



**Discovery Bible Study**

**Commands of Christ**

## 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?

## Command One

### Repent and believe

#### Matthew 4:17

<sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began declaring his message, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has arrived!”

#### Luke 7:36-50

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to come and eat with him. Jesus went to the Pharisee's house and sat down to eat the meal. <sup>37</sup> A woman who was a sinner in that town found out that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house. She went there, carrying an alabaster jar of perfume. <sup>38</sup> She kneeled beside Jesus and with her tears wet his feet, and dried them with her hair. She kissed his feet, and then she poured the perfume over them.

<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this he said to himself, “If this man was really a prophet he would know who this woman was who's touching him, and what kind of person she was—that she's a sinner!”

<sup>40</sup> Jesus spoke up and said, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

“Tell me, Teacher,” he responded.

<sup>41</sup> “Once two people were in debt to a money-lender. One owed five hundred *denarii*, the other only fifty. <sup>42</sup> Neither of them could repay him, so he forgave the debts. Which one will love him the most?”

<sup>43</sup> “The one he forgave the most, I would think,” Simon answered.

“You're absolutely right,” said Jesus. <sup>44</sup> Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, “You see this woman? When I came into your house, you didn't give me water to wash my feet. But she has washed my feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You didn't give me a kiss, but since I came in she hasn't stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You didn't anoint my head with oil, but she poured perfume over my feet. <sup>47</sup> So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—that's why she loves so much. But whoever is forgiven little, only loves a little.” <sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins have been forgiven.”

<sup>49</sup> Those who were sitting eating with him began talking among themselves, saying, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” <sup>50</sup> But Jesus told the woman, “Your trust has saved you, go in peace.”

## Command Two

### Be baptised

#### Matthew 28:19

<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.

#### Acts 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup> An angel of the Lord told Philip, “Get ready and go south to the desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> So Philip set out, and met an Ethiopian man, a eunuch who had a high position in the service of the Kandake, Queen of Ethiopia. He was her chief treasurer. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship there, and <sup>28</sup> was returning from his trip, sitting in his chariot. He was reading out loud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go over close to the chariot.” <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran over, and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah.

“Do you understand what you're reading?” Philip asked him.

<sup>31</sup> “How can I, unless someone explains it?” the man replied. He invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> The Scripture passage he was reading was this: “He was led like a sheep to be slaughtered. Like a lamb is silent in front of his shearer, he didn't say a word. <sup>33</sup> He was humiliated and denied justice. No one can speak of his descendants, for his life came to an end.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, who is the prophet talking about? Is it himself, or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Philip started explaining, beginning from this Scripture, telling him about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they continued on, they came to a stretch of water. The eunuch said, “Look, there's water here—why shouldn't I be baptized?” <sup>37</sup> <sup>38</sup> He ordered that the chariot be stopped. Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came out of the water the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again, but he continued on his way full of joy. Philip found himself at Azotus.

## Command Three

### Pray

#### Matthew 6:5-15

<sup>5</sup> When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand up and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people can see them. I promise you, they already have their reward. <sup>6</sup> But you, when you pray, go indoors and close the door, and pray to your Father in private, and your Father who sees what happens in private will reward you. <sup>7</sup> When you pray, don't babble on meaninglessly like the foreigners do, who think they will be heard because of all the words they repeat. <sup>8</sup> Don't be like them, for your Father knows what you need even before you ask him. <sup>9</sup> So pray like this:

Our heavenly Father, may your name be honored. <sup>10</sup> May your kingdom come! May your will be carried out in earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Please give to us today the food we need. <sup>12</sup> Forgive our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. <sup>13</sup> Please don't let us give in to temptation, and save us from the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you don't forgive those who sin against you, then your heavenly Father won't forgive your sins.

## Command Four Make Disciples

### Matthew 28:19-20

<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.”

### John 4:4-42

<sup>4</sup> On the way he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to the Samaritan city of Sychar, near to the field that Jacob had given his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, who was tired from the journey, sat straight down beside the well. It was around noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to fetch water. Jesus said to her, “Please could you give me a drink?” <sup>8</sup> for his disciples had gone to the town to buy food.

<sup>9</sup> “You're a Jew, and I'm a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” the woman replied, for Jews don't associate with Samaritans.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you only recognized God's gift, and who is asking you, ‘Please could you give me a drink?’ you would have asked him and he would have given you the water of life.”

<sup>11</sup> “Sir, you don't have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where are you going to get the water of life from?” she replied. <sup>12</sup> “Our father Jacob gave us the well. He drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock. Are you greater than he?”

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks water from this well will become thirsty again. <sup>14</sup> But those who drink the water I give won't ever be thirsty again. The water I give becomes a bubbling spring of water inside them, bringing them eternal life.”

<sup>15</sup> “Sir,” replied the woman, “Please give me this water so I won't be thirsty, and I won't have to come here to fetch water!”

<sup>16</sup> “Go and call your husband, and come back here,” Jesus told her.

<sup>17</sup> “I don't have a husband,” the woman answered.

“You're right in saying you don't have a husband,” Jesus told her. <sup>18</sup> “You've had five husbands, and the one you're living with now is not your husband. So what you say is true!”

<sup>19</sup> “I can see you're a prophet, sir,” the woman replied. <sup>20</sup> “Tell me this: our ancestors worshiped here on this mountain, but you say that Jerusalem is where we must worship.”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus replied, “Believe me the time is coming when you won't worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You really don't know the God you're worshiping, while we worship the God we know, for salvation comes from the Jews.

<sup>23</sup> But the time is coming—and in fact it's here already—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for these are the kind of worshipers the Father wants. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, so worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, “Well, I know that the Messiah is coming,” (the one who is called Christ). “When he comes he will explain it all to us.”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus replied, “I AM—the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then the disciples returned. They were shocked that he was talking to a woman, but none of them asked “What are you doing?” or “Why are you talking with her?” <sup>28</sup> The woman left her water jar behind and ran back to the town, telling the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and meet a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?”

<sup>30</sup> So they went out of the town to go and see him. <sup>31</sup> Meanwhile Jesus' disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, please eat something!”

<sup>32</sup> But Jesus replied, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

<sup>33</sup> “Did someone bring him food?” the disciples asked one another.

<sup>34</sup> Jesus told them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Don't you have a saying, ‘four more months until harvest?’ Open your eyes and look around! The crops in the fields are ripe, ready for harvest. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is being paid and harvesting a crop for eternal life so that both the sower and the reaper can celebrate. <sup>37</sup> So the proverb ‘one sows, another reaps,’ is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you didn't work for. Others did the hard work and you have reaped the benefits of what they did.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that town trusted in him because of what the woman said: “He told me everything I ever did.” <sup>40</sup> So when they came to see him they pleaded with him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, <sup>41</sup> and because of what he told them many more trusted in him. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “Now our trust in him isn't just because of what you told us but because we have heard him for ourselves. We're convinced that he really is the Savior of the world.”



## Command Five Persevere

### Matthew 10:22

<sup>22</sup> Everyone will hate you because you follow me, but those who endure until the end will be saved.

### Acts 5:27-42

<sup>27</sup> The apostles were brought in and made to stand in front of the council.

<sup>28</sup> “Didn’t we order you not to teach in this name?” the high priest demanded to know. “Now look—you’ve filled the whole of Jerusalem with your teaching, and you’re trying to blame us for his death!”

<sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, “We have to obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup> The God of our forefathers raised Jesus from the dead—the one you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him to a position of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior, as a way to bring repentance to Israel, and for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of what happened, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

<sup>33</sup> When the council heard this they were furious and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup> But then one of the council members stood up to speak. He was Gamaliel, a Pharisee and a doctor of law who was respected by everyone. He ordered the apostles sent out for a short while.

<sup>35</sup> Gamaliel addressed the council: “Leaders of Israel, be careful what you plan to do to these men. <sup>36</sup> Some time ago Theudas tried to make a name for himself, and about four hundred men joined him. He was killed and all who followed him were scattered and it came to nothing. <sup>37</sup> Then after him Judas of Galilee came along at the time of the census, and he attracted some followers. He also died, and those who listened to him were dispersed. <sup>38</sup> So in the current case I recommend that you leave these men alone, and just let them go. If what they are planning or what they are doing comes from their own human thinking, then it will be defeated. <sup>39</sup> But if it comes from God, you won’t be able to defeat them. You could even find yourselves fighting against God!”

<sup>40</sup> They were convinced by what he said. So they called the apostles back in, had them whipped, and ordered them not to say anything in the name of Jesus. Then they let them go. <sup>41</sup> The apostles left the council, happy to be considered worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus. <sup>42</sup> Every day they continued to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah, in the Temple and from house to house.

## Command Six

### Love

#### Matthew 22:37-39

<sup>37</sup> Jesus told them, “‘Love the Lord your God in all you think, in all you feel, and in all you do.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest commandment, the first commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second is just like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

#### Luke 10:25-37

<sup>25</sup> Once an expert in religious law stood up and tried to trap Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “What do I have to do to gain eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” asked Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> “You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and your whole spirit, and your whole strength, and your whole mind; and love your neighbor as yourself,” the man replied.

<sup>28</sup> “You’re right,” Jesus told him. “Do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But the man wanted to vindicate himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, saying, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He was attacked by robbers who stripped him and beat him, and left him for dead. <sup>31</sup> It so happened that a priest was going the same way. He saw the man, but he passed by on the other side of the road. <sup>32</sup> Then a Levite came along. But when he got to the place and saw the man, he also passed by on the other side.

<sup>33</sup> Finally a Samaritan man came along. As he passed by, he saw the man and felt sorry for him. <sup>34</sup> He went over and treated the man’s wounds with oil and wine, and bandaged them. Then he placed the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn where he took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he gave two denarii to the innkeeper and told him, ‘Take care of him, and if you spend more than this, I’ll pay you back when I return.’ <sup>36</sup> Which one of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> “The one who showed him kindness,” the man replied.

“Go and do the same,” Jesus told him.

## Command Seven Remember me

### Matthew 26:26-28

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave pieces to the disciples. “Take and eat this for it is my body,” said Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Then he picked up the cup, blessed it, and gave it to them. “Drink from it, all of you,” he told them. <sup>28</sup> “For this is my blood of the agreement, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

### Luke 22:7-20

<sup>7</sup> The Day of Unleavened Bread arrived when the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

<sup>8</sup> Jesus sent Peter and John, telling them, “Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together.”

<sup>9</sup> They asked him, “Where do you want us to prepare for it?”

<sup>10</sup> He replied, “When you enter the city you'll meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him and go into the house he enters. <sup>11</sup> Tell the owner of the house that the Teacher asks you, ‘Where is the dining room where I can eat the Passover with my disciples?’ <sup>12</sup> He'll show you a large upstairs room that already has the necessary furniture. Prepare the meal there.”

<sup>13</sup> They went and found that everything was just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal there. <sup>14</sup> When the time came, he sat down at the table with his apostles. He told them, <sup>15</sup> “I've been really looking forward to eating this Passover meal with you before my sufferings begin. <sup>16</sup> I tell you I shall not eat it again until the time is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus took the cup, and after he had given thanks, he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> I tell you that I won't drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup> He picked up some bread, and after he had given thanks, he broke it into pieces and gave it to them. “This is my body which is given for you; do this in order to remember me,” Jesus told them. <sup>20</sup> In the same way after they had finished supper, he picked up the cup and said, “This cup is the new agreement in my blood which is poured out for you.”

## Command Eight

### Give

#### Matthew 6:1-4

<sup>1</sup> “Make sure not to do your good deeds in front of people, just so they can be seen. Otherwise you won’t have any reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> When you give to the poor, don’t be like the hypocrites who blow their own trumpets to announce what they’re doing in the synagogues and in the streets so that people will praise them. I tell you the truth: they already have their reward. <sup>3</sup> When you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand’s doing. <sup>4</sup> That way what you give will be in secret, and your Father who sees what happens in secret will reward you.

#### Mark 12:41-44

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the treasury collection box, watching people tossing in coins. Many of the rich were extravagantly throwing in a lot of money. <sup>42</sup> Then a poor widow came along and put in just two small coins. <sup>43</sup> He called his disciples together and told them, “I tell you the truth: this poor widow has put in more than all the rest together. <sup>44</sup> All of them gave from their wealth what they had, but she gave from her poverty what she didn’t have. She put in all she had to live on.”

## Command Nine Gather

### Matthew 18:20

<sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather together in my name, I'm there with them."

### Hebrews 10:24-25

### Acts 2:36-47

<sup>36</sup> Now let everyone in Israel be totally convinced of this: God has made this Jesus, who you killed on a cross, both Lord and Messiah!"

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this they were conscience-stricken. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

<sup>38</sup> "Repent!" Peter told them. "All of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> This promise is given to you, to your children, and to all who are far away—everyone the Lord our God calls."

<sup>40</sup> Peter went on speaking, giving them much more evidence. He warned them, "Save yourselves from this perverted generation." <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted what he'd said were baptized, adding about three thousand people to the group of believers that day.

<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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