

## Discovery Bible Study Group (Cheat Sheet)

### Review (\* is essential)

- \*What are you thankful for this week?  
 \*What problems do you have this week?  
 (Optional prayer)
- { As the group becomes more comfortable together, you can add prayer, especially for these things

Is there any way this group can help you?

\*Who did you share last week’s passage with?

\*Did you do anything different since our last meeting?

Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

### Discover

- \*Have group read Scripture out loud while people follow along in their Bibles. (Can be by paragraphs, 3 verses, whatever you prefer)
  - (Optional) You can ask about words they don’t recognize and have THE GROUP help them.
- Have someone else read the same passage out loud while the group listens. (Bible closed)
- \*Have different people in the group retell the passage one paragraph at a time in their own words. Allow the group to add to or ask questions of the retelling.
- \* Use discovery questions to encourage the group to engage the passage. Choose best questions based on passage or suggest others based on context
  - What happens in this passage?
  - Did anything in this passage capture your attention?
  - What did you like about this passage?
  - Did anything bother you? Why?
  - What does this passage tell us about God?
  - What does this passage tell us about people?
  - What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

### Obey

\* Challenge the group to obey God’s Word. Have each person share what they are going to do to obey the passage over the next week.

- If this passage is true how does this passage change how you see God?
- If this passage is true how does this passage change how you treat others?
- If this passage is true how does this passage change how you live? This week?
- What would you like to do differently this week to make you a better person or to make the world a better place? Based on this passage or not?
- What other questions do you have about this passage?

### Share

\* Do you know anyone you can share this story with?

\* Have the group identify people in need and commit to meeting those needs.

Do you know anyone who needs help? What can we do to help them?

### Close in prayer

## 10 Basic “Rules” for Starting/ Leading a Discovery Study Group (Cheat Sheet)

### Most important “MUST DO” level things... (Read to the group when there is a new person)

- Everyone speak in sentences not paragraphs (i.e. no preaching or dominating)
- No Bible surfing - don’t jump around to many passages — focus on the passage that you are studying
- Focus on what the passage says and its’ implications not what outsiders say about the passage.
- Don’t be threatened by silence. People need time to understand the passage and then formulate their thoughts, especially if they are working in a language that is not their primary one and have to translate what they want to say after they think it. Also, people always have the right to say “pass” if the don’t feel comfortable doing something
- The leader is just a facilitator not a teacher. The initiator (outsider helping to start the group) is just a coach on the sidelines. Let leaders WITHIN THE GROUP establish themselves by not jumping in all the time to lead.

### Other Important things... (Tips for the group leader)

- Manage the time to allow yourself to follow the full Discovery Group format as much as possible but still use your judgment. Especially, *try to do as many of the early and later questions as possible*. They are important. Make sure you get enough time for the “Obey” section. “The saying the passage in your words” section is also important. **Not everyone has to answer every question** but the obey questions are very important. **Emphasize obedience and sharing with others what is learned** by tracking commitments made by members in these sections. (if we obey out of love for Jesus in His Grace we will walk with Him)
- When someone asks a difficult question about the passage...
  - The first thing to ask is, *“What can we find in this text that will help us answer that question?”*
  - Even if you can answer the question easily; ask the group for help... One goal is to help the group see that “even they” can understand the Bible. You may have to help with context questions or introduce the context of the passage but be careful ...
  - If you can answer the question but it is not the topic of the passage, say, *“I’d love to go deeper about this after the group or some other time...”* If it is a genuine question, they will make time afterwards or later. If not, then it probably wasn’t too important for them. If you don’t know the answer and no one else does, say, *“We will look up passages that relate to your question and we can do a discovery study on them later.”*
- When you think the discussion is going too far off the passage, or the group is following a “rabbit trail” a discussion about a secondary topic only slightly related to the passage, no matter how good, that doesn’t help discover this passage (be careful you are not the one demanding such discussion):
  - Make the question **“Where do we find that in this passage?”** a regular group saying.
  - If all else fails, suggest the group talk about it after the group meeting because, *“The goal for today is focusing on discovering what THIS passage has to say.”*
- When you think someone is bringing an “odd” interpretation:
  - Ask the group if they see the same thing? You will see this especially during the “your words” section. Build a culture of group self-correction. If we believe that God, the Holy Spirit is there when the Bible teaches, He will correct through the people there if you let Him.
  - Again, make the question, **“Where do we find that in the passage?”** a regular group saying. Help the group discover that the scripture can stand on its own. Remember too there will be other studies where the understanding of the group will balance itself out if the passage seems to teach something extreme.
  - Again, if all else fails, suggest that you and the person or even the whole group talk about it after the regular meeting because the goal for today is focusing on discovering THIS passage.
- If people are having a hard time saying what they want to do differently after reading the passage (Obey section), you can introduce/remind them that they might want to remember SPECK to help them
  - Sin to confess/repent of, Promise or praise to embrace, Example to follow or not to follow, Command to obey, or Knowledge to internalize

**Note:** Many of the “Obey” questions are phrased, “If it is true” so that even people who don’t believe the passage is true can be a part of the exercise without getting stuck in a long discussion about the truth of the Bible. If you know the people all believe in the truth of the Bible, you might change it to “since it is true.”

## Discovery Bible Study Passages – Base Passages

This list of passage are based on the “Discovering God,” “Discovering Obedience,” “Discovering Multiplying Community,”<sup>1</sup> and “Discovering Leadership” sequence of studies that were developed by David Watson<sup>1</sup>. Remember, for each study, you want to only focus on one passage and discover what God wants you to see, understand, share and obey from it.

Because in the context of international students we don’t have 2 years of weekly study to work with students, in section 1, “Discovering God,” it is best to focus on making sure the student gets the big picture within a semester. So it would be best to take both passages from the God creates section, at least the first two passages of the Man’s fall section and then pick selected passages as needed and as time allows from the God Redeems section. You may have repeat people from the previous semester and so you might add variety by choosing different passage every semester. This is not preferable as it is best to have closed groups with existing friends and family but that is not always possible.

It is important to note that you can add or remove passages as you think is necessary based on the things you hear over the course of the meeting. For example: if your group is struggling with issues of drinking too much and partying, you might want to add a discovery study on Ephesians 5:1-20. Or perhaps you have some couples who are struggling with their marriage relationship; you might go into Ephesians 5:21-33. The verses below are more guidelines than a set discipleship curriculum. But remember, let the students discover what the Bible and God says about the topic.

### Study 1 - Passages to Start off with (Discover God)

**Key:** \* Both Tracks \*\* A track, \*\*\* B track, # Choose 1 of 4 if necessary

#### **God Created**

\*God Creates - Genesis 1:1-25

\*God Creates Man and Woman - Genesis 2:4-24

#### **Man’s Fall**

\*Man and Woman Eat the Fruit - Genesis 3:1-13

\*God’s Curses - Genesis 3:14-24

God Regrets His Creation - Genesis 6:5-8

#### **Redemption Story**

\*\*God Saves Noah and His Family - Genesis 6:9-22, 7:6-12, 7:18-24, 8:18-9:3, 9:12-15

\*\*God’s Covenant with Abram - Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-8

\*\*Abraham Gives Son as an Offering – Genesis 21:1-7, 22:1-19

God Spares His People - Exodus 12:1-28

\*\*\*The Commands of God - Exodus 20:1-21

\*\*\*The Sin Offering - Leviticus 4:1-35

\*God’s Righteous Servant - Isaiah 53

\*\*Jesus is Born - Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20

\*\*\*Jesus is Baptized - Matthew 3; John 1:29-34

Jesus is Tested - Matthew 4:1-11

\*Jesus and the Religious Leader - John 3:1-21

\*Jesus and the Samaritan Woman - John 4:1-26, 39-42

#Jesus and the Paralyzed Man - Luke 5:17-26

#Jesus Calms the Storm - Mark 4:35-41

#Jesus and the Man with Evil Spirits - Mark 5:1-20

#Jesus Raises a Man from the Dead - John 11:1-44

\*Jesus Talks about His Betrayal and the Covenant - Matthew 26:17-30

Jesus is Betrayed and Faces Trial - John 18:1-19:16

\*Jesus is Crucified - Luke 23:32-56

\*Jesus is Resurrected - Luke 24:1-35

Jesus Appears to the Disciples and Ascends to Heaven - Luke 24:36-53

\*Summary: A Child of God – John 1:1-18 (IMPORTANT)

### Study 2 - Discovering Obedience Based Discipleship

Luke 4:1-13 Disciples use Scripture to overcome temptation.

Luke 5:1-11 Disciples leave everything to follow Jesus.

John 4:28-30 Disciples introduce others to Jesus.

Acts 17:16-34 Disciples are wise and sincere when they relate with unbelievers.

Acts 4:23-31 Believers will be persecuted just and Jesus was persecuted.

Acts 21:1-14 Disciples shouldn’t be afraid to die as Jesus did.

Acts 18:1-11 God helps disciples endure persecution.

Luke 15:11-32 Disciples reconcile broken relationships.

Mark 7:14-23 Evil begins in the heart and eventually leads to action.

Matthew 19:1-12 Marriage is a lifetime commitment.

Matthew 5:33-37 Disciples keep their word.

Genesis 1:1-25 Disciples do not retaliate when people hurt them.

Matthew 5:43-48 Disciples love their enemies.

Luke 18:9-14 Disciples humble themselves before God.

Luke 15:11-24 Disciples look to God as their Father.

Matthew 26:39-42 Disciples must surrender their will to God’s will.

Matthew 18:21-35 Disciples forgive others as the Lord forgives them.

#### **For Further Study - The Commands of Christ (many verses)**

#### **For Further Study - Acts and the Epistles (Many verses)**

### Study 3 - Discovering Reproducing Community

Matthew 22:24-40 Love and Obedience

Deuteronomy 6:1-6 Love and Obedience

John 14:15-26 Love and Obedience

Matthew 28:16-20 The Great Commission

### **Study 3 - Discovering Reproducing Community (cont.)**

John 12:20-33 Draw People to Christ

John 20:21 Draw People to Christ

Philippians 2:1-11 Draw People to Christ

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 Draw People to Christ

Acts 10:9-48 Overcoming Barriers - Part 1

Acts 1:8 Overcoming Barriers - Part 1

Matthew 28:18-20 Overcoming Barriers - Part 2

Acts 17:15-34 Overcoming Barriers - Part 2

Mark 16:15-16 Overcoming Barriers - Part 3

Acts 28:1-10 Overcoming Barriers - Part 3

Luke 24:45-49 Overcoming Barriers - Part 4

Luke 24:13-27 Overcoming Barriers - Part 4

John 20:21 Overcoming Barriers - Part 5

Acts 13:1-4 Overcoming Barriers - Part 5

John 18:15-27 Overcoming Barriers - Part 6

John 21:15-19 Overcoming Barriers - Part 6

Ephesians 6:10-18 Spiritual Warfare - Part 1

2 Chronicles 20:1-30 Spiritual Warfare - Part 2

Exodus 17:8-16 Spiritual Warfare - Part 3

Matthew 24:9-14 Spiritual Warfare - Part 4

1 Corinthians 4:1-17 Imitate Christ

1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1 Imitate Christ

Luke 9:1-6 Person of Peace

Luke 10:1-20 Person of Peace

Matthew 10:5-20 Appropriate Evangelism

Acts 16:11-15 Appropriate Evangelism

Matthew 28:19-20 Spiritual Community

1 Corinthians 12:12-20 Spiritual Community

Matthew 16:13-21 Spiritual Community

Acts 2:41-47 Spiritual Community

Ezekiel 34 Leadership - Part 1

1 Peter 5:1-11 Leadership - Part 2

Matthew 23:1-39 Leadership - Part 3

1 Chronicles 16:7-36 Functions of Church

### Study 4 - Discovering Leadership

Matthew 4:18-25 Leaders Call Others to Follow Christ

Matthew 5:1-16 Leaders Teach Attitudes God Blesses

Matthew 6:33-34 Leaders Teach Attitudes God Blesses

Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18 Leaders Seek to Please God

Matthew 6:19-34 Leaders Serve God

Matthew 7:1-6 Leaders Judge Righteously

Matthew 18:15-20 Leaders Judge Righteously

Matthew 7:7-12 Leaders Seek God

Matthew 7:21-29 Leaders Obey God

Matthew 9:9-13 Leaders Care for Outcasts and Sinners

Matthew 9:35-38 Leaders Teach, Preach, and Heal

Matthew 10:1-16 Leaders Send People Out

Matthew 10:16-31 Leaders Prepare for Persecution

Matthew 11:25-30 Leaders Offer Rest to the Weary

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Leaders Teach About the Kingdom

Matthew 16:13-28 Leaders Accept the Cost

Matthew 17:1-13 Leaders Listen to Jesus

Matthew 17:14-21 Leaders Teach About Faith

Matthew 18:15-35 Leaders Deal with Sin

Matthew 19:3-9 Leaders Honor Marriage

Matthew 20:20-28 Leaders are Servants

### **Study 4 - Leadership (cont.)**

Matthew 20:29-34 Leaders Meet Needs Because of their Compassion

Matthew 25:14-30 Leaders Invest Faithfully

Matthew 25:31-46 Leaders Serve Those in Need

Matthew 28:16-20 Leaders Teach Others to Obey