

How To conduct the 3/3rds Discovery Bible Study (with Training Tips in yellow highlight)

Pray: Ask someone to start with a prayer.

Training tip: When training and showing this for the first time. You can skip the first 1/3. After an explanation you can go right to the second 3rd.

First: LOOK BACK (1/3 of your time)

Care: Ask each person how has your personal relationship with God been this past week? Or ask what are you thankful for this week?

Training tip: Important to stay on track here. Don't get sidetracked with Aunt Betsy's ingrown toenail. An alternative question for non-Christians might be "What are you thankful for today?" If anyone is struggling, pray for him/her, and stay after to care for that person.

Check-up:

Training tip: This is where we ask, "How have you been obeying in following and fishing?" It's one of the hardest areas, as a leader, to press in on, some-times because we're not doing it. Nevertheless, it's better to just admit your struggles and press on, rather than skipping it.

Use your notes from last week and ask *each* person:

How have you obeyed what you have learned?

Who have you trained in what you have learned?

With whom have you shared your testimony or the Gospel?

Training tips:

- **Try to help people become obedient.** We ask how did it go in your obedience? Did you share? How did that go? If they can share and obey, this is wonderful, if not, we need to talk because maybe we can help. Let's find out why. Was it a problem with understanding? Opportunity? Spiritual? A heart issue? If it's understanding, or opportunity, maybe we could offer to go with them, or spend more time practicing.
- **Don't let it become legalism.** It's important we follow up because we love one another. If God shows me truth, and I faithfully give it away, He'll show me more truth. If I'm faithful in sharing what I know of God and His character, He'll show me more and become more intimate. If I'm faithful to hear and obey, He'll tell me more things. This is how God works. He'll give more truth and more understanding, and I want this for you because I love you and I want you to have this.

We want you to experience the abundant life and fullness of joy. This won't happen if you're not obeying and sharing with others. **If I fail to hold you accountable: then I'm saying I don't really care if you have an abundant life.** That's not loving, we need to hold each other accountable. This is one of the ways God uses to grow us.

Vision

Ask the group - “What is the vision for our 3/3rds group?” or in a newer group you may simply state it:

To be disciples who make disciples who make disciples and thus to see God raise up a Disciple Making Movement that will bless the people of this city, this state, this nation and the ends of the earth.

As part of the vision casting, only if time permits, read one of the following passages out loud to the group: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 9:35-38; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Acts 20:25-27

Training tip: You may also want to share something from the news, a story from the Bible, a personal story, an inspiring slogan or song to encourage one another to share Jesus with others, to start new groups, and to help others do the same.

Then: LOOK UP (1/3 of your time)

Training tip: Sometimes you have to be aware of time, because the people we’re trying to reach don’t have a lot of time. However, ideally the group will not be rushed and the facilitator should be comfortable with silence. Sometimes people are thinking and rereading the passage – don’t let the silence bother you.

First Pray audibly and ask God to teach you the passage we are getting ready to read.

Read this week's passage and Discuss (The leader decides this week’s passage):

Training tip: You don't need to be very mature to get truth from Scripture like this. The Holy Spirit will guide you. We can get better with time.

1. *What did you like about this passage?*
2. *Did you find anything difficult to understand about this passage?*

Training tip: This question is often a little confusing. Sometimes folks answer what is hard to do, although the question was originally designed to help clarify anything that was hard to understand. If you do understand the question please feel free to explain it. If you don't, no problem, say, “looks like we’re stumped. I’ll write some of the teachers in our movement and ask them.” If possible, please feel free to email us and CC the person with the question. We’re part of a network and we can support one another.

Read this week’s passage again and Discuss: (Maybe in a different translation if it’s available.)

3. *What does this passage teach about God?*
4. *What does this passage teach about people?*

Training tips:

- Standard questions you will need at various times:

“Where do you see that in the text?”

“Based on the passage we are looking at what can we clearly and obviously conclude?”

“That is nice but what does our passage say about ____?”

- Use good eye contact directly ask questions to quieter members.
- Insure everyone participates every meeting.
- Talk to disruptive members or overly talkative members outside of the group asking them to give others a chance and to be careful to keep their comments short.
- As a leader talk to the point of the passage and avoid sharing loads of details of your personal experience. If you have a testimony that the group would benefit from try to introduce it during the vision casting time. You are equipping others so let them talk and learn.
- After a few sessions begin rotating leadership of the group meeting. Early adopters will often be ready to start filling this role after 2 or 3 sessions. Do not wait until your late adopters are ready to lead to begin sharing responsibilities.
- You need to be comfortable with silence. Don't worry about it. People need time to think about the passage, maybe they're going over it in their head.
- We've often seen the middle third go too long. One way to make up time is by combining the last two questions into one: What does this passage teach you about God or about people? When the time comes to move onto the next third, then you can just cut it off and move on.

Then: LOOK FORWARD (1/3 of your time)

First - Pray audibly for the Holy Spirit to show each person how to answer the following three questions. After you pray out loud, give each person the opportunity for silent prayer. (3-5 minutes.)

5. How will you **obey** this passage?

6. Who will you **train** with this passage?

7. With whom will you **share** your testimony or the Gospel?

After praying, **ask each person** the following 3 questions and **write down their answers**:

1. Ask how will they be **obedient** to the Holy Spirit?

Training tip: You'd like the answer to be something like this “I will do this or that” – Not just a general concept – try to make a specific application that can be measured and done.

2. Ask if the Holy Spirit has placed someone on their heart that they should **train**.

3. Ask if the Holy Spirit has placed someone on their heart with whom they should **share** their testimony or the Gospel.

Training tips:

- **It's critical to spend enough time in prayer** so that the people receive this from God. So give enough time to pray – about 5 minutes. Stress that they are becoming accountable to God.
- **We ask each person 5,6 and 7.** Have everyone write down the commitments of everyone. Then, when you rotate leadership, they've all got a copy. Further, they can be praying for one another during the week.
- **Not looking for general principles, but specific actions.** "Lord how do you want ME to obey this passage?"
- **When they go to practice they can practice for any of the commitments they've made on 5,6, and 7.** Or they can practice for 2 or even all 3 of them. But you'll want to practice at least one. At minimum they can practice sharing the Gospel so they'll be ready to do that.

Practice (Never skip)

Never skip the practice because the main reason people don't do something is because they don't feel confident/competent in doing it. When you're running short on time, you usually skip – but don't even if it's only 5 minutes of time you have for it. Very often this is when people really connect and get to know one another. Another option if you're really pressed for time is to keep the group together and practice on the RAMP or one of the DMM principles like the candle, or duckling discipleship, or the rings.

In groups of two or three, practice what you have committed to do in question 5, 6 or 7. For example, role- play a difficult conversation or facing a temptation; practice teaching today's passage, or practice sharing the Gospel.

Talk with God In groups of two or three, pray for every member individually. Ask God to prepare the hearts of the people who will be hearing about Jesus this week. Ask Him to give you the strength to be obedient to your commitments.

Training Note: 2 – 3 sessions is sometimes all people need on modeling a 3/3rds group. That's it. That's all the modeling they'd need. Assist 2-3 more sessions would be plenty for your presence. For the total assist, not just 3/3rds but the whole thing: 3 months. One reason it might not be readily apparent is because he wants 6 months reproduction rate. Model/Assist time is a generation because some will die some will not reproduce. PACE really matters. The watch Process may take much longer.