



Personal and group studies

These readings are based on the themes associated with the advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and using the Discovery Bible Study method for meditation and response. It is designed for groups or can easily be adapted for personal reflection.

This method was pioneered by Campus Crusade for Christ as a simple approach that 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 outcome is making disciples rather just studying the word for knowledge
2. It is effective for 3-12 people with optimum group size of 4-8
3. It doesn't require any material besides the Scriptures. In fact, avoid using commentaries and other resources and let the God breathed scriptures speak for themselves to allow for the best results
4. The approach to leading these groups is facilitation rather than teacher which gives several benefits:
 - The Holy Spirit is the teacher
 - Allows for a higher level of participation which increases learning capacity
 - Requires very little preparation for the leader
 - The leader does not need to know all the answers
 - It is a relational approach that creates strong community and accountability
 - It becomes a highly reproduceable model to multiply disciples

Relational Home Group Process

*Based on Discovery Bible Study process

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"/ ending Challenge"

Question 3 ushers in accountability and transformational, missional living

4 The Study - Discover

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

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.

Groups can choose to focus on the Sunday passage, choose the one for the day they meet or any others that are appropriate to your group.

Advent Week 1 Hope

Sunday	Jesus, the coming saviour	Matthew 1:18-25
Monday	Where does hope come from?	Psalms 62:5-8
Tuesday	Prepare for Hope	Isaiah 40:1-11
Wednesday	Hope renews our strength	Isaiah 40:28-31
Thursday	Hope of salvation	Romans 8:22-28
Friday	Hope is firm and secure	Hebrews 6:13-20
Saturday	Jesus, our living hope	1 Peter 1:3-13

Advent Week 2 Peace

Sunday	Peace on Earth	Luke 2:13-15
Monday	Peace through obedience	Psalms 128:1-6
Tuesday	Peace without an end	Isaiah 9:1-7
Wednesday	Peace from your troubles	John 14:25-27
Thursday	Peace through reconciliation	Romans 5:1-8

Friday	A life that brings you peace	Philippians 4:4-9
Saturday	Peace through Jesus' blood	Colossians 1:15-23

Advent Week 3 Joy

Sunday	News of great joy	Luke 2:8-20
Monday	Shouts of Joy	Psalms 98:1-9
Tuesday	A Harvest of Joy	Psalms 126:1-6
Wednesday	Joy through God's favour	Isaiah 61:1-7
Thursday	Joy becoming complete	John 15:5-11
Friday	Joyful in hope	Romans 12:9-18
Saturday	Joy through perseverance	James 1:2-7

Advent Week 4 Love

Sunday	Let it be with me	Luke 1:26-38
Monday	God's compassionate love for us	Psalms 103:1-18
Tuesday	The greatest Commandment	Matthew 22:34-40
Wednesday	Remaining in God's love	John 15:9-17
Thursday	God's love and Ours	1 John 4:7-21

Christmas Eve Glorifying and praising God Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day What is our response? Matthew 2:1-12

Other Studies available from the Faith Builder series are:

Lent & Pentecost Lectionary studies

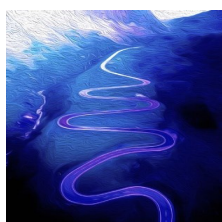
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