

The Discovery Bible Study or DBS format has proved successful in discipling people at all stages of their faith journey right through to leadership and becoming reproducing disciples.

There are key advantages for using this method:

1. It's focus is making disciples rather than just studying the word for knowledge.
2. It is ideally effective for 3-12 people with optimum group size of 4-8 while being useful for personal discipling
3. Its best to avoid using commentaries and other resources and let the God breathed scriptures speak for themselves.
4. The approach to leading these groups is facilitation rather than teaching which gives several benefits:
 - The Holy Spirit is the teacher
 - Allows for a higher level of participation increasing learning capacity
 - Requires very little preparation for the leader
 - The leader does not need to know all the answers
 - It is a relational approach creates strong community and accountability
 - It becomes a highly reproduceable model to multiply disciples

The process includes nine questions to lead your group through with some points to help you understand what the reason that the question is asked so you can rephrase or facilitate the discussion.

Other Studies available from the Faith Builder series are:

Spiritual DNA series

Holy Spirit Dependence

Prayer

Obedience to the Kingdom Agenda

The Ministry of the Word

Exalting the Father

Relationships

Lectionary Studies

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THE JOURNEY FAITH BUILDER SERIES
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Preparing to reproduce yourself and your church



Discovery Bible Studies

By reflecting on the life of Jesus in the Gospels it is clear that He knew His responsibility was more than the work of the cross, that He needed to develop a disciple making movement that would bring salvation to the world beyond the time he would walk the earth.

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. John 17:1b-5

In a course called Shift m2M¹, we can discover there is 5 distinct phases to this discipling movement, the first of which is the Preparation Period starting at His birth through to His baptism in the Jordan. In this phase Jesus was preparing Himself to develop a movement of multiplication. As Jesus did, we need to become the person we seek to multiply, to have a clear understanding of our purpose and priorities to develop a movement of multiplying disciples.

In this period, for leaders seeking to align themselves to the mission Jesus gave us, it is a time to ready the hearts and minds of the team that will lead your movement. It is a time of learning the Father’s agenda, it is a time of studying the context and culture, it is a time of understanding how the Father is already at work.

At the end of Jesus preparation years as He went to the Jordan to be baptised by John there were five key things in place. Jesus knew his purpose, it was clear His motivation was love and glorifying His Father, and He knew what he needed to develop in who He left behind to continue the movement. He also had a plan to develop His disciples and knew His Father had prepared people like John to prepare the

Questions #5-7 are the core of the DBS process.

***5 God?**

What does this study say about God?

***6 People?**

What does this study say about people/man?

***7 Obedience?**

What does this passage say about obedience?

7b I will . . .

In light of what we now know about his passage, what is God calling you to do this week?

As you discuss what has been observed, allow time (a minute or two) for people to simply examine, breathe, & meditate. Ask, “God, what do you want me to do this week because of what I’ve seen today?” Don’t rush this part. (1-2 minutes)

This is the transformational part, where my life begins to look differently. I become intentional. Because of my new or reinforced beliefs about God and People, how do I behave differently this week?

8 Share?

How will I live this out loud this week? Who needs to hear this?

Here, the DBS provokes intentional “living out loud” of what I’ve learned--for others to see or know. It puts me on mission for the week

9 Challenge?

In this upcoming week, what is going to be a challenge? Who can I share this with? What needs can we meet?

Typically, what happens is that group members do, in fact, pray here—but don’t force or make this the expectation. Be spurred on to “love and good deeds” and go walk in them. Don’t just leave “it” there,. go do life with each other outside of the church. Live out Biblical community—to do some real life TOGETHER beyond the DBS.

Relational Home Group Process

*Based on Discovery Bible Study process that can be used in groups or by individuals

1 Thankful?

From this past week, what is something you're thankful for?

Positions our hearts to be grateful, models prayer, practices gratitude

2 Challenge?

From this past week, what was challenging for you?

Positions our hearts to admit that we have needs and implies we need help

Questions 1-2 help us to "look back" and form community

3 How did it go?

How did it go?

Based on the previous week's Study "I will statements"/ "Share"/ ending Challenge"

Question 3 ushers in accountability and transformational, missional living

4 The Study - Discover

- Ask someone to read the passage one paragraph at a time.
- Have a group member tell it in their own words.
- Ask the group if they added anything or left anything out.

way. This study with additional readings examines these five areas of priority for any leaders who want to develop a discipling movement.

1. Purpose What is our mission?
2. Passion What is our motive?
3. Product What does our Heavenly Father want to produce through us?
4. Process What are the steps in becoming a maturing discipling maker?
5. People Who has the Father sent to prepare the way?

These five priorities are critical for any team so that there is alignment and understanding about what it is that God is calling His people to do using the model that Jesus gave us in His life, to go and make disciples that make disciples that make disciples.

The studies can be done in a variety of ways:

1. The team meets together and studies the main passage connected to the priority while following up between meetings individually studying the supplemental readings. Alternatively:
2. Each team member works through each of the studies and supplemental reading on their own or in pairs or triplets.

Ideally these studies should be timed in the lead up to any team discussion or workshops that will form the answers that the five priorities ask.

After the readings I have supplied the Discovery Bible Study format I recommend. Other approaches of Biblical reflection can be used such as S.O.A.P. or even Lectio Divina. The key is to allow the Holy Spirit to teach through the Scripture itself and a response made to the Spirit's leading.

[Shift m2M](#) is a ministry of [Power to Change](#) that examines Jesus developing a discipling making movement through the Harmony of the Gospels

Preparing a disciplemaking movement

Study 1 Purpose—what is our mission?

The great commission Matthew 28:16-20

See also Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21; Acts 1:6-8

Supplemental readings:

Spiritual fullness in Christ	Colossians 2:6-15
Teaching God's ways	Exodus 18:19 & 20
Following Jesus' example	1 John 2:3-11
Jesus is building His church	Matthew 16:13-20
Jesus sends us into the world	John 17:13-23
Living out the great commission	Acts 2:42-47

Study 2 Passion—What is our motive?

The greatest commandment Mark 12:28-34

See also Matthew 28:34-40; Luke 10:25-37; Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Supplemental readings:

Proving my love for God	John 14:15-24
Jesus motivated by glorifying God	John 17:1-4
Our Love is God in us	1 John 4:7-21
Love through obedience	1 John 5:1-5
By loving one another	John 13:31-38
Do you love me?	John 21:1-19

Study 3 Product—What does God want us to produce?

Jesus makes disciples that make disciples Matthew 4:18-22

See also Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Supplemental readings:

A special harvest	John 4:27-38
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Disciples trained to be like Jesus	Luke 6:40
Workers sent with the message	John 17:15-26
Disciples sent to make disciples	John 20:19-23
The lost that have been found	Luke 15:1-32
Disciples that bear fruit	John 15:1-17

Study 4 Process—What are the steps of making disciples?

Making Disciples that make Disciples Mark 1:16-20

Supplemental Readings

Connect:	Go where the people are	Mark 1:35-39
Win:	Come and See	John 1:35-46
	Repent and believe	Mark 1:14-15
Build:	Follow me	John 1:40-43
	Being rooted & established	Colossians 2:6-8
Train	I will make you	Matthew 4:19
Send:	Go and bear fruit	John 15:16

Study 5 People—Who does God already have in place?

God prepares people ahead of time Luke 10:5-7

Supplemental Readings

John the Baptist	Luke 3:1-18
The Samaritan women at the well	John 4:1-42
The Demoniac	Mark 5:1-20
Lydia	Acts 16:11-15,40
Cornelius	Acts 10:19-35
Men at the Areopagus	Acts 17:16-34