

# Discovery Group Basics

This document explains what a “Discovery Group” is, and how to facilitate one.

## What is a Discovery Group (DGs)?

One leader and one or more “Faith Beginners” who read and discuss the Bible together. It rarely grows larger than 6-8 before multiplying or evolving into a larger fellowship with different dynamics. The group can meet anywhere at any time, usually for about an hour. It is easy to reproduce because the leader can be only one step ahead of the faith beginners.

## Who can start a Discovery Group?

Any disciple, even a new believer. This works because the leader is not a teacher or “Bible-Answer-Man”. **The Bible is the teacher.** The leader simply asks a few standard questions and talks about as much as the other participants.

When questions come up that cannot be answered by the group from the passage for that day, simply put it into a “research later” category. There is easily digestible truth in most passages that is plenty challenging to apply.

## What is success?

One meeting with one person. You will gain valuable experience and the living and active Word of God will do its work. Ideally, the group will continue and grow, but if it does not, it is **still a win**.

In this meeting, you’re aiming for conversation, not a presentation. **Why?** Compare and comment on the following string of characteristics

### Conversation

Dialogue  
Participate  
Active learning  
Deeper Learning  
Relate  
Tailored

### Presentation

Monologue  
Observe  
Passive learning  
Shallower Learning  
Spectate  
General

## Steps to Start a Discovery Group.

1. Commit to trying to start a group!
2. Prayer for the names on your invite list. If you don’t have one already, pray about all the non-Christians you know and ask God who you should invite. Decide a time and place to meet and start inviting.
3. Prepare handouts of the passage you will study or identical Bibles so you can use page numbers.
4. Believe that Jesus’ authority will support you when you obey Him, and He will join you when two or more gather in His name, Matt. 28:18-20, 18:20.

# Facilitating A Discovery Group Meeting

## Four Steps

### 1) **LOOK BACK** (3-15 minutes)

Tell: Something you're thankful for since the last meeting. Give others the chance to do the same.

Ask: How did your application (I-will-statement) go?

### 2) **LOOK UP** (3 minutes)

Open in prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to teach us through His Word.

Briefly explain the context of the passage. This is usually one sentence or phrase. The section headings in most English translations are enough context.

Then, go over two ground rules for all participants:

1. Stay with the text (no cross-referencing)
2. Participate, but don't dominate.

### 3) **LOOK IN** (30-45 minutes)

Take turns reading one verse per person for several verses.

Reread again silently

Someone restate what is being said in their own words. The group can help.

Anyone can say "stop" at any time to talk about what stood out to them in the text or to comment or ask questions.

Steer the discussion toward the question: What stands out to you and why?

### 4) **LOOK FORWARD** (3-10 minutes)

Discuss possible applications. Allow each participant to tell the group any answer they have to the following:

As a result of reading this, I will seek to \_\_\_\_\_.

I'd like to invite \_\_\_\_\_ to join us.

Close with prayer