

EDO

EQUIPPED TO DISCIPLE OTHERS

MAKING DISCIPLES

Discovery Bible Study

The Life of Christ

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the divisions of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

August 2023

Welcome

Jesus gives the two greatest invitations to the world.

First, He offers to every person the gift of eternal life.

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Second, He offers every believer the privilege of participating in His Kingdom Work. To the disciples He offered this invitation:

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

The Word of God is alive and powerful. God the Holy Spirit can use the Word of God to penetrate and convict even the hardest heart. This booklet outlines a practical approach to leading a small group Bible study. DBS allows God to speak to each person directly through the text of Scripture.

The Church in our culture leans toward a knowledge based Christianity. We tend to measure spiritual maturity in terms of Bible knowledge. While knowledge of Scripture is important, James warns us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

One characteristic of DBS is the follow up response to our study of Scripture. After each study, each person is encouraged to define a tangible response in terms of an "I will _____," statement. Also an "I will share _____," statement begins to instill in us a disciple making mindset.

May the Lord bless your pursuit, as you lead others in the study of God's Word.

Ray Cardwell

Teaching Pastor

Disciples Who Make Disciples

An Approach for Leading a Small Group Bible Study

Introduction

Discipleship is one of the most common words used in churches, yet many of us have not found a way to make it real in our lives. This booklet is a training guide on how to lead a small group Bible study. In keeping with our goal to make disciples who make disciples, this Bible study approach is intended to be **transferable** and **repeatable**. It is not overwhelming. This does not require specialized training or tools. It is intended to support your life long journey of helping other people find and follow Jesus Christ.

This approach is called the **Discovery** Bible Study Method. It is especially effective in drawing seekers or new believers into a personal encounter with God through His Word. The example studies in this booklet lead a group through a study of the Life of Christ.

General Goals

For You: To equip you to lead a Discovery Bible Study of the Life of Christ.

For Others: This gives you a tool to help build up others in their understanding of Jesus.

Just Do It

Skill comes with practice. Books and books and books are available on how to lead a Bible study, but the best way to learn is to just do it. In your efforts to influence others, be sure to maintain your close relationship with Jesus by spending time each day in personal Bible reading, study and prayer.

Additional Resources

An internet search of "Discovery Bible Study," yields many DBS resources.

Outline

Introduction	Just to be Sure	The Gospel Spiritual Growth
Section 1	Discovery Bible Study	Distinctive of DBS Basic Flow of DBS
Section 2	Life of Christ DBS	
Appendix A	More Guidelines to Inductive Study The 5 R's of Time with God	
Appendix B	Additional DBS Study Plans	

Just to be Sure

What is the Gospel?

What must I do to be Saved?

The Gospel

The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is the starting point for the Christian faith. Paul gives us a concise summary of the Gospel:

1 Cor 15:1,3-4

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved,

if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and

that He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures,...

Creation: *The Background*

God _____ heaven and earth.

Gen 1:1

God _____ us.

Rom 5:8

God wants a _____ with us.

2 Peter 3:9

We were created to be in relationship with God.

However a love relationship requires the freedom to choose.

Fall: *The Need*

All have _____ and fall short of the glory of God.

Rom 3:23

The penalty of sin is _____.

Rom 6:23

As a consequence of rejecting God's design for life, we are all spiritually dead, separated from God.

Rom 5:12

Redemption: The Good News

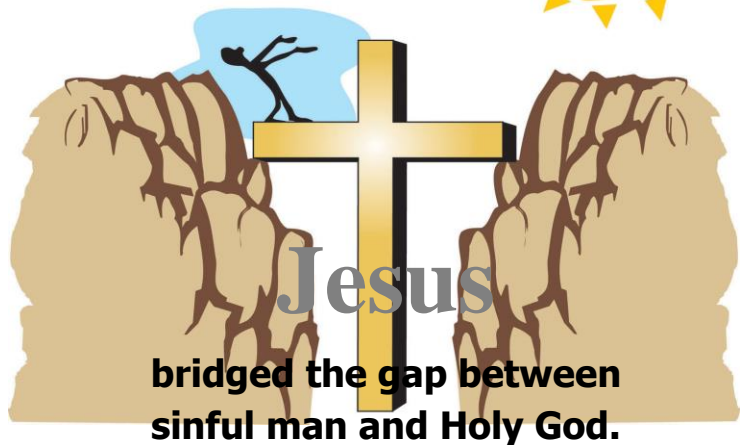
Jesus Christ _____ for our sins,
and was _____ on the 3rd day.
Christ died in our place. He paid the full penalty.

1 Cor 15:3-4

2 Cor 5:21

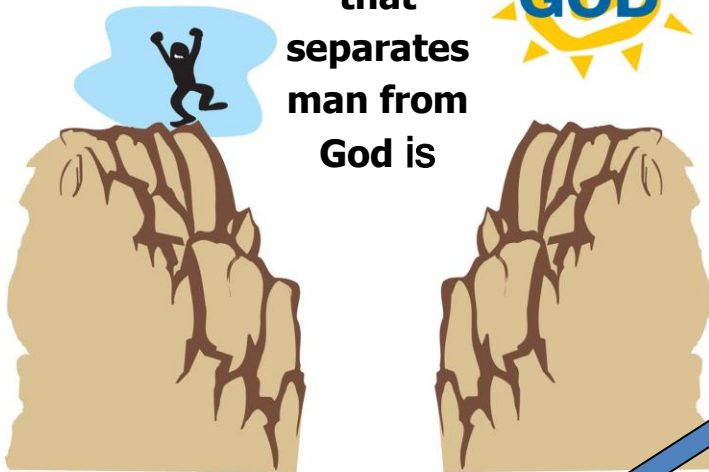
The GOSPEL

is that Christ died on the cross
for our sins and rose again
from the dead.



bridged the gap between
sinful man and Holy God.

The Barrier
that
separates
man from
God is



Now we are **Alive** in Christ
Eph 2:4-6

By Faith

We were **Dead** in our Sins
Eph 2:1-3

The Required Response for Reconciliation

He who _____ has eternal life. John 6:47

The required response to the gospel can be summarized in one word:

"believe."

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved... Acts 16:31

What does it mean to believe in Christ?

- 1) Intellectual Agreement: I understand and agree I am a sinner, and that God is righteous. I understand that Jesus bore the penalty of my sin. He rose from the dead as historical proof He is who He claimed to be. Because of His completed work on the cross on my behalf, He is offering to me the gift of eternal life.
- 2) Personal Application: This applies to me. I need to change my mind regarding my sin, my need for a Savior, and the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Bible calls this change of mind "*repentance*." I must choose to respond, to accept or reject the invitation of Christ.
- 3) A Decision: I choose, by a conscious, point-in-time decision, to entrust my eternal destiny to Christ and what He did for me on the cross. This decision is expressed by a salvation prayer to God. The Bible refers to this decision as "calling on the name of the Lord."

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for "Whoever will call upon the Name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:11-13

To believe in Jesus, means to entrust ourselves
to Him alone for our salvation.

Faith alone, in Christ alone.

The Spiritual Growth Process

Spiritual growth requires an intentional process that takes place over time. The typical believer will move through different phases of spiritual growth, similar to the physical growth we experience from infancy to adulthood.

Characteristics of Each Phase

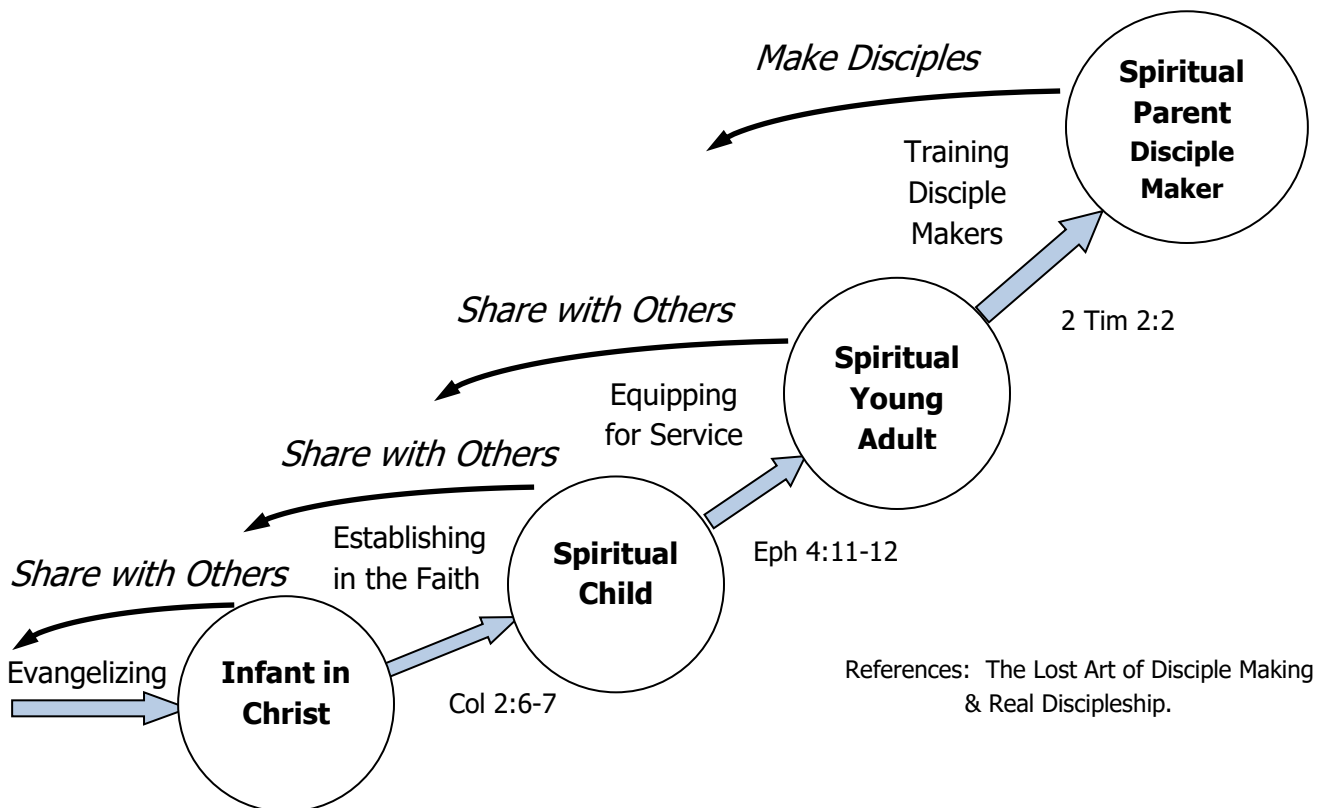
Infants are totally dependent. They need constant care and nourishment.

Children are selfish, "I want." They need training and life experiences.

Young Adults are learning to focus on others. They need encouragement, guidance, balance, and discernment.

Spiritual Parents are spiritually mature, equipped with the Word. They have a servant's heart and understand God's plan for making disciples. They need to initiate the discipleship process with those within their sphere of influence.

Making Disciples of Others



Through spiritual growth, as we become more like Jesus, we become better equipped to make disciples of others.

The Means of Spiritual Growth

Scripture uses the word picture of spiritual growth. When a baby is born, he begins a lifelong process of maturity to become prepared to fulfill his role in life.

When a person trusts in Christ for salvation, he/she is said to be:

_____	John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23
Born into God's family	John 1:12
And become a child of God	Gal 3:26

What do the following passages say about the Means of Growth?

1 Peter 2:2

Matthew 4:4

Matt 7:24-29

Both men hear the words of Jesus.

What marks the difference between the wise man and the foolish man?

What do the following passages say about the Goal of Spiritual Growth?

Ephesians 4:12-16

Galatians 4:19

2 Peter 3:18

Why is the Bible so Important?

The Bible is compared to spiritual food. A consistent intake of God's Word is vital to our spiritual growth and health.

What do the following passages say, or promise regarding the Word of God?

Matt 4:4

1 Pet 2:2

Deut 6:6-9

Deut 32:46-47

Joshua 1:8-9

Ps 1:1-3

Ps 19:7-8

Ps 19:9-11

Ps 119:9,11

Col 3:16

Look closely at 2 Tim 3:16-17. What is the four-fold intent of Scripture?
What is the ultimate goal?

The Bible is unique to all other books.

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Heb 4:12

Section 1: The Discovery Bible Study Method

What is DBS?

How can I use DBS to lead a small group?

DBS is a method of small group Bible Study that any group can use. The core characteristic is to direct people to the text of God's Word, and only the text. The group is led by a **facilitator** who guides the group, but does NOT teach the group.

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. Is 55:11

"We are all here to learn from what God says in the Bible."

DBS is especially effective in directing a group of people to the text of Scripture. God speaks to us through His Word.

The Distinctive Value of DBS

DBS is Reproducible! Anyone who has been part of DBS, who understands the DBS process, can go out and start another DBS small group.

A typical small group is led by a "teacher." This person becomes the "Bible answer man." Others in the group conclude, "I could never do that." There is certainly a place for teaching, but it is not easily reproducible. To become a qualified teacher requires adequate training.

A DBS group is not led by a Teacher. DBS is led by a facilitator who does not answer questions. This point is critical to instilling the DNA of reproduction. The facilitator does not teach, but must ensure the group follows the DBS process.

The DBS Process

Read, Discover, Obey, and Share, that is the discovery process.

We read God's Word out loud.

Next we put God's Word into our own words. We "retell" the passage to make sure we really understand what the passage says.

Then we discover the main truths about God and man.

After a discussion of the passage, we commit to two things:

We commit to change our life so that we obey God's Word

We commit to share God's word with at least one other person.

In our culture, the Christian life has become "knowledge based." We study and read the Bible, we listen to excellent Bible teaching, and we learn a lot about what the Bible says. We are even able to debate various theological issues.

God does not intend for us to only "know" His Word, but to "Obey" His Word. Consider the instruction of James:

James 1:22-25

Basic Flow of a DBS Small Group

Reconnect & Pray

What is one thing you are thankful for today?

What is a challenge you are facing?

Prayer can be as simple as telling God the things we are thankful for and talking with Him about the things we are worried or stressed about.

Reconnect & Pray

Thankful for...

Challenge this week

Review

Retell from last week

How did your "I will" go?

Read & Retell

Discuss & Discovery

Learn about God

Learn about man

Commit to Obey

I Will _____

Commit to Share

Who can I tell?

Review

Can someone retell the story from last time, and tell what we learned from it?
What did you learn from your personal study time this last week?
What is God teaching you this week?
How did you do on your "I will" and sharing from last week?

Read the Scripture

Have someone read the passage, while everyone else follows along in their Bible. (You may want to provide a copy of the passage, so everyone is literally on the same page. This reduces confusion from multiple translations.) Have a second person read the passage. This time have everyone else just listen to the reading.

Retell

Ask for a volunteer to retell the passage in their own words, preferably without looking at the passage. When they are done, ask the group to fill in any points that may have been left out. If time permits, have a second person retell the passage. Do not underestimate the value of retelling. This exercise will give a person the ability to share with someone else what they learned from the Bible.

Discuss & Discover

As a group, discuss the passage. The following sample questions are helpful: Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What do we learn about God in this passage? (Jesus)

What do we learn about ourselves/people in this passage?

Are there any specific commands to obey?

any specific temptations to avoid?

any specific promises to claim?

any specific examples to follow?

Discussion Guidelines: (The primary job of the facilitator)

All observations, and comments must come directly from THIS passage.

No other verses, no outside opinions one has heard from some teacher.

It is always valid for anyone to ask:

"Where do we see that in these verses?"

This is the primary protection from the group wandering into false teaching. No one is permitted to insert their opinions into the discussion. All comments must come directly from observing what the text says.

All observations must come from only this text.

If a question is asked, the facilitator is not to answer the question. Once you allow for that dynamic, the facilitator becomes the "Bible answer man." Remember a key goal is to make this process repeatable. We want every person to conclude, "I can go do this. I could lead a DBS group."

When a question is asked, if the answer is not in the text, redirect the focus back to God teaching us from His Word. Respond with something like: "I think as we study more, we will find the answer."

Commit to Obey

Knowledge of God's Word must translate into obedience. It is the intent of God for us to live out His truth.

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. Deut 29:29

If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. James 1:23-25

From what you have learned, What is one thing you can do in response?

My "I will" take away is _____.

What must we change in our lives to obey God?

These are to be specific, tangible actions.

Commit to Share

Who can you share with this week?

How can you use what you learned today to begin a spiritual conversation?

Encourage everyone to identify a person who needs to hear what God says.

Is there a person in need the group is able to help?

Close in Prayer

About the DBS Process

Reconnect & Pray:

Help the group “look back” and build relationships by expressing gratitude and sharing needs.

Review:

This helps maintain continuity of the study. The Bible is connected, not stand alone stories. Also this begins to build an environment of accountability to encourage everyone to follow through and live out the insights from last week’s study.

Read & Retell:

Helps the group focus and “get it.” As we hear someone “retell” it challenges everyone to ask, “Can I retell this passage?”

Discuss & Discovery:

This is the core of DBS. The insights from each person, contribute to the insights gained by the entire group. There must always be a freedom to ask, “Where did you see that in these verses?” to keep the group self-correcting and on track with Scripture.

Commit to Obey:

This is the centerpiece. This is where we choose to act on what we learn about God and man. The “I will” statements do not need to be profound, but rather, concise and measurable. The “I will” statements can become life changing!

Commit to Share:

This is the reminder of our role as Ambassadors. We are called to make disciples who make disciples. The commitment to share sets the directional focus of the group. It is not just about me, it is also about the people in my life who need Jesus.

Reconnect & Pray

Thankful for...
Challenge this week

Review

Retell from last week
How did your “I will” go?

Read & Retell

Discuss & Discovery

Learn about God
Learn about man

Commit to Obey

I Will _____

Commit to Share

Who can I tell?

Sample Discovery Bible Study Passage List

DBS can be easily tailored to any group, by adjusting the list of passages you choose to study. It is worth noting, the method works best with narrative passages, passages that tell a story.

Gen 1:1-25	God Created the World
Gen 2:4-24	God Creates Man and Woman
Gen 3:1-13	The Fall of Man
Gen 3:14-24	Consequences of the Fall, Judgment
Gen 6:1-7:24	The Flood
Gen 8:1-9:17-	God's Covenant with Noah
Gen 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7	God's Covenant with Abraham
Gen 22:1-19	Abraham offers Isaac
Ex 12:1-28	The Promise of Passover
Ex 20:1-21	The Ten Commandments
Lev 4:1-35	The Sacrifice for Sin
Is 53	God's Coming Sacrifice for Sin
Lk 1:26-38, 2:1-20	Jesus is Born
Matt 3, John 1:29-34	Jesus is Baptized
Matt 4:1-11	Jesus is Tempted by the devil
John 3:1-21	Jesus and Nicodemus
John 4:1-26, 39-42	Jesus and the Woman at the Well
Lk 5:17-26	Jesus and the Paralyzed Man
Mark 4:35-41	Jesus Calms the Storm
Mark 5:1-20	Jesus Casts Out Evil Spirits
John 11:1-44	Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead
Matt 26:17-30	The Last Supper, the First Lord's Supper
John 18:1-19:16	Jesus is Betrayed and Condemned
Luke 23:32-56	Jesus is Crucified
Luke 24:1-35	Jesus is Resurrected
Luke 24:36-53	Jesus Appears to Disciples and Ascends
John 3:1-21	You Must be Born Again!

DBS Practice Exercise

Practice the DBS guidelines in a small group using **Luke 5:17-26**.

Read, Read, Re-Tell, Re-Tell:

First Read, Everyone follows along

Second Read, Everyone just listens

Re-Tell, Preferably without looking at the passage,

after they finish, have everyone help fill in the gaps

Re-Tell, Without looking at the passage, again, everyone helps fill in the gaps

Context: Who, What, When, Where

Discuss & Discover

What do we learn about God?

What do we learn about ourselves, mankind?

Are there any specific commands we are to obey?

Commit to Obey

"I Will _____

Commit to Share

"I Will Share _____

Going Deeper with DBS

The Facilitator Role

You are not to function as a Teacher, but as a Facilitator.

Ensure everyone in the group is welcomed, and free to contribute.

Keep the discussion moving, and focused on the passage. Do not allow the group to get “wrapped around the axle” on some theological issue.

Keep track of the time, and respect everyone’s time.

This is not a personal therapy session. Do not let any one person dominate the discussion or the group.

Guard the integrity of the DBS process. Stick to the text.

Keep it light, allow the group to have fun.

Practice DBS

Gather with 2 or 3 other people and ask them to practice DBS with you.

Here are three passages you can use:

Matt 14:13-21

Matt 14:22-36

Joshua 3

Follow the DBS process. After each session, take a few minutes to note what went well, not so well, and how you can improve the flow of discussion next time.

Section 2 is an example of how a DBS series can be used to lead a small group through a study of the life of Jesus.

Section 2: The Life of Christ, using DBS

The Life of Christ is a great study for a group of seekers.

Sec 1 Birth & Childhood of Jesus

Jesus is Born	Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
Early Years of Jesus	Matt 2:1-23; Lk 2:39-52

Sec 2 Presentation of the King

Jesus is Baptized	Matthew 3; John 1:29-34
Jesus is Tempted	Matthew 4:1-11
First Miracle at wedding feast	John 2:1-12

Sec 3 Early Ministry in Judea

Cleansing of Temple, <u>First Passover</u> –	John 2:13-23
Jesus and Nicodemus –	John 3:1-21
Jesus and the Samaritan Woman –	John 4:1-42

Sec 4 Demonstrations of Authority throughout Galilee

Heals Nobleman's son	John 4:43-54
First Rejection at Nazareth	Luke 4:14-30
Calls 4 Fisherman, (over nature)	Mark 1:16-20; Lk 5:1-11
A Day of Miracles –	Mark 1:21-34; Lk 4:31-41
Leper healed	Mark 1:40-45; Lk 5:12-16
Paralytic healed & Forgiven	Mark 2:1-12; Lk 5:17-26
Call of Matthew, Eats with sinners	Mark 2:13-22; Lk 5:27-39
<i>Sabbath Controversies</i>	
Healing of Paralytic, <u>2nd Passover</u>	John 5:1-47
Plucking Grain	Mark 2:23-28; Lk 6:1-5
Healing withered hand	Mark 3:1-6; Lk 6:6-11
Withdrawal to Sea of Galilee, Crowds	Mark 3:7-12
Commissioning of the 12	Mark 3:13-19; Lk 6:12-16

Sec 5 Sermon on the Mount

Kingdom Principles	Matt 5-7;	Lk 6:17-49
<i>The Authority of Christ is Recognized</i>		
Centurion's Servant at Capernaum	Matt 8:1-13;	Lk 7:1-10
Dead man raised at Nain		Lk 7:11-17
Miracles, death, blind, dumb	Matt 9:18-35	Lk 8
12 Disciples given Authority, Sent Out	Matt 10	Lk 9
(The cost & reward of Following Jesus)		

Sec 6 Formal Rejection of the King

John in Prison asks for Confirmation	Matt 11:2-19
Cities of Galilee Condemned	Matt 11:20-24
A Gracious Invitation to Individuals, "Come unto Me"	Matt 11:25-30
Demon Possessed man Healed	Matt 12:22-37
<i>"This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?"</i>	
FORMAL REJECTION: <i>"This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."</i>	
Blasphemy against the Spirit	
One More Sign, the Sign of Jonah	Matt 12:38-45

Sec 7 Kingdom Revelation – in view of Rejection

Kingdom Parables	Matt 13
John the Baptist killed by Herod	Matt 14:1-12

Sec 8 Preparation of the 12 Disciples

Feeding of 5,000 <u>3rd Passover</u>	Matt 14:13-23	John 6:1-13
Peter invited to walk on water	Matt 14:24-33	
Teaching on Bread of Life, many leave	John 6:22-71	
Word of God vs Tradition, Feeding 4,000	Matt 15	Mk 7
More Instruction to Disciples	Matt 16-18	Mk 8-9
Confession of Peter	Matt 16:13-21	Mk 8:27-33
<i>"From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must..."</i>		
Mount of Transfiguration	Matt 17:1-13	Mk 9:2-13

Sec 9 Focus toward Jerusalem, Opposition Increases

Teaching on Greatness in the Kingdom	Lk 9:46-50	Matt 18:1-14
Jesus leaves Galilee, for Jerusalem	Lk 9:51-56	John 7:10
Conflict at the Feast of Tabernacles	John 7-10	
Commission of the 70 disciples	Lk 10:1-24	

Sec 10 Presentation as King

The Raising of Lazarus	John 11-12	
Triumphal Entry	Matt 21-23	Mk 11:1-19

Sec 11: Final Week of Teaching

Olivet Discourse	Matt 24-25	Mk 13
Upper Rom Discourse	John 13-16	Mk 14:12-52
Jesus' Prayer	John 17	

Sec 12: Final Days

Arrest, Trials, Crucifixion	Matt 26-27;	John 18-19
Resurrection	Matt 28;	John 20-21

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of Luke 1:26-38

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Let's Get Started

Reconnect & Pray:

What are you thankful for?
What challenge(s) are you facing?
Prayer Requests:

Review:

Retell the story from last time,
Follow up on the I will's from last week.
Comments:

Read the Scripture:

First Read, everyone follows along in text
Second Read, everyone just listens

Retell:

First Retell, preferable without looking
Second Retell, without looking

Discuss & Discover:

What do we learn about God?
What do we learn about people, or ourselves?
Are there any specific Commands to obey?
Any Temptations to avoid?
Any Promises to claim?
Any Examples to follow?
Any other life principles to apply?

Commit to Obey: *(Be doers of the Word and not hearers only)*

Based upon this study, I WILL _____.

Commit to Share: *(We are Ambassadors, with a message to share.)*

Who can I tell? I WILL SHARE _____.

Close in Prayer

<p>Reconnect & Pray Thankful for... Challenge this week</p> <p>Review Retell from last week How did your "I will" go?</p> <p>Read & Retell</p> <p>Discuss & Discovery Learn about God Learn about man</p> <p>Commit to Obey I Will _____</p> <p>Commit to Share Who can I tell?</p>

Luke 1:26-38

Jesus' Birth Foretold

²⁶Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin ^[a]engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the ^[b]descendants of David; and the virgin's name was ^[c]Mary. ²⁸And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, ^[d] favored one! The Lord ^[e]is with you." ²⁹But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How ^[f]can this be, since I ^[g]am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the ^[h]holy Child shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and ^[i]she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. ³⁷For ^[j]nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, the ^[k]bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of Matthew 3

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Let's Get Started

Reconnect & Pray:

What are you thankful for?
What challenge(s) are you facing?
Prayer Requests:

Review:

Retell the story from last time,
Follow up on the I will's from last week.
Comments:

Read the Scripture:

First Read, everyone follows along in text
Second Read, everyone just listens

Retell:

First Retell, preferable without looking
Second Retell, without looking

Discuss & Discover:

What do we learn about God?
What do we learn about people, or ourselves?
Are there any specific Commands to obey?
Any Temptations to avoid?
Any Promises to claim?
Any Examples to follow?
Any other life principles to apply?

Commit to Obey: *(Be doers of the Word and not hearers only)*

Based upon this study, I WILL _____.

Commit to Share: *(We are Ambassadors, with a message to share.)*

Who can I tell? I WILL SHARE _____.

Close in Prayer

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Matthew 3

3 Now in those days John the Baptist *^[a]came, ^[b]preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven ^[c]is at hand.” ³For this is the one referred to ^[d]by Isaiah the prophet when he said,

“THE VOICE OF ONE ^[e]CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’”

⁴Now John himself had ^[f]a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; ⁶and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; ⁹and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“As for me, I baptize you ^[g]with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you ^[h]with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹³Then Jesus *arrived from Galilee at the Jordan *coming* to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit *it* at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he *permitted Him. ¹⁶After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and ^[i]he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and*^[j]lighting on Him, ¹⁷and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is ^[k]My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of Matthew 4

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Let's Get Started

Reconnect & Pray:

What are you thankful for?
What challenge(s) are you facing?
Prayer Requests:

Review:

Retell the story from last time,
Follow up on the I will's from last week.
Comments:

Read the Scripture:

First Read, everyone follows along in text
Second Read, everyone just listens

Retell:

First Retell, preferable without looking
Second Retell, without looking

Discuss & Discover:

What do we learn about God?
What do we learn about people, or ourselves?
Are there any specific Commands to obey?
Any Temptations to avoid?
Any Promises to claim?
Any Examples to follow?
Any other life principles to apply?

Commit to Obey: *(Be doers of the Word and not hearers only)*

Based upon this study, I WILL _____.

Commit to Share: *(We are Ambassadors, with a message to share.)*

Who can I tell? I WILL SHARE _____.

Close in Prayer

<p>Reconnect & Pray Thankful for... Challenge this week</p> <p>Review Retell from last week How did your "I will" go?</p> <p>Read & Retell</p> <p>Discuss & Discovery Learn about God Learn about man</p> <p>Commit to Obey I Will _____</p> <p>Commit to Share Who can I tell?</p>

Matthew 4:1-11

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He ^[a]then became hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

⁵Then the devil *took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and *said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,

'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and
'ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP,
SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "^[b]On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"

⁸Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; ⁹and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and ^[c]worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND ^[d]SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

¹¹Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of John 2

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Let's Get Started

Reconnect & Pray:

What are you thankful for?
What challenge(s) are you facing?
Prayer Requests:

Review:

Retell the story from last time,
Follow up on the I will's from last week.
Comments:

Read the Scripture:

First Read, everyone follows along in text
Second Read, everyone just listens

Retell:

First Retell, preferable without looking
Second Retell, without looking

Discuss & Discover:

What do we learn about God?
What do we learn about people, or ourselves?
Are there any specific Commands to obey?
Any Temptations to avoid?
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Close in Prayer

<p>Reconnect & Pray Thankful for... Challenge this week</p> <p>Review Retell from last week How did your "I will" go?</p> <p>Read & Retell</p> <p>Discuss & Discovery Learn about God Learn about man</p> <p>Commit to Obey I Will _____</p> <p>Commit to Share Who can I tell?</p>

John 2:1-23

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ²and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus *said to Him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, ^[a]what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." ⁶Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing ^[b]twenty or thirty gallons each. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And He said to them, "Draw *some* out now and take it to the ^[c]headwaiter." So they took it *to him*. ⁹When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, ¹⁰and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when *the people* have ^[d]drunk freely, *then he serves* the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹This beginning of *His* signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated *at their tables*. ¹⁵And He made a scourge of cords, and drove *them* all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; ¹⁶and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a ^[a]place of business." ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME." ¹⁸The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us ^[b]as your authority for doing these things?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this ^[c]temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this ^[d]temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" ²¹But He was speaking of the ^[e]temple of His body. ²²So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

²³Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of John 3

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Let's Get Started

Reconnect & Pray:

What are you thankful for?
What challenge(s) are you facing?
Prayer Requests:

Review:

Retell the story from last time,
Follow up on the I will's from last week.
Comments:

Read the Scripture:

First Read, everyone follows along in text
Second Read, everyone just listens

Retell:

First Retell, preferable without looking
Second Retell, without looking

Discuss & Discover:

What do we learn about God?
What do we learn about people, or ourselves?
Are there any specific Commands to obey?
Any Temptations to avoid?
Any Promises to claim?
Any Examples to follow?
Any other life principles to apply?

Commit to Obey: *(Be doers of the Word and not hearers only)*

Based upon this study, I WILL _____.

Commit to Share: *(We are Ambassadors, with a message to share.)*

Who can I tell? I WILL SHARE _____.

Close in Prayer

Reconnect & Pray
Thankful for...
Challenge this week

Review
Retell from last week
How did your "I will" go?

Read & Retell

Discuss & Discovery
Learn about God
Learn about man

Commit to Obey
I Will _____

Commit to Share
Who can I tell?

John 3:1-21

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ²this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these ^[a]signs that You do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born ^[b]again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴Nicodemus ^{*}said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born ^[c]again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. ¹²If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. ¹⁴As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵so that whoever ^[d]believes will in Him have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that He gave His ^[e]only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the ^[f]only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of John 4

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Let's Get Started

Reconnect & Pray:

What are you thankful for?
What challenge(s) are you facing?
Prayer Requests:

Review:

Retell the story from last time,
Follow up on the I will's from last week.
Comments:

Read the Scripture:

First Read, everyone follows along in text
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First Retell, preferable without looking
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Discuss & Discover:

What do we learn about God?
What do we learn about people, or ourselves?
Are there any specific Commands to obey?
Any Temptations to avoid?
Any Promises to claim?
Any Examples to follow?
Any other life principles to apply?

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Based upon this study, I WILL _____.

Commit to Share: *(We are Ambassadors, with a message to share.)*

Who can I tell? I WILL SHARE _____.

Close in Prayer

<p>Reconnect & Pray Thankful for... Challenge this week</p> <p>Review Retell from last week How did your "I will" go?</p> <p>Read & Retell</p> <p>Discuss & Discovery Learn about God Learn about man</p> <p>Commit to Obey I Will _____</p> <p>Commit to Share Who can I tell?</p>

John 4:7-26, 39-42

⁷There *came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus *said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹Therefore the Samaritan woman *said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ¹¹She *said to Him, "[b]Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? ¹²You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" ¹³Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

¹⁵The woman *said to Him, "[c]Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." ¹⁶He *said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus *said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." ¹⁹The woman *said to Him, "[d]Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." ²¹Jesus *said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴God is [e]spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman *said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." ²⁶Jesus *said to her, "I who speak to you am *He*."

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of Luke 4-5

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Context Leading Up to these Passages

The Introduction of Jesus:

His Birth	Luke 1-2
His Baptism	Matt 3
The Temptation	Matt 4

The Authentication of Jesus:

First Miracle & First Passover,	John 2
Jesus & Nicodemus	John 3
Jesus & the Samaritan Woman	John 4
Jesus Demonstrates Authority	Luke 4-5

Read the Scripture:

First Read, everyone follows along in text
 Second Read, everyone just listens

Retell:

First Retell, preferable without looking
 Second Retell, without looking

Discuss & Discover:

What do we learn about God?
 What do we learn about people, or ourselves?
 Are there any specific Commands to obey?
 Any Temptations to avoid?
 Any Promises to claim?
 Any Examples to follow?
 Any other life principles to apply?

Commit to Obey: *(Be doers of the Word and not hearers only)*

Based upon this study, I WILL _____.

Commit to Share: *(We are Ambassadors, with a message to share.)*

Who can I tell? I WILL SHARE _____.

Close in Prayer

Reconnect & Pray
 Thankful for...
 Challenge this week

Review
 Retell from last week
 How did your "I will" go?

Read & Retell

Discuss & Discovery
 Learn about God
 Learn about man

Commit to Obey
 I Will _____

Commit to Share
 Who can I tell?

Luke 4:14-30 Jesus begins His Public Ministry at Home

Summary: Jesus returned to Galilee, and came to Nazareth where He grew up. He was teaching in the synagogue, read from Isaiah 61:1, and claimed He was the fulfillment of the first part of the verse. The home folks rejected His claim, and drove Him out of the city.

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority Over...

Read and Retell each of the following three events.
What do they demonstrate about Jesus?

Luke 4:31-37 The Event at Capernaum

³¹ And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; ³² and they were amazed at His teaching, for His [a]message was with authority. ³³ In the synagogue there was a man [b]possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Let us alone! [c]What business do we have with each other, Jesus [d]of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst of *the people*, he came out of him without doing him any harm. ³⁶ And amazement came upon them all, and they *began* talking with one another saying, "What is [e]this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out." ³⁷ And the report about Him was spreading into every locality in the surrounding district.

Luke 4:38-44 The Event in Simon's home

Lookup, Read, and Retell vs 38-44

What does this event demonstrate about Jesus?

Luke 5:12-16 Another Event

Lookup, Read, and Retell Lk 5:12-16

What does this event demonstrate about Jesus?

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of Luke 5

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Context Leading Up to these Passages

The Introduction of Jesus:

His Birth	Luke 1-2
His Baptism	Matt 3
The Temptation	Matt 4

The Authentication of Jesus:

First Miracle & First Passover,	John 2
Jesus & Nicodemus	John 3
Jesus & the Samaritan Woman	John 4
Jesus Demonstrates Authority	Luke 4-5

Read the Scripture:

First Read, everyone follows along in text
 Second Read, everyone just listens

Retell:

First Retell, preferable without looking
 Second Retell, without looking

Discuss & Discover:

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about people, or ourselves?
- Are there any specific Commands to obey?
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Who can I tell? I WILL SHARE _____.

Close in Prayer

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 Thankful for...
 Challenge this week

Review
 Retell from last week
 How did your "I will" go?

Read & Retell

Discuss & Discovery
 Learn about God
 Learn about man

Commit to Obey
 I Will _____

Commit to Share
 Who can I tell?

Luke 5:17-26

¹⁷ [a] One day He was teaching; and there were *some* Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting *there*, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and *from* Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was *present* for Him to perform healing. ¹⁸ And *some* men were carrying on a [b] bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. ¹⁹ But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle *of the crowd*, in front of Jesus. ²⁰ Seeing their faith, He said, "[c] Friend, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this *man* who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" ²² But Jesus, [d] aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home." ²⁵ Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. ²⁶ [e] They were all struck with astonishment and *began* glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of Luke 5

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Context Leading Up to these Passages

The Introduction of Jesus:

His Birth	Luke 1-2
His Baptism	Matt 3
The Temptation	Matt 4

The Authentication of Jesus:

First Miracle & First Passover,	John 2
Jesus & Nicodemus	John 3
Jesus & the Samaritan Woman	John 4
Jesus Demonstrates Authority	Luke 4-5

Read the Scripture:

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Close in Prayer

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Luke 4-5 Jesus has demonstrated His Authority

Over demons, disease, sickness, and over sin.

Luke 5:27-39

Call & Response of Levi (Matthew)

²⁷After that He went out and noticed a tax collector named ^[a]Levi sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me." ²⁸And he left everything behind, and got up and *began* to follow Him.

²⁹And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other *people* who were reclining *at the table* with them. ³⁰The Pharisees and their scribes *began* grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and ^[b]sinners?" ³¹And Jesus answered and said to them, "*It is* not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. ³²I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

³³And they said to Him, "The disciples of John often fast and offer prayers, the *disciples* of the Pharisees also do the same, but Yours eat and drink." ³⁴And Jesus said to them, "You cannot make the attendants of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? ³⁵But *the days* will come; and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days."

³⁶And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. ³⁷And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. ³⁸But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. ³⁹And no one, after drinking old *wine* wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good *enough*.'"

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of John 5

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Context Leading Up to these Passages

The Introduction of Jesus:

His Birth	Luke 1-2
His Baptism	Matt 3
The Temptation	Matt 4

The Authentication of Jesus:

First Miracle & First Passover,	John 2
Jesus & Nicodemus	John 3
Jesus & the Samaritan Woman	John 4
Jesus Demonstrates Authority	Luke 4-5

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Discuss & Discover:

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Who can I tell? I WILL SHARE _____.

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Read & Retell

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 Learn about man

Commit to Obey
 I Will _____

Commit to Share
 Who can I tell?

One Year of Ministry

Jesus had demonstrated His authority over demons, disease, sickness, and over sin. He has healed hundreds of people and taught in the synagogues throughout Galilee. Lk 4:37, 43-44

The event in John 5 is in Jerusalem during the 2nd Passover, marking the beginning of the second year of His earthly ministry. (1st is John 2:13)

John 5:1-24

After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep *gate* a pool, which is called in ^(a)Hebrew ^(b)Bethesda, having five porticoes. ³In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [^(c)waiting for the moving of the waters; ⁴for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.] ⁵A man was there who had been ^(d)ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying *there*, and knew that he had already been a long time *in that condition*, He *said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" ⁷The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." ⁸Jesus *said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." ⁹Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and *began* to walk.

Now it was the Sabbath on that day. ¹⁰So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet." ¹¹But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Pick up your pallet and walk.'" ¹²They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up *your pallet* and walk'?" ¹³But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in *that* place. ¹⁴Afterward Jesus *found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you." ¹⁵The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) of the Life of Christ

"We are all here to learn from what we read in the Bible."

Context Leading Up to these Passages

The Introduction of Jesus:

His Birth	Luke 1-2
His Baptism	Matt 3
The Temptation	Matt 4

The Authentication of Jesus:

First Miracle & First Passover,	John 2
Jesus & Nicodemus	John 3
Jesus & the Samaritan Woman	John 4
Jesus Demonstrates Authority	Luke 4-5

Continue to present DBS studies on the Life of Christ from the passages listed at the beginning of this section.

Reconnect & Pray

Thankful for...
Challenge this week

Review

Retell from last week
How did your "I will" go?

Read & Retell

Discuss & Discovery

Learn about God
Learn about man

Commit to Obey

I Will _____

Commit to Share

Who can I tell?

Appendix A, Guidelines to Inductive Study

The Inductive Bible Study method seeks to ensure we “pull out the facts” as to what the Bible really says. It helps to limit the influence of our biases, and to be objective and allow us to learn what the Scripture teaches. These guidelines help us in our study of the Bible.

1. Pray

Psa 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.

2. Make Observations – The Entire Book

Get an overview of the book:

Read the entire book at least once

Who wrote it, to Whom, When

Author’s Purpose for writing

John 20:30-31

Main Themes

Begin an Outline of the Entire Book, or a Structure Chart with Section titles

The goal here is to understand the Structure or flow of the book

This will be continually refined as you study the book.

Type of Literature, Is this book:

Historical, Poetical, Prophetic, Didactic - Teaching

Now begin to study each section of the book:

Observation, Interpretation, Application

Make Observations – Each Section

Read the passage several times. What does the passage say?

Identify the Context

John 9:3, did not sin??

The context clarifies the meaning of words, “trunk”

Look for the Obvious, (Jig saw puzzle: first the corners, then the edges)

Begin to write down questions.

Look for Key Words, Topics, Doctrines

Other Observations:

Contrasts, Repetition, Lists

Tone of the Passage, Literary Form

Insights & Questions

Tools: Bible, Paper, Pen, That’s it!

Remember:

Let the text speak for itself.

3. Detailed Study Using Phrase Structure Diagrams

Develop a Phrase Outline for the passage

This is the *single most powerful tool* for understanding “teaching” passages. Determine the relationship of each phrase with the flow of thought.

Example: Heb 10:19-25

*Since therefore, brethren,
 we have confidence to enter the holy place
 by the blood of Jesus
 by a new and living way
 which He inaugurated for us through the veil
 that is, His flesh,
 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
 let us draw near with a sincere heart
 in full assurance of faith...
 let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,
 for He who promised is faithful;
 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
 not forsaking our own assembling together...*

Example: 1 Peter 1:14-16

*As obedient children,
 do not be conformed to the former lusts
 which were yours in your ignorance,
 but be holy yourselves...
 (like the Holy One who called you),
 because it is written, “You shall be holy, For I am Holy.”
 (viewed as a command)*

OR

*because it is written, “You shall be holy, For I am Holy.”
 (viewed as supporting reason)*

From the Phrase Outline, You can build an Outline of the Passage.

Verse by verse study

Conduct Word Study on major words
 Identify verbs; tense, voice, and mood
 Cross Reference other Scripture
 Check the Commentaries, (*Do this last*)
 Summarize - Restate the verse in your own words

4. *Accurate Interpretation, Illumination*, John 16:12-15

What does the passage mean? Summarize your study. Re-state the passage in your own words. Ensure that we have built an accurate bridge.

Principles of Interpretation:

1. *Context Rules.* The interpretation must be consistent with the flow and purpose of the book. Ex: Heb 6:4-6 What is the context?
2. *Always seek the Full Counsel of God.* We must consider all that the Bible has to say on a given topic. Prayer: John 15:7
but what about, 1 John 5:14-; James 4:3 etc.
3. *Scripture will never contradict Scripture.* The Bible is a perfect expression of God's truth to mankind.
Ex: Rom 3:27-28; 4:1-3 vs James 2:17, 21ff

Therefore: *The Bible is the best commentary of the Bible.*

Compare Scripture with Scripture.

Acts 2:38 "for" in order to get, or because of
Acts 10:34, 47 baptized after salvation

4. *Interpret the Scripture Literally.*

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise."

5. *Do not base your doctrine on obscure passages of Scripture.* There are some passages that are hard to understand. We are warned about those who would distort such passages. 1 Peter 3:15-16. Ex: 1 Cor 15:29
6. *Recognize the progressiveness of revelation.* Over time, God has added to His revelation. The New Testament for example, adds much that was not revealed in the Old. Eph 3:1-5
7. *Guard against prejudice, Seek the author's single meaning.* Be careful not to twist a text in order to harmonize it with preconceived ideas.

Process of Interpretation:

Carefully review the results of your Observations, and Detailed Study.

Ask questions: "What does it mean...." Using the principles above, answer your questions.

Restate the main points of the passage in your own words.

Compare your conclusions with the commentaries. DO THIS LAST.

2 Tim 4:13 Paul had other books

1 Pet 3:15 Be ready to make a defense,

(not based upon what others say)

5. Application

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

James 1:22-25

What should I do with this knowledge? In what area of my thinking or life does this passage address my need to be conformed to Christ?

6. Purposeful Response, "I Will _____"

What specific steps should I take in response to God's Word?

Ezra 7:10

7. Meditate & Memorize

Select a few key verses to memorize. This provides a great way to retain the Word, so that we can reflect on it throughout the day.

*"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, **but you shall meditate** in it day and night, **that you may observe to do** according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Josh 1:8

Going Deeper with Inductive Questions

Observations: The collection of data & details. "What does the passage say?"

Questions to aid your Observations:

1. Are there any key words, repetition of words?
2. Advice, admonitions, warnings, promises present?
3. Reasons or results for doing things?
4. Contrasts, comparisons or illustrations?
5. Repetition and progressions of words and ideas?
6. Questions present in the text?
7. Important connectives ie. prepositions or conjunctions?
8. Atmosphere of passage? Literary form: ie. discourse, narrative, poetry, prophecy?
9. Context and general structure?

Interpretation: Putting the details together. "What does the passage mean?"

Questions to aid in your interpretation of the passage:

1. What is the meaning of key words and phrases? Why did the author use them?
2. What is being implied by the use of this term, illustration, phrase, etc.?
3. Is there any progression in the thought pattern? How does this thought, verse, paragraph, or chapter fit or relate to the overall context, book, or Bible?
4. Does this thought or concept appear in any other places in Scripture?
5. What is the significance, if any, to the verb tenses in this verse or set of verses?
6. Why does this verse, section, or passage occur in the Bible at all?

Applications: What should I personally do with this knowledge?

What must I do to obey this passage? I will _____

Questions to aid in your application of the passage:

1. Any insights concerning the character and or work of God?
2. Any command(s) or instruction(s) to obey, example(s) to follow?
3. Any sin to avoid or confess?
4. Any examples or instruction on prayer? Praise?
5. Any promise to claim or take hold of?
6. Any needed changes in my attitude or priorities?

The 5 R's: Daily Time with God

The *Navigators* provide a suite of discipleship tools. This one is a simple guide on how to spend time with God each day.

1. *Refocus*

Prepare your heart and mind through confession of sin and praise. Review the previous 24 hours. Identify any sins that need confessed. Cast on Him any anxious thoughts and thank Him for His goodness toward you.

2. *Read*

Read the passage a few times. There are several reading programs available that will structure your efforts so that you can read through the entire Bible in a year.

3. *Reflect*

Reflect and think about what you are reading. Ask the basic questions of who, what, when, where, why and how. What is the flow of the passage? Why is this passage in the Bible?

4. *Record*

Write something down! Record your observations from this passage. Be sensitive to the teaching of the Holy Spirit in guiding you to what God is saying in this passage. Record one *take away* from this passage that you can apply during the day.

5. *Respond*

Respond to God's Word in a tangible, practical way. Be a doer of the Word. What truth do you need to apply, even today? Commit your obedience to the Lord and pray for the remainder of your day.

Appendix B, More DBS Plans

This was developed by City Team Ministries. It is designed for the postmodern thinker desiring to make the connection between their spirituality and the problematic world around them. This study allows one to discover the Creator God who responds to the needs of the defenseless.

Gen 2:4-25	God Creates People
Gen 3:1-24	God holds People Responsible
Gen 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7	God's Covenant with Abraham
Ex 1:1-14, 2:11-25	God hears the Cry of the Defenseless
Ex 3:1-22	God Responds to the Cry of the Defenseless
Ex 14:5-31	God Defends his People from the Oppressor
Lev 19:1-18	The Commands of God
Is 61:1-9	The Promise of a New Day
Jer 31:31-34	God's Covenant with the People
Luke 4:14-21	Jesus announces His Purpose
John 3:1-21	Jesus and the Religious Leader
John 4:1-26, 39-42	Jesus and the Samaritan Woman
Mark 6:30-44	Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand
Luke 5:17-26	Jesus and the Paralyzed Man
Matt 22:34-40	Jesus gives the Greatest Commandment
Matt 26:17-30	Jesus Talks about His Betrayal and Covenant
Matt 26:47-57	Jesus is Arrested
Luke 23:32-56	Jesus is Crucified
Luke 24:1-35	Jesus is Resurrected
Acts 1:3-11	Jesus Ascends to Heaven
Acts 2:22-41	People respond to the Message about Jesus
Acts 2:42-47	A New Community, the Church is Formed

The Ambassador Toolbox

This booklet is part of a series of materials which together, give us a toolbox of resources we can use to make disciples. Every discipleship opportunity is different. There is no one cookie-cutter approach. However, the following resources are designed to give you a place to start.

3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide, a pamphlet outlining a diagram of circles to initiate a spiritual conversation that sets the context for the gospel.

The Invitation, a 5 week booklet intended for an unchurched person, with minimal exposure to the God of the Bible. Starting with Genesis, how does the Bible answer the fundamental questions of life. "Have you ever read for yourself what the Bible says?"

Who is Jesus? This 5 week booklet is intended for the religious person with some knowledge of the Bible, maybe grew up with some exposure to Jesus, but has never really come to understand who He is.

New Life in Christ This 5 week booklet is for the new believer. I just trusted in Christ, what happens now?

The Good News of Jesus Christ, After you have had a conversation explaining the gospel, this is a follow up booklet. "How about you read through this, and we get back together again next week and talk about it?"

Making Disciples, Series 1, Essentials for the New Believer, an 8 week study that covers the essentials for living a Christ centered life. Don't let the name fool you, it covers good reminders for any believer, no matter how long you have been saved.

Making Disciples, Series 2, Foundations of the Faith, an 8 week study that covers the doctrines of God, man, sin, and salvation. A solid understanding of these foundational topics provide stability and confidence to the believer.

Making Disciples, Series 3, Pressing on to Maturity, an 9 week study that covers the supernatural provisions of God for the believer to walk in a manner that honors Christ.

Making Disciples, Series 4, Serving the Lord, an 8 week study addressing our fundamental calling - to serve the Lord, our mission, our ministry enabled through spiritual gifts, our motivation, and the Lord's promised reward.



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