



DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

GOD'S WORD DOES WHAT HE SAID IT WOULD DO—AND THE DBS HELPS US GET OUT OF THE WAY SO THAT GOD PROVES HIMSELF FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISE.

Isaiah 55:11 says, “When my word goes forth, it shall not return empty or void, but will accomplish the thing for which I sent it.”

OVERVIEW

The DBS is a God-honoring and God-exalting process.

People encounter and directly engage with God's word. In doing so, He and He alone—receives the glory as He proves Himself faithful as HE enlightens the hearts of people to discover who He is directly from His word.

The Holy Spirit becomes the Teacher.

DBS is a study method that relies on the Bible itself, rather than the leader, to do the heavy lifting of discipleship. It focuses its questions solely on the text. It teaches people to ask and answer the questions. What is God saying to me and what am I going to do about it?

God delights in speaking through people.

He speaks through His word and through people to reveal Himself in the DBS process. This creates a dependency on God to reveal truth, which He does every time.

The DBS is an effective disciple-making tool

It consistently works, especially with those who are seeking or who are young in their walk with Christ. DBS is also refreshing to those experienced in Bible study. It models a pattern of questions that anyone can learn and everyone can answer.

The DBS creates an easy invitation.

Anyone looking to learn more about God can join in the DBS. Everyone learns together!

1. THANKFUL

Ask: From this past week, what is something for which you are thankful?

Purpose: Positions our hearts to be grateful, models prayer, and practices gratitude and proper perspective for life

2. CHALLENGE

Ask: From this past week, what was challenging for you?

Purpose: Positions our hearts toward humility and that we have needs; implies we need help along the way by admitting imperfections in life and people.

***Notice the intentionality of not using words like "struggle" or "prayer request." When many people hear these they shut down. "Challenge" works very well with everyone.**

3. HOW DID IT GO?

Ask: How did it go last week?

Purpose: Check in with people on their "I will ..." statements from the previous week.

***Notice that this will begin being utilized the second time you meet.**

4. READ, READ, RETELL

Ask 2 people to read the passage in full. It's helpful to read from two different translations. Ask 1 person to retell the passage in their own words.

Purpose: Reading the passage out loud allows everyone to focus and learn from God's Word together. You can come as you are, ready to learn.

***In retelling, be cautious to only summarize the passage. Do not interpret. Do not include thoughts about the passage from Sunday sermons, podcasts, or a previous Bible study. Think of retelling the passage to a 10 year old.**

5. OBSERVATIONS & DETAILS

Ask: What in this passage is standing out to you?

Purpose: This is a time to simply fill in the key points and observations. Again, stay in this passage only. Do not look for connects from other passages or preaching.

***Have one person from the group begin taking notes at this stage.**

Before moving to the next stage: Discuss with your group that the next questions are ONLY to be answered from the passage verses. This is not a time to share something you learned from a sermon or podcast. Those thoughts can be great, but are NOT to be utilized during the DBS process. When someone brings in thoughts outside the passage, redirect by asking, "Where is that found in these verses?"

Purpose: Everyone is on equal footing in this study method; no one is the knowledgeable teacher. Everyone can add to the conversation no matter their Biblical or church background.

6. LEARNING ABOUT GOD

Ask: What does this passage tell us about God or Jesus?

Purpose: If this passage is true, how does it change how I see God?
Continue writing down everyone's answers.

7. LEARNING ABOUT OURSELVES

Ask: What does this passage tell us about ourselves or people?

Purpose: If this passage is true, how does it change how I treat others?
Continue writing down everyone's answers.

8. LEARNING ABOUT OBEDIENCE

Ask: What does this passage tell us about obedience?

Purpose: If this passage is true, how does it change how I live? What can I put into practice? What way of living pleases God?
Continue writing down everyone's answers.

BUILD YOUR "I WILL ..." STATEMENT

Purpose: Learning by doing. This last section ties everything together between God's truth and our responsive action.

As you have built the list of Observations and Answers, allow everyone a few minutes to quietly examine their own hearts and ask God to direct them in their action step.

***This is the transformational part, where we become willing to be changed by God's Word, obediently laying down or picking up a truth of God that we have been missing or needing reinforcing.**

***This response time should not be rushed.**

IF HELPFUL, EACH ASK YOURSELF: Because of these new or reinforced beliefs about God and People, how will I behave differently this week?

When it is time to open up discussion for each person's "I will" statement, Ask: Considering what we now know about this passage, what is God calling you to do this week?

Make a concrete, simple, measurable plan. Start with, "I will ... "

You can ask for help or suggestions if you are really struggling to make an action concrete.

This part takes practice and it's ok to wrestle through forming one, but make sure everyone gives it a try.

9. SHARE

Each Ask Yourself: How will I live this out this week? Do I know anyone I can share this story with? Or who can I share this with?

Purpose: Provokes intentionality and being "on mission" for the week.

10. CHALLENGE

Ask: In the upcoming week, what is going to be a challenge?

Purpose: We end like we began, except this time we want to know about an upcoming challenge for this next week. These challenges are a means for members to interact outside the group - to meet a need, send a text of encouragement, or let that person know you are praying for them.

***Notice again that "prayer requests" was not used. This can become a time of prayer if appropriate, but does not have to.**

NOW, GO DO LIFE WITH EACH OTHER OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, OUT OF AUTHENTIC, BIBLICAL COMMUNITY.

WHEN FIRST
LEARNING THE DBS
METHOD, BEGIN
WITH NARRATIVE-
STORY PASSAGES
OF SCRIPTURE.

GETTING STARTED: PASSAGE GUIDE

1. God Creates Genesis 1:1-28
2. God Creates Man and Woman Genesis 2:4-24
3. Man and Woman Eat the Fruit Genesis 3:1-13
4. God's Curses Genesis 3:14-24
5. God Regrets His Creation Genesis 6:5-8
6. God Saves Noah and His Family Genesis 6:9-8:14
7. God's Covenant with Noah Genesis 8:15-9:17
8. God's Covenant with Abram Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7
9. Abraham Gives His Son as an Offering Genesis 22:1-19
10. God Spares His People Exodus 12:1-28
11. The Commands of God Exodus 20:1-21
12. The Sin Offering Leviticus 4:1-35
13. God's Righteous Servant Isaiah 53
14. Jesus is Born Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
15. Jesus is Baptized Matthew 3; John 1:29-34
16. Jesus is Tested Matthew 4:1-11
17. Jesus and the Religious Leader John 3:1-21
18. Jesus and the Samaritan Woman John 4:1-26, 39-42
19. Jesus and the Paralyzed Man Luke 5:17-26
20. Jesus Calms the Storm Mark 4:35-41
21. Jesus and the Man with Evil Spirits Mark 5:1-20
22. Jesus Raises a Man from the Dead John 11:1-44
23. Jesus Talks about His Betrayal and the Covenant Matthew 26:17-30
24. Jesus is Betrayed and Faces Trial John 18:1-19:16
25. Jesus is Crucified Luke 23:32-56
26. Jesus is Resurrected Luke 24:1-35
27. Jesus Appears to the Disciples and Ascends to Heaven Luke 24:36-53
28. Enter into the Kingdom God John 3:1-21