



**Discovery Bible Study**

**Becoming Disciples**

## Introduction

Have you ever wondered if God is interested in your life? Are you interested in knowing more about Jesus? Maybe you are interested in knowing what the Bible says, but never felt comfortable going into a church? Discover the Bible is a great way to explore life's deeper questions with your friends in the comfort of your home or a local coffee shop. Around the world this approach is changing lives daily. Why not give it a go and see if the Bible has anything to say to you today?

## How it works

Discovery Bible Study is an easy way to explore what the Bible has to say for yourself. So how do you get started?

We find that it works best if you gather a few friends and go through the studies together. Groups of between four and eight people are good. Everyone will have a slightly different perspective and as each person shares their insights your understanding as a group will grow. So find a comfortable location to meet, grab a coffee and dive in.

Start off by reading or listening to the Bible story. You can use this booklet or the **Discover App** for this. You might like to read the story a couple of times to get more familiar with it. When you are ready have someone in the group retell the story in their own words. Don't worry too much about getting it completely right. After they have finished anyone else can chip in and fill in any missing bits. If you are in a larger group you might like to do this bit in pairs.

Once everyone is familiar with the story, go through the questions. We always use the same four questions. They are easy to remember but surprisingly effective at helping to unpack the story. Take time to ensure that everyone has a chance to speak. If you are not sure how what someone is saying relates to the story, ask them "Where do you see that in the passage?"

For the last two questions we encourage you to make "I will" statements that you really intend to do. For example "I will stop and think before I criticise someone" or "I will tell my sister".

From session two onwards it is useful to start each study by reviewing the previous session. Chat through your "I will" statements and see how everybody got on with them. Take some time to encourage each other.

When you have finished the study ask everyone what is making them happy this week and what they are struggling with. Are there ways as a group that you can support each other?

As you tell other people about what you are learning, you may find that people ask to join your group. That's great! Rather than growing your group, however, it is better to ask them if they would like to find a few friends and start a new group themselves. As you have already seen it is very easy to do, and you don't need to be an expert to lead.

## Step by step guide

Before you begin take some time to think about last week's session and how things have gone since then. Then answer these questions together

- What is making you happy this week?
- What are you struggling with this week?
- How did you get on with your "I Will Statements" from the previous session?
- Who did you tell and how did that go?

### Step 1: Read the story

Read or listen to the passage

### Step 2: Retell the Story

Take a few moments to retell the story in your own words. You may want to speak it out loud, or write it down. If you find you are struggling to remember it, read or listen to it again.

### Step 3: Discover the Story

When you feel that you are familiar with the story, take some time to think over or discuss the following questions:

- What does this story tell me about God?
- What does this story tell me about people?
- If this is really God's word, what changes would I have to make in my life?
- Who am I going to tell?

# One

## The Great Commandment

### Mark 12:28-31

<sup>28</sup> One of the religious teachers came and heard them arguing. He recognized that Jesus had given them a good answer. So he asked him, “Which is the most important commandment of all?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “The first commandment is, ‘Hear, Israel, the Lord our God is one.

<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your spirit, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There's no more important commandment than these.”

## Two The Cost of Discipleship

### Luke 14:25-33

<sup>25</sup> A large crowd was accompanying Jesus. He turned to them and said, <sup>26</sup> “If you want to follow me but you don’t hate your father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters—even your own life—you can’t be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> If you don’t carry your cross and follow me, you can’t be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> If you planned to build a tower, wouldn’t you first work out how much it would cost, and see if you had enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, if after laying the foundation you weren’t able to finish it, everyone who saw it would laugh at you, saying, <sup>30</sup> ‘Look at him: he started building but he couldn’t finish.’

<sup>31</sup> What king goes to war with another king without first sitting down with his advisors to work out whether he and his ten thousand can defeat the one marching against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he can’t, he’ll send representatives to ask for peace while the other king is still a long way off. <sup>33</sup> In the same way every one of you who doesn’t give up everything can’t be my disciple.

## Three Bearing Fruit

### John 12:24-26

<sup>24</sup> I tell you the truth: unless a grain of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains just one grain. But if it dies, it produces many more grains of wheat. <sup>25</sup> If you love your own life you will lose it, but if you don't love your own life in this world you will keep your life forever. <sup>26</sup> If you want to serve me you need to follow me. My servants will be where I am, and my Father will honor anyone who serves me.

## Four A New Commandment

### John 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> After he'd left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of man is glorified, and through him God is glorified. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified through him, then God will glorify the Son himself, and will glorify him immediately. <sup>33</sup> My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. You will look for me, but I'm telling you now just as I told the Jews: you cannot come where I'm going.

<sup>34</sup> I am giving you a new command: Love one another. Love one another in the same way I have loved you. <sup>35</sup> If you love one another you will prove to everyone that you are my disciples."

## Five

# Love, Obey and Receive the Holy Spirit

### John 14:15-21

<sup>15</sup> If you love me, you will keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth, who will always be with you. The world cannot accept him because it isn't looking for him and doesn't know him. But you know him because he lives with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> I will not abandon you like orphans: I will come back to you. <sup>19</sup> Soon the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I live in the Father, you live in me, and I live in you. <sup>21</sup> Those who keep my commands are the ones who love me, those who love me will be loved by my Father. I will love them too, and will reveal myself to them.”



## Six Abide in Christ

### John 15:1-12

- <sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every one of my branches that doesn't bear fruit. He prunes every branch that bears fruit so it can bear even more. <sup>3</sup> You are already pruned and made clean through what I've told you.
- <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it remains part of the vine, so it is for you: you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.
- <sup>5</sup> I'm the vine, you're the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce plenty of fruit—for apart from me you can't do anything. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who doesn't remain in me is like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Such branches are gathered together, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, then you can ask for whatever you want, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified as you produce plenty of fruit, proving you are my disciples.
- <sup>9</sup> As the Father loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you do what I say, you will remain in my love, just as I do what my Father says and remain in his love.
- <sup>11</sup> I've explained this to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.
- <sup>12</sup> This is my command: love one another as I have loved you.

## Seven Trust Jesus as Lord and God

### John 20:24-29

<sup>24</sup> One of the twelve disciples, Thomas, who was called the Twin, wasn't with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord."

But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger in them, and put my hand in his side."

<sup>26</sup> One week later the disciples were together inside the house; and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, and Jesus came and stood among them.

"May you have peace!" he said. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand in the wound on my side. Stop doubting and trust in me!"

<sup>28</sup> "My Lord and my God!" Thomas responded.

<sup>29</sup> "You trust in me because you've seen me," Jesus told him. "Happy are those that haven't seen me yet still trust in me."

## Eight Go and Make Disciples

### Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Jesus came to them and told them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> So go and make disciples of people of all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach them to follow all the commands I have given you. Remember, I am always with you, to the very end of the world.”

## Nine The Fellowship of Believers

### Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> They committed themselves to what the apostles had taught them, and to the fellowship of the believers, “breaking bread” and praying together. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was in awe, and many miracles and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and belongings, sharing the proceeds with everyone as they needed. <sup>46</sup> Day after day they continued to meet together in the Temple, and ate together in their homes. They enjoyed their meals humbly and happily. They praised God, and everyone thought favorably of them. <sup>47</sup> Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## Conclusion

We hope that you enjoyed going through the Bible together. We'd love to hear any stories of how it has changed your life. The great news is that discovering the Bible doesn't stop here. If you would like to dive deeper, there are other study series in the **Discover App**. You can also use the study questions to explore any passage that you choose.

If you have enjoyed this series, why not encourage your friends and families to get a group going and go through the studies together?



<https://discoverapp.org/get>

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