

DISCOVERY BIBLE METHOD

MAKING BIBLE STUDIES MISSION-MINDED

THE CONCEPT OF BIBLE STUDY “PLANTING”

1. Planting Bible studies extends your church’s reach into smaller communities, neighborhoods and workplaces.
2. Planting Bible studies makes owning the mission tangible and accountable to church members.
3. Planting Bible studies prepares growing leaders to become shepherds.
4. Planting Bible studies prepares people to plant churches.

WHAT DO WE WANT “BIBLE STUDY” TO MEAN?

- **Bible-Centered**
 - Every Bible Study should have a culture that asserts the Bible as the authority for all of life. *2 Pet 1:3-4*
 - Every Bible Study leader should be equipped to support a proper biblical hermeneutic.
- **Prayer-Centered**
 - Every Bible Study should understand prayer as crucial. *Ps 127:1*
- **Leadership Development**
 - Every Bible Study should be fertile ground for training and reproducing more Bible Study leaders. *2 Tim 2:2*
- **Accountability**
 - Every Bible Study should be a loving community with a culture of empathy, encouragement and exhortation. *Prov 27:17*
- **Evangelical**
 - Every Bible Study should be an invitation to the lost to engage truth in love. *Romans 10:15*

WHAT IS DISCOVERY BIBLE METHOD?

It is an expository bible study method done in a small group setting that promotes:

- Emphasis on learning bible exposition
- Encouragement that the Scripture can be easily understood (Discovery)
- Development of good study principles and habits
- Small Group Biblical Counseling (accountability)
- Small Group Evangelism

DISCOVERY METHOD HOW-TO

FACILITATED?

Bible studies that are facilitated are Bible studies where the leader clears a path for the lost to discover personal truths about God directly from his Word.

1. PREPARATION

- This is where the leader prepares for the study.
- Study the passage for yourself
 - Dissect the passage in advance and “chunk” the thoughts (see example)
 - Study those parts that might prove to be difficult within bible study conversations (confusing doctrine or words, applications of bible study)
- Prayer.

2. READ

- Begin with prayer.
- Each person reads the assigned passage silently to themselves
 - Before they read, ask them to look for themes and establish understanding.
- Then, when everyone is done, read verse by verse around in a circle until you have completed the passage.

3. THEME

- Ask the group what the “central idea/theme” of the passage is then make them support it with a verse or a pattern in the passage.
 - Encourage people to participate immediately by asking people by name if they see a theme.
 - It is important that you affirm even the simplest biblical discovery.
Eph 4:29
- When you begin a new book provide a historical and doctrinal framework.

4. DISSECTION

- Using the “chunked” passage, allow the small group to discuss sections of the individual thoughts. Look for repeated words, phrases, ideas that provoke conversation.
- The facilitator/leader must be ready to ask questions that provoke people to turn to the Bible for answers.
- The facilitator/leader should be prepared to “teach” ONLY when it’s necessary to bring the conversation back within doctrinal or thematic parameters.
- The facilitator/leader should create opportunities for people to use their concordance, treasury scripture knowledge, etc. in the midst of their group study.

- The facilitator/leaders should use the study time as an opportunity to explain and model Bible Study principles.
- Encourage notetaking and question asking so that they have homework to study before the next meeting.

5. APPLICATION

- When you have worked through the passage, end by asking: ***What are you personally going to take away from the passage?***
- Activate the application by praying.

BIBLE STUDIES ARE ONLY EVANGELICAL IF...

- We want them to be (prayer)
- We invite the lost
- We open the Word of God
- We express Christ's love

Example of “Chunking” & Study Prep

Potential Themes:

- How a minister conducts ministry.
- The work and method of the ministry, etc.

The Tone &
Tenor of a
Minister
2 Pet 1:12-15
Prov 27:17

Rom 15:14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. 15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, 16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. 17 I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God. 18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, 19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. 20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: 21 But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.

Notes:

- What is Paul persuaded of?
- Word study on admonish
- Discuss grace bestowed
- Make then search for references on grace.

Notes:

- What is a minister?
- Does everyone understand 'Gentile'?
- Word study on sanctified
- What is meant by mighty signs and wonders?
- Do you think you can say that you have "fully preached the gospel" anywhere to any people?

A Minister
Has a Message
Isa 55:11
1 Joh 5:6

A Minister
Has a Method
2 Cor 10:16
1 Cor 3:9-15

Notes:

- Why is it important for Paul to go where Christ has not been named?
- Who is the "whom he was not spoken of"?
- Do you know people who have never heard or understood the gospel?

Notes & Questions in Bible Study: