

AN INTRODUCTION TO DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY



Discovery Bible Study (DBS) is a very simple tool to help facilitate community centered around obedience to God's Word (Luke 11:28). Many of the most rapidly reproducing disciple making movements around the globe implement some form of DBS. It's one way to create a context to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only (James 1:22).

The core of DBS can be summed up in three words: read, obey, and share! It's simple, sustainable, and reproducible, even by non-believers who are hungry for God's Word.

1

READ

Read the Word

2

OBEY

Obey the Word

3

SHARE

Share the Word

Luke 11:28

"Blessed are those who hear the Word and obey it."

James 1:22

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Hebrews 10:25

"Let us not neglect meeting together... encourage one another all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

2 Timothy 2:2

"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

EXAMPLE WEEKLY DBS

This is one example of how a weekly Discovery Bible Study could look:

Review

1. Ask each person in the group what they did differently since your last meeting.
2. How have you experienced God since the last time we met?
3. Who did you share last week's passage with?

Discover

1. Have everyone share one thing they're thankful for and one thing that is stressing them out. Ask if there is any way for this group to help.
2. Read the discovery passage for the day. Have someone summarize the story. Ask the group if anything was let out.
3. What does this story tell us about God?
4. What does this story tell us about mankind? (Resist the urge to teach. This is about discovering God in His Word, not hearing about Him from us)



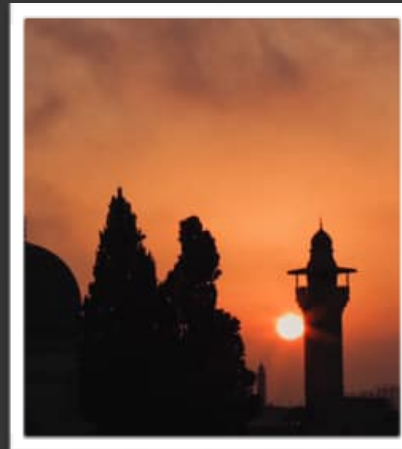
Obey

1. If this really is God's Word, how does it change the way we live? What action will I take in response? (Help everyone move from general to specific statements)

Share

1. Ask if they know anyone who needs to hear this story (encourage to share)
2. Is there anyone you know who needs help? What can this group do to help? Have the group decide what needs to be done and commit to doing it before the next meeting.

As we're beginning DBS with the lost, it's important to keep in mind that much of the world doesn't have an accurate understanding of creation or the Law of Moses. They are not familiar with Jewish prophecies concerning the Messiah. So we need to begin sharing the gospel in a way that helps build the context where Jesus (Messiah) makes sense to them. Most people will likely need to become familiar with the whole story of God by starting where God started... in the beginning.



EXAMPLE WEEKLY SCRIPTURE LIST

Here is one example of a list of Scriptures to work through each week that convey the overarching story of God in a simple and straightforward way:

Creation

1. God created the world (Genesis 1:1-25)
2. God created humans (Genesis 2:4-24)
3. People disobeyed God (Genesis 3:1-13)
4. God judged disobedience and promises a son to crush the serpent (Genesis 3:14-24)

Consequences

5. God grieves his creation (Genesis 6:5-8)
6. God destroys humanity (Genesis 6:9-8:14)
7. God makes covenant with Noah and his sons (Genesis 8:15-9:17)

Covenant

8. God makes a covenant with Abram to give land, sons, and blessing (Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6; 17:1-8)
9. Abraham offers his son (Genesis 22:1-19)

Commands

10. God rescues his people (Exodus 12:1-28)
11. God gives commands to the sons of Israel (Exodus 20:1-21)
12. God requires sacrifice (Leviticus 4:1-35)
13. God reiterates covenant with Abraham (Deuteronomy 4:1-31)

Christ

14. The suffering servant of God (Isaiah 53)
15. God promises David a son to rule forever (2 Samuel 7:1-16)
16. Jesus born according to prophecy (Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20)
17. Jesus the Son of God (Matthew 3; John 1:29-34)
18. Jesus, son of Abraham, son of David (Matthew 1:1-17)
19. Enter Kingdom through God's Son (John 3:1-2; John 14:1-29)

Crucifixion

20. Jesus predicts his betrayal (Matthew 26:17-30)
21. Jesus is betrayed (John 18:1-19:16)
22. Jesus is crucified according to prophesy (Luke 23:32-56)
23. Jesus' blood inaugurates the New Covenant with the House of Israel (Jeremiah 31:31-37; Luke 22:7-20)
24. Jesus is resurrected according to prophesy (Luke 24:1-35)
25. Jesus appears to the disciples (Luke 24:36-49)

Coming

26. Jesus ascended to the Father to rule at His side until He returns (24:50-53; Acts 1:6-11)
27. Jesus is coming back to make war on His enemies, fulfill his promise to Abraham, and save those who are waiting for him (Zechariah 14; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 19:11)

Commission

28. Make disciples in all nations, teach them to obey (Matthew 28:16-20)

PRAYER

It's really important that we resist the urge to become prescriptive about our methods and approaches to making disciples of Jesus.

The surest way to do that is through prayer. Communing with the eternal God, through His eternal Word, about everlasting people made in His image keeps us focused on the dynamic, relational nature of God drawing people to Himself through His Son (John 6:44).

In other words, we shouldn't expect any approach to "work" without extraordinary prayer accompanied with full obedience to the Spirit of God.