

The what & the why of the Discovery process.

The Discovery process is the main way discipleship multiplies in movements across the world. A Discovery Bible Study is a simple, reproducible group: spiritually curious people read a passage of the Bible together, work out for themselves what it says (trusting the guidance of the Holy Spirit), and are then challenged to act on it straight away and pass it on to someone else.

THE WHAT

THE WHY

01

Heart

- 1 What are you thankful for?
- 2 What is a challenge you are currently facing? How can we support you?
- 3 How did you get on with your last "I will" statement? Who did you share it with?

- The questions are gentle and straightforward, so anyone can join in.
- They are not overtly "spiritual" to begin with, yet they lay the groundwork for what matters most in following Jesus together: gratitude grows into worship, naming our struggles grows into confession and honesty, and revisiting "I will" statements grows into accountability.

02

Head

- 1 Read the passage aloud.
- 2 Ask someone to retell it in their own words.
- 3 What stands out? What does this tell us about God or Jesus? What does it tell us about people?

- **Discovering** God's truth, alongside others, means the ideas you are learning stay with you far longer than if you only hear them taught.
- Simple questions keep everyone on the same footing.
- The process leaves room for the Holy Spirit to teach rather than a person, which guards against false teaching and over-reliance on one gifted individual.
- These questions help form hungry disciples who can feed themselves. People learn how to hear from God, not simply what a passage means.
- They are also theologically safe and spiritually deep at the same time.
- They travel to any setting, meaning every person can make disciples in their unique contexts.

03

Hands

- 1 How will you act on what God is showing you in this passage? Everyone makes an "I will" statement.
- 2 Who are you going to tell about what you have discovered here?
- 3 Pray together.

1 & 2 ARE KEY!

- Discovery groups value response over information. "I will" statements carry real weight, so make them as specific as you can. The vaguer the statement, the harder it is to keep.
- Putting obedience first means people meet God during the week and begin their discipleship by following, rather than merely agreeing with him.
- When people who are only just discovering God tell others what they are learning, new groups start and growth spreads quickly. Changed lives get noticed.

Six habits that keep a group multiplying.

01 Facilitate; do not teach

- Everyone gets to take part and discover the truth together.
- It keeps the group reproducible.
- It leaves the teaching to the Holy Spirit rather than to a person.

02 Give the Hands section its time. Never skip the last two questions

- Obedience is the aim, not the gathering of information.
- Always asking what to do and who to tell forms disciples who carry the habit of surrendering to Jesus and speaking about him from the very start.

03 Stay in the passage rather than jumping about

- Everyone stays on the same page, however far along they are in their faith.
- People new to discovering God can quickly feel like outsiders when others keep referring to passages elsewhere in the Bible.
- Staying with one story focuses the group instead of attempting too much in a single sitting.

04 Hand over the leading. Let others facilitate

- Do it as soon as you can. It stops the group depending on one dominant leader.
- Model it, then pass it on. That is how people learn to make disciples; anyone can ask the questions.

05 Multiply. Who could start a group of their own?

- Set that expectation from day one. Encourage people to reach their own friends and family by starting a Discovery group themselves.
- No expertise is required. There are no qualifications for facilitating, only a willingness to discover God together.
- The aim is not to grow a group by addition but by multiplication.
- Some people will stay in the original group whilst starting a new one; others will not. Much depends on the setting, but the goal holds: make disciples who make disciples.

06 Work from a planned list of passages

- Begin with a list that suits the spiritual curiosity of the group, such as a set of stories about hope or a journey through the life of Jesus.
- Move on to other lists as the group develops. Later ones take up discipleship, baptism, life in community and more.
- Ongoing fellowships, or simple church gatherings, often grow out of these groups. As disciples are formed, the group can move to a list that helps it become a more mature expression of the gathered body of Christ.