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DISCOVERY

BIBLE EXPERIENCE





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How do I use this resource?

This tool is meant to offer support, suggestions, and ideas, drawing from The Discovery Bible Study method of exploring Scripture. Some will use it as a supplement and some will use it as a guide. The intention is for it to be a resource for the journey as you disciple someone or a group of people in the life and way of Jesus.

However, it must be clearly understood that the Holy Spirit is the True Guide in this process. He is the One who will give instructions regarding what needs to be said and done.

Be in constant prayer for guidance.

This booklet is designed for a **discipleship process of 26 weeks** (about 6 months). It may take longer depending on how many weeks are postponed or carried over to the next week.

We believe intentionally investing in people in this way for 6 months will give them a firm foundation of knowledge and experience.

Commit to each other for 26 weeks.

The first 4 weeks are primarily discussion to lay the foundation of our Identity as followers and people of God. From the beginning the focus is on Jesus, and why humanity needs Him.

The next 18 weeks alternate between times of discussion and times of practicing what we've been learning. Imitating Jesus means **doing, not just talking**. So this segment of the process includes 9 weeks of going out and experiencing what the disciples of Jesus would have experienced – or at least something similar given our context and culture. Each of those weeks includes 4 options for activities that are designed to teach by example.

The last 4 weeks are primarily discussion again, covering the themes of Jesus' death and resurrection and eternity.

The passages and themes covered through the whole journey are as follows:

- 1...Genesis 1:26-31, Genesis 2:7-25 > Creation / Identity
- 2...Genesis 3:1-13 > Betrayal / Sin
- 3...Genesis 4:1-12 > The Plan Of Evil
- 4...Isaiah 9:2-7, Matthew 1:18-25 > The Plan Of Salvation
- 5-6.....Matthew 3:1-17 > Jesus is Baptized
- 7-8.....Matthew 4:1-11 > Jesus Goes to War
- 9-10.....Luke 5:1-11 > Jesus Invites Disciples
- 11-12....Mark 1:32-39 > Jesus Receives Direction
- 13-14....John 5:1-15 > Jesus Heals & Delivers
- 15-16....Matthew 14:22-33 > Jesus Walks on Water
- 17-18....Matthew 17: 1-8 > Jesus is Transfigured
- 19-20....Luke 10:1-11 > Jesus Sends Disciples
- 21-22....John 13:1-17 > Jesus Washes Feet
- 23...Matthew 26:26-30 > Jesus is the New Passover
- 24...Luke 23:32-56 > Jesus is Crucified
- 25...Luke 24:1-35 > Jesus Conquers Death
- 26...Revelation 21:1-5, 22:12-17 > Eternity

Although each week covers a certain theme, there are a couple of “Mega-themes” that run through the whole process. They are ***discovering our identity in Christ, imitating His life, and fulfilling His mission for us***

Love God, love people, give life.

Remember, this is just a guide. What your journey of discipleship actually looks like is up to you and the Holy Spirit.

Most of your times together will follow a “*Discussion Pattern*” or an “*Activity Pattern*”. These are designed to get people into a familiar rhythm of learning and practice that they can use themselves for years to come, as well as pass on easily to other people.

DISCUSSION PATTERN:

Connect – This discovery process is **highly relational**. So each time should begin with talking about life and what has happened since last week. Whatever is shared, make sure you pray for each other, and ensure confidentiality.

Model the instinct to pray about everything.

Review – This part helps you **bring everything forward**. It’s important to build in some appropriate repetition into teaching – that’s what review can do. Some accountability is also built in here by talking about how people followed through from last time.

Read – The Discovery Bible Experience covers key passages of Scripture. These are foundational. This step helps people to read it and learn from it for themselves. Summarizing it also helps it to sink in better and **make sense of it**. You may want to read the passage several times from different versions.

Think – In this segment we are trying to develop a common pattern for thinking through any passage we read by asking familiar questions and discussing what it says about God and ourselves.

As you will see, the nature of your times together are **informal and participatory** rather than lecture style. This is because we believe the Holy Spirit can speak through anyone, at any time, about anything. One of the main goals of discipleship is to model and teach people how to **hear the voice of Jesus** for themselves.

We encourage you to be prepared by reading and thinking through the sessions ahead of time. The Holy Spirit will guide you in the conversation and bring various responses and topics to the surface, so allow it to go where He wants it to go. You will need to pray for this, and believe He will do it.

Trust Jesus to speak to you, and speak through you.

Respond – This segment is the **action and application** phase. It is critical to act on what we are learning. We first need to be clear about what the Lord has said to us, then commit to following through. Another step that helps to deepen the Word from the Lord is to tell someone about it within a few days.

ACTIVITY PATTERN:

The “Connect” and “Review” steps are the same as the Discussion Pattern. The difference here is what you do to “Follow”.

Follow – When you get to week 5, you begin alternating weeks of information and application. **Each of the activities listed come from Jesus’ example.** They have been “translated” into our context today, but still carry the profound principle of “Come, follow me.”.

You are encouraged to do one or more of these activities at a time, or come up with your own ideas for activities. Sometimes one person may be “doing” and the other one “observing” until they feel confident to do it themselves. The important thing is to **follow Jesus by doing what He did.** (1 John 2:6)

The Lord bless you as you follow Jesus into people’s lives and begin this discipleship process. May Jesus empower you to love God, love the people He has given you, and give life like He did.

Discussion Pattern

1) CONNECT

- a) What highs and lows have you had this week?
- b) What should we pray about right now?

2) REVIEW

- a) What did we learn last week?
- b) Did you do anything about it this week?

3) READ

- a) Designated passage of Scripture for the week
- b) Someone summarize the passage.

4) THINK

- a) What does it tell us about God?
- b) What does it tell us about ourselves?

5) RESPOND

- a) What will you take away from this passage?
- b) What will you do about it this week?
- c) Who will you share this with?

Activity Pattern

1) CONNECT

- a) What highs and lows have you had this week?
- b) What should we pray about right now?

2) REVIEW

- a) What did we learn last week?
- b) Did you do anything about it this week?

3) FOLLOW

Select one or more of the suggestions for activities that coincide with the previous week's discussion – and do it.

Weekly Plan

WEEK 5 - Discussion
Matthew 3:1-17 > Jesus is Baptized

WEEK 6 - Activity

Jesus was baptized, and He baptized others. Have a time of confession and repentance. If someone wants to be baptized, find some water and do it. (John 3:22-30)

Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire. Pray for each other to be filled with the Holy Spirit and truth, with the fruit of the Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit. (Mark 1:8)

Jesus pleased the Father. The sons and daughters of God are a pleasure to Him. Go to a coffee shop and ask the Lord to show you someone who needs a word of encouragement like this. (Matt.16:13-20)

Jesus respected and spoke well of John the Baptist. Talk about the people who are making a difference for Christ in the world around you – pray for them. (Matt.11:7-15)

Notes:

Weekly Plan

☐ WEEK 7 - Discussion
Matthew 4:1-11 > Jesus Goes to War

WEEK 8 – Activity

☐ Jesus warned the disciples about temptation. He told them to “keep watch”. Take some time for each person to confess times they have denied Jesus. Repent and pray for strength and courage for each other. (Luke 22:54-62)

☐ Jesus went places sometimes to intentionally face wickedness. Go to a place where deception lives freely and pray for Jesus’ light to expose the darkness, so some will be delivered. (Matthew 8:28-34)

☐ Jesus faced Satan himself in the wilderness and fought off temptation. Watch a good video of the temptation of Jesus and discuss how Jesus stood strong and defeated Satan. (Matthew 4:1-11)

☐ Jesus comes to us through His Spirit when we are tempted and warns us of sin, just as God came to Cain to warn him. Talk through times you were tempted this week. Where was Jesus? What was He saying? Did you resist? What could you have done? (Mark 14:27-38)

Notes:

Weekly Plan

WEEK 9 - Discussion
Luke 5:1-11 > Jesus Invites Disciples

WEEK 10 – Activity

Jesus constantly reminded the disciples who they were and who made them. Go to a local court house where judgements on people are made and declare together the “Statements of Truth” from the Seven Steps to Freedom by Neil Anderson. (John 14:15-27)

Jesus prayed for His disciples, including us. Walk around a park, a mall, or your neighbourhood and pray for more workers and disciples of Jesus from the people you see. (Luke 10:1-2)

Jesus invited people to come with Him and follow Him. He showed us how to make disciples. Have a meal together, then think and pray for people that need to be discipled from the relationships you already have. Begin taking them through this process. (Matt. 4:18-22)

Following Jesus was exhausting. The disciples paid a price to follow Him. Do something in Jesus’ name that will cost each of you something – time, money, energy, sleep, etc. (Mark 12:33-34, 41-44)

Notes:

Weekly Plan

WEEK 11 - Discussion
Mark 1:32-39 > Jesus Receives Direction

WEEK 12 – Activity

Jesus only did what the Father showed Him. Practice listening prayer – just listen for a few minutes and ask people what God showed them or said to them through their thoughts (images, words, instructions, people’s faces, etc). (John 10:22-39)

Jesus always knew what to do and say because He listened to the Holy Spirit. Go to a public place and see if Jesus gives you a word for someone, or simply pray together for various people around you. (John 8:31-47)

Jesus intentionally took time away from routine to be with God the Father and receive direction from Him. Go for a walk/hike together and discuss what has been happening in your life – listen for Jesus to speak. (Mark 6:31-32)

Jesus had a relationship with the Father based on love, listening, and obedience. There was nothing more important. Plan a night (or partial night) of prayer. It may include worship, confession, thanksgiving, etc. (Luke 6:12)

Notes:

Weekly Plan

WEEK 13 - Discussion
John 5:1-15 > Jesus Heals & Delivers

WEEK 14 – Activity

Jesus was willing to approach people and ask them what they needed. Go to a friend, a neighbour, or a hospital waiting room and offer to pray for someone and their need. (John 10:1-21)

Jesus intentionally reached out to people who felt hopeless. Go together and find a group of homeless friends, or an immigrant family, and take them out for a meal. Explain how they are important to God, and how He can heal their lives in many ways. (Luke 19:1-10)

Jesus engaged in conversations with people about life and spiritual things. Go to a public place and start a conversation with someone about spiritual life, and share your testimony about your new life in Christ. Offer to pray for them. (Luke 15:1-7)

Jesus offered healing to people in every way – physical, mental, emotional, spiritual. Interview a homecare worker or nurse who follows Jesus, and talk about how they care for people. (John 10:1-21)

Notes:

Weekly Plan

WEEK 15 - Discussion
Matthew 14:22-33 > Jesus Walks on Water

WEEK 16 – Activity

Jesus rewards real faith that is willing to take risks. He knows we struggle with that. Go to a pub or coffee shop and have an open conversation about the questions and struggles each of you have about your faith. (Matt. 17:20)

Jesus asks us to trust him and have faith as a child. We demonstrate this by what we ask for. Agree together on something that would stretch your faith and trust God like a child for the answer. Pray regularly about it until you know or see the Lord's response. (Mark 10:13-16)

Jesus told the disciples to keep their eyes on Him and don't doubt. Spend some time focused only on Jesus – praise Him, thank Him, see Him, and worship. (Luke 17:6)

Jesus brought light and calm to many of the places He went. He made the place better. Go to a public place and pray for the light of the kingdom to come to that place because you are there and Jesus is in you. Ask Jesus if there is something He wants you to do to bring light to the people. (Matthew 5:13-16)

Notes:

Weekly Plan

☐ WEEK 17 - Discussion
Matthew 17: 1-8 > Jesus is Transfigured

WEEK 18 – Activity

☐ Jesus knows people, and He wants people to know Him. He revealed His character and heart to people. Go to a quiet place and discuss the character of Jesus you see in each other. (John 1:43-51)

☐ Jesus wanted people to know His story, and encouraged people to tell their story as well. Arrange for someone to come and give their testimony of life transformation and being “born again”. (John 1:1-13)

☐ Jesus revealed Himself to many people in His life-time in many ways. Go to a park or mall and do a short survey – asking people if they believe they have ever seen God. Use this to start a conversation. (John 1:40-41)

☐ Jesus took his followers to a quiet place on the hill to show them His glory. God spoke to them. Go for a walk or hike, or go camping for a night and have a conversation about how God speaks and the power of His voice and word. Ask Jesus for a new revelation of His glory. (John 10:25-30)

Notes:

Weekly Plan

WEEK 19 - Discussion
Luke 10:1-11 > Jesus Sends Disciples

WEEK 20 – Activity

- Jesus spent a lot of time with sinners and broken people, showing them love and giving them hope, and they responded well to Him. Go to a place where lost people bound in sin hang out – watch, pray, and do what Jesus says. (Luke 7:36-50)
- Jesus sent His disciples to share the Gospel. This is what disciples do. Go to a coffee shop and discuss the question, “What makes someone a disciple of Jesus?”. Be prepared to act on the answers you come up with. (Matt. 10:1)
- Jesus went to neighbouring towns to reach out to people. He sent His disciples to do the same. Go to a different town or region, pray over it, and look for “people of peace” to share the Gospel with. (John 4:9-10)
- Jesus sent His disciples to homes. Ask a family (Christian or non-Christian) if you can come over and pray for them. Bring peace to them. Share testimonies. Bless their children, their home, and their lives in Jesus name. (Luke 22:31-34)

Notes:

Weekly Plan

☐ WEEK 21 - Discussion
John 13:1-17 > Jesus Washes Feet

WEEK 22 – Activity

☐ Jesus did an unusual thing for a Rabbi to do. He demonstrated unusual humility and love. Talk about what he did by washing the disciple's feet, and why He did it. Then wash each other's feet as Jesus modeled it. (John 14:21-23)

☐ Jesus served others in public as well as in private. Go to a public place and do something good for someone without them knowing it was you – discuss afterwards. (Luke 10:25-37)

☐ Jesus modeled servanthood, and spoke about the value of others. Go to a senior's home or hospice and ask people to share their story. Empathize with them and ask how you can pray for them. (John 11:33-35)

☐ Jesus affirmed His disciples when He served and ate with them. Plan a meal together where you share communion, or even the Passover Seder meal like Jesus and the disciples, and affirm each other and your commitment to Jesus. (Luke 9:16-20)

Notes:

Our Identity in Christ

I AM ACCEPTED... John 1:12 I am God's child. John 15:15 As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 I have been justified (declared righteous). 1 Corinthians 6:17 I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 I have been bought with a price and I belong to God. 1 Corinthians 12:27 I am a member of Christ's body. Ephesians 1:3-8 I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child. Colossians 1:13-14 I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. Colossians 2:9-10 I am complete in Christ. Hebrews 4:14-16 I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

I AM SECURE... Romans 8:1-2 I am free from condemnation. Romans 8:28 I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances. Romans 8:31-39 I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 I have been established, anointed and sealed by God. Colossians 3:1-4 I am hidden with Christ in God. Philippians 1:6 I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me. Philippians 3:20 I am a citizen of heaven. 2 Timothy 1:7 I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. 1 John 5:18 I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I AM SIGNIFICANT... John 15:5 I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life. John 15:16 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. 1 Corinthians 3:16 I am God's temple. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 I am a minister of reconciliation for God. Ephesians 2:6 I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm. Ephesians 2:10 I am God's workmanship. Ephesians 3:12 I may approach God with freedom and confidence. Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

~originally compiled by Neil Anderson



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