

## ***Discovery Bible Study Method***

### **Discipling praise:**

- Question: ***“What happened last week for which you are thankful?”*** .
- Encourage everyone to answer briefly.

### **Discipling intercession:**

- Question: ***“What struggles are happening in your life, family or community?”***
- Take a moment to pray over each one with a struggle
- After the study there will be a follow-up question.

### **Discipling accountability** (not done the first week):

- Ask, “What did you learn our last time together?”
- Ask, ***“How did the attempt to help with the need go?”***

### **Discipling hearing God’s word to obey:**

- Have the text read/told well (If illiterate it must be told well.)
- Have another person (or two) re-read the story
- Ask for a volunteer to re-tell the passage in his/her own words.
- Ask the rest of the group to fill in any details that were overlooked.
- Ask, ***“What do we learn about God in this section?”***
- Ask, ***“What do we learn about humanity/people from this section?”***
- Ask, ***“Is there a command in this passage to obey? OR Is there a command we should follow? OR Is there a promise in this passage?”***
- Ask, ***“How would your life change if you put this passage into practice?”***
- Ask, ***“Who do you know who needs to hear this lesson?”***
- Go to prayer and invite everyone to pray silently asking God, “What would you have me do?” and “How will I apply this to my life?”  
Then ask the group to come up with “I will” statements - ***“Based on what I heard tonight, I will...”***

### **Discipling being servants:**

- Earlier we heard about (insert appropriate need).
- Ask, ***“How can we help meet that need?”***

There is one more question that is needed at times—***“Where is that in this passage?”*** The group is trained to ask this question when someone tries to bring in topics that are not included in the text as a way to keep the group on track. Here they are being disciplined to depend on Scripture as their source of spiritual authority.

## **Tips for Trainers:**

1. Keep the groups small. (Five is the ideal number, but 4-6 is okay.)
  - a. Prevents the meeting from taking too long (45 minutes is ideal).
  - b. Draws quiet or shy people into the discussion.
  - c. Models the most readily available settings (e.g., a few people at work over lunch, a few soccer moms at the practice fields, or a handful of friends after a meal).
2. Divide larger groups into sub-groups and have them work through the questions simultaneously.
  - a. You get to model how to handle a bigger group.
  - b. Involves more people in the facilitation role.
3. Remind the facilitators of their responsibilities:
  - a. Keep the discussion moving and involve everyone.
  - b. Use the “Where is that in this passage?” question to keep the group on track.
  - c. Be sure to save time for questions 6, 7, and 8.
  - d. Make sure someone takes notes when the “top three” are selected.
4. After they answer the questions, facilitate a debriefing exercise by having sub-groups list their “top three” insights into God and their “top three” ways to obey the passage.
  - a. The goal is to enable people to hear from God. The larger group review confirms the things each group heard and exposes them to something they might have missed that another sub-group heard.
  - b. Provides an interesting review process (the three “Rs” of education are “repetition, repetition, repetition,” but that cannot be boring or you lose them).
  - c. Exercises the participants in healthy group functions (your long-term goal is to disciple them in functioning as a healthy church).
  - d. You can “accentuate the positive” by highlighting the healthiest responses. (Rather than causing those with weak responses to lose face, you get to spotlight the ones that are strong and worthy of being imitated.)

**When working with not-yet-believers, outside leaders should never facilitate more than two studies. It is preferable if they never facilitate, but rather coach the Person of Peace to ask the questions from the start.**