



ALL NATIONS

Discovery Bible Study (DBS)

(Also known as a “D” Group, a spiritual meeting or a Church)

A discovery bible study is a wonderful tool to use with children, adults, educated, uneducated, followers of Jesus, those seeking Him and just about anyone! These steps can be followed and done in many creative ways. Share your vision initially - Why are we gathering? Why are we doing this?

UP

1. Thankfulness.

Question: *What are you thankful to God for right now?*

Examples:

I'm thankful that my Mom is out of the hospital. I'm thankful that I have a job to provide for my family.

I'm thankful that God helped me to not drink beer this week. Vision: What does this develop in us? *Worship* - As people express thankfulness to God for the things in their lives, they develop awareness and sensitivity to the Creator who is alive and caring for people. This step can mature into various culturally appropriate forms of praise and worship to God.

2. Needs.

Question:

What is the greatest need in your life right now?

Examples:

I need a job. I was fighting with my wife yesterday. I have bad back pain.

Take action:

1. Can any of us meet any of these needs today or this week?

2. Pray and give these needs to God who can do the impossible. Vision:

Community. As people share their burdens and lives with each other, they begin to live out the many "one anothers" in the Scriptures. This is how the world will know that we are disciples...that we are. 3. Reporting (week two and forward)

Then ask the group these 2 questions:

1. How did you obey the word from our last gathering? (result from your "I will" statement) 2. Who did you share with and how did it go? Remember...

Really celebrate obedience!! Also celebrate partial obedience as a sign of real growth. Even celebrate non-obedience as a sign of honesty in the group.

Vision:

Discipleship. As people report on how they kept their commitments several things happen. Jesus is worshipped and loved because we have obeyed. Community is strengthened because accountability and honesty is modelled. And disciples are made because people are obeying.

IN

4. Bible.

Action: Select and communicate a short bible passage or story.

Remember... -The length of the passage should be short. Preferably only 5 verses or less. -Read the passage at least twice (two different people). Once for the head and once for the heart. Then ask someone to restate the passage (note that it is simply to restate and not interpret). More than one person can help restate the passage.

Receive. Take in a fresh word from the scriptures to receive truth from Jesus. This step teaches us that truth comes from the Word of God. Scripture is the authority and centerpiece of our gathering.

You can ask the group to answer two or three questions. Ideas include: What does this passage tell us about God? What does this passage tell us about mankind?

5. Listening

Ask the group?

What is God saying to you through this passage? Take a minute to be quiet and listen.

We believe God speaks to us. This is when we listen to what God may be saying to our hearts through the Spirit and the Word. This action prepares us to then respond with our lives next.

6. Obedience.

Ask - What will you do to obey this week?

Remember...

Each response should begin with the words "I will..."

It is very important that the answers are specific and measurable.

The results will be far greater if action toward obedience happens in less than 48 hours.

Good "I will" statements:

I will not beat my husband this week. I will read the bible for 15 minutes 3 times this week.

Bad "I will" statements:

I love the world. I will forgive more. I will read my Bible more.

Vision: *Obedience based discipleship*. It's vital that obedience be at the heart of our journey with Jesus. We communicate love to Jesus through how we follow after him in obedience. This is the most crucial step of the entire process.

OUT

7. Sharing Ask: With whom will you share what you've learned? Remember...

Each person must name a specific person. Preference is to share with a pre-believer. *Mission*. This step is our key to keeping our hearts focused out to those that don't know Jesus yet. This builds mission and gospel sowing into the culture of the group and is a great way to grow a group.

A DBS is not a DBS unless you:

- Report

- Obey

- Share

Here are a few guidelines to help you along your way:

1. Everyone shares as evenly as possible.
2. People that talk a lot take a risk and talk less. People that talk little take a risk and talk more.
3. Remain in the passage without moving to another one.
4. Resist the urge to answer questions or correct conversation.
5. Always direct dialogue and questions back to the passage.
6. Allow the group to auto correct.
7. No teaching or preaching.
8. Don't conclude the meaning of the passage for the group.
9. Everyone can share in leading the group for the week - it doesn't rely on only one trained leader:)
10. Give it a go with children and adults alike. It's a wonderful tool to hear God's voice and to grow.

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