

STORIES OF HOPE: A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR MEN'S SMALL GROUPS

Do you have a spiritual curiosity to know God but don't know where to begin learning about him? Or are you a seasoned bible leader but unsure how to reach men who would never consider joining a Bible study? There's a simple tool that can be done by *anyone, anywhere and anytime*. A Discovery Group is a simple, repeatable way of inviting anyone into a discipling relationship and showing them how to connect with God through reading, living it and sharing the Bible. In a Discovery Group you will share foundational Bible stories that will help you and your group connect with God, understand his plan for your lives, and then share it. Hundreds of men have been transformed through this experience over the years. Through these stories your group will grow in relationship with God and each other and experience hope. Here's how it works:

Invite 3-5 Men –

- "Life has hard questions. I am starting a group that will read the Bible together and see what God says about life. Would you like to join me?"
- Set a time, place and means of connecting (consider video platforms for social distancing)

Gather & Connect – Ask these two questions:

- What's one thing you're thankful for today
- What's one thing you're stressed about?

Listen to God –

- Read one of the passages below. For longer passages, read it a second time. Consider a different translation.
- Re-tell it - Have everyone tell the story in their own words without looking at it.
- Discuss-
 - What does this teach about God and Jesus?
 - What does this teach about people?
 - What does this teach about how God wants us to live?

Experience it – Ask everyone-

- What do you want to do differently based on this Bible story? I will . . .
- Who can you share with this week, what God is doing in your life? Sharing makes this process able to be replicated through others.

Seven Stories of Hope:

1. Living Through a Storm	Mark 4:35-41
2. Friends for Life -	Mark 2:1-12
3. Difficult Conversations	Mark 10:17-31
4. The First Must be Last	John 13:1-17
5. A Matter of Life & Death	John 11:1-44
6. In the Trenches	Matthew 4:1-11
7. Jesus Comes to a Home	Luke 19:1