. Some may not and that’s OK. However, if every meeting they never share, consider discussing that with them privately outside of the meeting.
2. **Who should you share with this week?** Or ask, **“Who comes to your mind that needs to hear this passage of scripture?”** (Again, use “I will _____” as is appropriate for the situation.) James 4:13-17
(*Key DNA is sharing the Word of God with others*)
They can share the story or what they learned from it, or both.
Let people pray for a minute to hear who God may tell them they should share with and what they should share.
This question is also left out by most American Bible Studies. However, sharing the Word changes us too, as we share it, not just the person we share with.
Don’t assume everyone will or should have an answer. Some may not and that’s OK. However, if every meeting they never share, consider discussing that with them privately outside of the meeting.