

# Discovery Bible Template & Tips

**Connection** (It's important to ask people to be brief)

- What's something you're celebrating—something good that happened or is about to happen?
- What is something or a situation that is causing you stress?

(The above questions can be as simple as “Let's begin by sharing roses and thorns” or tailored to the passage or an upcoming holiday.)

**Fast Facts:** This should contain whatever you feel would be helpful to someone who knows little or nothing about the Bible. Things such as:

- Textual context (What comes before the passage in the story or epistle?)
- Historical and cultural context: Definitions of groups of people such as the Pharisees or the Samaritans, cultural customs, explanations of related Old Testament passages, significant Greek or Hebrew language translations, etc.
- Ideally, this should take no longer than 3 minutes to read.

## First Reading

### Summarize the Passage

- Anyone willing to summarize the passage (You can also ask questions or have people fill in the blanks as you read key passages)

**Second Reading** (If possible, have someone of a different gender read a different translation the second time)

**A Few Reminders** (Our microchurch leaders read these every week)

- Speak in sentences not paragraphs (we want to hear from everyone)
- Try to stick with commenting on the passage. (No sermons:-)
- Try to hear what God is saying to you and for you.
- Resist “fixing” others. Trust God to speak to and help them directly from His word.

**4 Questions** (Use a dry erase board with 3 columns—”1) God/Jesus/The Kingdom; 2)

Humanity/You/Me/Us; 3) To Do/Obey” —and jot down the answers in each)

1. What does this teach us about God/Jesus and the Kingdom of Jesus? (Begin statements with “He is...”)
2. What does this teach us about you/us/humanity? (Begin statements with “I am” or “we are”)

(Pray through the above lists, pausing at the end for a few minutes of silence.

Invite Jesus to reveal something you can do as a result of what we've learned)

3. If this is true, what is one thing you can do or a spiritual practice you lean into during the coming week?
4. Can you think of someone who would benefit from what you've learned today? And/Or Is there someone you believe would benefit from being a part of this group? When will you talk with them?

(For suggested scriptures to use for DBS, go to <https://www.kcunderground.org/dbs-process> and scroll to the bottom)

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1. What do you do when someone says something that doesn't quite ring true? Facilitators are encouraged to ask follow up questions such as:
  - Can you unpack that a little more?
  - Where do you see that in this passage?
  - In many instances, there is little harm that comes from a wayward comment. We've found that the Holy Spirit will guide others to bring out the truth of a passage. Since the ultimate goal is to obedience to the passage, observations that are a little off tend to become irrelevant.
  - That being said, there are times when elders or shepherds may need to gently call for a pause to challenge an answer that isn't true. If it appears that someone is becoming offended or wants to debate their point, encourage the discussion to continue afterwards or over coffee at another time. Gentleness is key.
  - To do this well, it can be helpful for the leaders to determine in advance what kinds of statements should be challenged. For our community, we have given permission to the elders and shepherds to respond as led by the Holy Spirit. Two areas in which we are especially responsive:
    - Statements that contradict or misrepresent God's nature and character—e.g. When someone leans too far towards a God who doesn't judge sin or towards a God who burns with anger towards mankind.
    - Any statement that endorses sin of any kind.
2. When praying through the two lists (God/Jesus and Humanity/Us), have either the facilitator or someone else pray through each statement that people have given. For example (See Matthew 11:25-30):
  - God/Jesus/Kingdom
    - We praise you, Jesus, for being gentle and humble.
    - We thank you for the promise of rest.
    - We thank you for being a God who desires to reveal yourself to us. That it pleases you.
    - We thank you for the promise of an easy yoke and a light burden.
  - Humanity/Us
    - If there's anyone here who feels weary and burdened, if that's you, raise your hand. Jesus, for those who raised their hands and for everyone who didn't, we accept your invitation—we come to you to receive rest for our weary and burdened souls.
    - Jesus, we desire to learn from you. Teach us your ways. We accept your yoke, yielding to your will.
3. After praying through the lists, stop and pause, saying something to the effect, "We believe Jesus speaks to us. This is rarely an audible word but often a still small, inner voice or impression. Learning to hear what Jesus is saying and obeying Him is the simplest definition of what it is to be His disciple. We are going to pause for about 60 seconds and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us. Holy Spirit, based upon the passage we've discussed today, we ask that you would speak to us and reveal one thing each of us can do or a spiritual practice to lean into during the coming week."