

Discovery Groups

Review of Basics...

Use brief passages, especially in the beginning, just 2-3 verses are enough. (Longer passages may come later. If a long passage is important for context, read the longer passage but focus on 2-3 key verses for focus.)

You may lead the first discovery group with your person of peace or new believer observing.

ASAP after that, coach your person of peace as the discovery group leader him or herself. The discovery group process is very simple to enable this.

You serve only as coach or mentor. If at all possible, do not attend the person of peace's subsequent discovery group conversations to avoid focus on you as leader (which will sadly stop the group owning the process and multiplying).

Overview of the Discovery Group process:

Connecting:

- 1) What are you happy about this week?
- 2) What challenge are experiencing (e.g. in your life, family, work)?

Note: if the group is 2-5 people, everyone who wishes can share.

If the group is over 5 people, 2-3 people share. Small groups are best for vulnerability.

Looking back:

- 3) Let's think back to last time we met...

What did you experience last week when you applied what you learned?

Who did you share this with? (*How did he or she respond?*)

Discovery Bible Study: new passage on a small number of verses...

What does it say? Write 2-3 verses (in left column).

What does it mean? Write your understanding / how the verses speak to you (in center column)

What does it mean for you? Write (in right column) what will you do differently in response to the verses, e.g. "I will..."

Scripture	My Words	I Will

Oral adaptation: Ask one or two people to read the verses aloud slowly.

Ask one or more people retell it in their own words.

- 4) What do you learn about God (or Jesus) from this passage?
- 5) What do you learn about people from this passage?

Looking ahead...

6) What will you do to apply from what you learned in this passage, this week? (*"Can you be more specific?" "Do you have a "I will" statement?"*)

7) With whom will you share what you are learning, this week? (*For whom will this be good news?*) [Note: Unbelievers can share what they are experiencing too, without viewing it as evangelism.]

Prayer: for what we want to apply from scripture and what we want to share with others, as well as about joys and challenges shared earlier.

Looking to the next (spiritual) generation: Ask the person of peace to lead the second discovery group with his or her family or friendship circle. If possible, don't even sit-in. Simply meet with your person of peace to coach before the discovery group and afterwards to debrief. (If you sit-in you may be viewed as the expert, leaving the person of peace in a diminished role.)

Passage Sets:

Who is Jesus? - The "I am's" in John

John 6: 32-35 (Bread)

John 8: 10-12 (Light)

John 10: 9-11 (Door and Shepherd)

John 11: 25-27 (Resurrection and Life)

John 14: 3 or 6-7 (True Living Way)

John 15:1-4 (True Fruitful Vine)

John 1:1-4 or 5 (Word)

Seven Stories of Hope:

The Prostitute Anoints Jesus. (Luke 7:36-50)

The Pharisee and Tax Collector. (Luke 18:9-17)

The Rich Young Ruler. (Luke 18:18-30)

The Merciful King. (Matthew 18:21-35)

The Crucified Criminal. (Luke 23:32-43)

Jesus' Resurrection Appearance. (Luke 24:33-53)

The Prodigal Son. (Luke 15:11-32)

For copies of this page, long lists of passages (e.g. OT and NT sets) and further resources:

www.MurrayMoerman.com/1christ/scripture/dbs.asp