

Discovery Bible Study model

CARE – just a few minutes

Establish a warm, engaging atmosphere by...

- Welcoming new people
- Praying to invite God's Holy Spirit into the gathering and ask Him to prepare your hearts to hear and respond to God
- Highlighting one or two of the ground rules (see page 11).

LOOK BACK – 1/3 of your time

Since our last time together...

- How have you experienced God? What have you learned from God, whether difficult or encouraging?
- How have you obeyed what you learned?
- Who have you trained in what you have learned?
- With whom have you shared your story or God's story?
- Cast vision by sharing some aspect of Disciples making Disciples

LOOK UP – 1/3 of your time

Read and discuss the passage...

- Ask God to teach you what he wants you to learn from the passage
- Tell the story of the passage in your own words or set up the context of the passage. Read the passage together. "Rebuild" the passage together as a group.
- Ask: What did you like or what did you find challenging about this passage?
- Read this week's passage again
- Ask: What does this say about ourselves and what does it say about God?

LOOK AHEAD – 1/3 of your time

Obey, Train, Share...

- Pray (aloud or silently, together or individually) for God to show each person in the group how to obey what they have learned
- How will you obey this passage?
- Who will you train with this passage
- With whom will you share your story or the story of God?
- Practice – In small groups role play a conversation or facing a temptation; practice teaching today's passage or sharing your testimony or sharing the Gospel
- Pray – Together or in smaller groups of 2 or 3 for each other individually - that God will give you strength to obey what you have learned

ground rules

for small group discussions

SAFE GROUP: We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares to give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

SILENCE: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement, speak truth and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally effecting the environment through your words, actions and non-verbal communications.

USE "I" STATEMENTS: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", etc.

CONFLICT: We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.