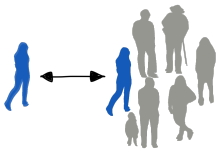
Showing Someone How to Facilitate a Discovery Group

When showing someone how to facilitate reading stories from the Bible with friends, family or co-workers using Discovery Bible Study, we use the acronym, **MAWL**.

MODEL–Demonstrate for them how to do it.
ASSIST–Help them or have them help you do it.
WATCH–Observe them to make sure they've got it.
LEAVE–Leave them to it, continuing to coach them from the outside.

You could do this by ***either*** attending the first few times, ***or*** by coaching the facilitator apart from the group, beginning before their first meeting. **If this is a group you plan to be a part of long term, you can use MAWL as a model to help the others in your group each learn to facilitate.**

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE GROUP A FEW TIMES



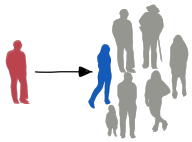
MODEL: Show them how to facilitate and give tips. Give the list of Discovery Bible Study questions to a person in the group, and have them ask question 1 to the group having each person answer. Then pass the page to the next person to ask question 2, and keep passing the paper around, having each person ask one. Alternatively, you could just have one person ask all the questions. We are modeling for the person not only how to facilitate, but how to show someone else how to facilitate. Remind them to stay within the passage when sharing about Scripture, and to be concrete and simple with their I WILL statements. You can answer too! But don't share more than anyone else in the group.

ASSIST: Help them as they do most of the work. You can again have one person ask all the questions, or pass the questions around. After question 4 (What was our story from last time and did you follow through on your I WILLS and SHARES?), have the group read through the facilitator tips. They usually are on the second page, or back of the DBS questions. Then have them move on with the Scripture questions.

WATCH: Let them facilitate the group, only interjecting if they need it. Look for times where they have difficulties and offer reminders, only when necessary. Participate only as much as the person who least participates.

LEAVE: Leave them to it, continuing to coach the main facilitator from outside the group. Once you sense they are ready to meet on their own, help them find a time. Then use the Discovery Group Coaching Questions to check in with the one or two main influencers in the group after each time they meet, offering wisdom as needed. Initially, this could take around 20 minutes, but this relationship could also grow into a significant mentoring or "discipling" relationship, as you continue to coach the person through the process.

COACHING THE FACILITATOR FROM OUTSIDE THE GROUP



You can also meet with the facilitator(s) apart from the group right from the beginning, and use MAWL as a pattern to help them learn to facilitate. Here is a suggested model of how to do it:

1. Meet with the main future facilitators (or facilitator) before their first meeting, and go through the entire first Discovery Bible study using the passage, just like they will do it later, when they meet with their group (**Model**). Start by giving them the list of questions, and have them ask each question out loud with everyone answering, including you. (**Model**). If more than one person is meeting with you, have them pass the questions back and forth, trading who gets to ask the next question.

2. When you get to the section where they are to Read, read, retell and review the passage, have them read each of the Facilitator tips, usually on page 2 (**Model/Assist**). Then, read the exact Scripture passage they will use later with their group. Have them ask the last 4 questions in turn with each of them making an "I WILL" and "SHARE", including you (**Model/Assist**).

3. After they meet with their group for the first time, connect with them in person or over the phone and ask them the *Discovery Group Coaching Questions* to see how things went, offering help and insight where needed (**Assist/Watch**).

4. Meet with them again to go through all the questions, just like in step 2, this time using the NEXT passage they will read with their group having them ask all the questions, and you giving reminders as needed (**Assist**). "Quiz" them about some of the facilitator tips (**Assist**).

5. Again, check in with them for 20 minutes after their group reads the second story together, using the *Discovery Group Coaching Questions* (**Watch**).

6. Repeat this process (walk through the passage before they meet with their group) as many times as you sense they need, using the Discovery Group Coaching Questions to debrief afterward. Once it seems like they have the process down, simply continue to check in with them after each of their meetings using the *Discovery Group Coaching questions* (**Watch/Leave**).

Notice, you are not abandoning them, but rather continuing to coach and disciple them from outside the group. Pay close attention to what you see them learning, how their attitude toward God is changing, and who else in or outside the group is being impacted. If people in the group are increasingly doing their I WILLS, sharing, putting what they read into practice and becoming open to Jesus, it may be time to share the gospel (see the "Commitment to Christ" Scripture set). If people outside the group are becoming interested, you can help them repeat the process, and help the new interested parties begin a group!