



Discovery Bible Study

Training Laborers

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

Starting with the end in mind

Revelation 7:9-12

⁹ After this I looked and saw a great crowd that nobody could count, made up of every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They gave a loud shout, “Salvation is from our God who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.”

¹¹ All the angels surrounding the throne, and the elders and the four living creatures, fell down on their faces before the throne, worshipping God. ¹² “Amen!” they said. “Blessing, glory, wisdom, gratitude, honor, power, and strength, be to God for ever and ever. Amen.”

Two

The power of prayer

Mark 11:20-25

²⁰ The following morning as they returned, they saw the fig tree, withered from the roots up. ²¹ Peter remembered what Jesus had done, and said to him, “Rabbi, look, the fig tree that you cursed has withered.”

²² “Trust in God,” Jesus replied. ²³ “Believe me when I say to you that if you told this mountain, ‘Get out of here and be thrown into the sea,’ and you don’t doubt in your heart, but are convinced about what you’re asking, then it will happen! ²⁴ I’m telling you that whatever you pray for, whatever you ask, trust that you’ve received it, and it’s yours. ²⁵ But when you’re praying, if you have something against someone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your sins.”

Three

How do people come?

John 6:35-45

³⁵ “I am the bread of life,” Jesus replied. “Anyone who comes to me will never be hungry again, and anyone who trusts in me will never be thirsty again. ³⁶ But as I explained to you before, you have seen me, but you still don't trust me. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and I won't reject any of them. ³⁸ For I came down from heaven not to do what I want, but to do what the one who sent me wants. ³⁹ What he wants is for me not to lose anyone he has given to me, but for me to raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ What my Father wants is for everyone who sees the Son and trusts in him to have eternal life, and for me to raise them up at the last day.”

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to grumble about him because he had said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and his mother. So how can he now tell us, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

⁴³ “Stop grumbling to each other,” Jesus said. ⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me attracts them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ As is written in Scripture by the prophets, ‘Everyone will be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to and learns from the Father comes to me.

Four God's Glory

John 17:1-5

¹ When Jesus finished saying this he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you. ² For you gave him authority over all people so that he might give eternal life to all those you have given to him. ³ Eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. ⁴ I have brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the beginning of the world.

Five Called to the unreached

Romans 15:14-23

¹⁴ I'm convinced that you, my brothers and sisters, are full of goodness, and that you are filled with every kind of knowledge, so you are well able to teach one another. ¹⁵ I've been blunt in the way I have written to you about some of these things, but this is just to remind you. For God gave me grace ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the foreigners, like a priest sharing God's good news, so that they could become an acceptable offering, made holy by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷ So even though I have something to boast about because of my service for God, ¹⁸ (I wouldn't dare talk about any of this except as Christ has done it through me), I have led foreigners to obedience through my teaching and demonstration, ¹⁹ through the power of signs and miracles done with the Holy Spirit's power. From Jerusalem all the way over to Illyricum, everywhere I've shared fully the good news of Christ. ²⁰ In fact I was keen to spread the good news in places that hadn't heard the name of Christ, so that I wouldn't be building on what others have done. ²¹ As Scripture says, "Those who haven't been told the good news will discover him, and those who haven't heard will understand."

²² That's why I was prevented so many times from coming to see you. ²³ But now, as there's nowhere left here to work, and since I've looked forward to visiting you for many years,

Six

The great commandment

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ Listen, people of Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is the only one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your mind and with all your being and with all your strength.

⁶ The commands I'm giving you today must stay in your minds. ⁷ You are to explain them carefully to your children and talk about them when you're at home and when you're traveling, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them on your hands as reminders and put them on your foreheads as well. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your homes and on your gates.

Seven

The great commission

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ But the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him they worshiped him, though some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus came to them and told them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ Teach them to follow all the commands I have given you. Remember, I am always with you, to the very end of the world.”

Eight Being like Jesus

Phillipians 2:5-11

⁵ The attitude you should have is the same as that of Christ Jesus. ⁶ Though in his nature he was always God, he wasn't concerned to cling onto his equality with God. ⁷ Instead he emptied himself, taking the nature of a servant, becoming like a human being. ⁸ Coming in human form, humbling himself, he submitted himself to death—even death on a cross.

⁹ That's why God placed him in the position of greatest honor and power, and gave him the most prestigious name— ¹⁰ so that in the name of Jesus everyone should bow in respect, whether in heaven or on earth or under the earth, ¹¹ and all will declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Nine

Reaching the lost

Luke 10:1-12

¹ After this, the Lord appointed seventy other disciples, and sent them in pairs to every town and place that he planned to visit.

² “The harvest is large, but the number of workers is small,” he told them. “Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest fields. ³ So get on your way: I’m sending you like sheep among wolves. ⁴ Don’t take any money or a bag or extra sandals, and don’t spend time chatting with people you meet. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first of all say, ‘May this house have peace.’ ⁶ If there’s a peaceful person living there, then your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for a worker deserves to be paid. Don’t go from house to house. ⁸ If you enter a town and the people there welcome you, then eat what’s set before you ⁹ and heal those who are sick. Tell them, ‘God’s kingdom has come to you.’ ¹⁰ But if you enter a town and the people there don’t welcome you, go through their streets telling them, ¹¹ ‘We are wiping off even the dust from your town that clings to our feet to show you our disapproval. But you should recognize this: God’s kingdom has come.’

¹² I tell you, in the Day of Judgment it will be better for Sodom than for such a town.

Ten

Reaching the lost (part 2)

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ Jesus went all over, visiting the towns and villages. He taught in their synagogues, telling them about the good news of the kingdom, and he healed all kinds of sicknesses and diseases. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, Jesus was deeply moved with compassion for them, because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He told his disciples, “The harvest is large, but there are only a few workers. ³⁸ Pray to the Lord of the harvest, and ask him to send more workers for his harvest.”

Matthew 10:1-16

¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them power to throw out evil spirits, and to heal all kinds of diseases and sicknesses.

² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, (also called Peter), Andrew his brother, James the son of Zebedee, John his brother, ³ Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew the tax-collector, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, ⁴ Simon the revolutionary, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

⁵ Jesus sent out these Twelve, telling them, “Don't go to the foreigners, or to any Samaritan city. ⁶ You are to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ Wherever you go, tell the people, ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ ⁸ Heal those who are sick. Resurrect the dead. Cure the lepers. Drive out demons. You received freely, so give freely! ⁹ Don't carry any gold, silver, or copper coins in your pockets, ¹⁰ or a bag for your journey, or two cloaks, or sandals, or a walking stick, for a worker deserves to be supported. ¹¹ Wherever you go, whatever town or village, ask for someone who lives according to good principles, and remain there until you leave. ¹² When you enter the house, give it your blessing. ¹³ If the home deserves it, let your peace rest on it, but if it doesn't deserve it, let your peace return to you.

¹⁴ If someone doesn't welcome you, and refuses to listen to what you have to say, then leave that house or that town, shaking its dust off your feet as you go. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, it will be better for Sodom and Gomorrah at the Day of Judgment than for that town!

¹⁶ Look, I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves. So be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

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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