
DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY / 3Thirds METHOD FOR PARENTS

Studying the Bible as a family isn't just a good idea. It is integral to your child becoming a resilient disciple. The Discovery Bible Study (DBS) or 3Thirds method of studying is easy to learn, easy to do, and easy to lead. This resource will allow you to lead your family effectively and efficiently as you open, read, and apply the Scriptures together.

3Thirds Script

Ask someone to start with prayer.

LOOK BACK (1/3 of your time)

Care

Ask each person:

How has your personal relationship with God been this past week?
- or - *What are you thankful for this week?*

Check-Up

Use your notes from last week and ask each person:

How have you obeyed what you have learned?
Who have you trained in what you have learned?
With whom have you shared your testimony or the Gospel?

Vision

Ask the group:

What is the vision for our 3Thirds group? (in a newer group, simply state it):

To make disciples who make disciples who make disciples and thus see God raise up a disciple making movement that will bless the people of this city, this state, this nation and to the ends of the earth.

As part of the vision casting, only if time permits, read one of the following passages out loud to the group:

- *Matthew 28:18-20*
- *Acts 1:8*
- *2 Timothy 2:2*

- *Matthew 9:35-38*
- *1 Corinthians 9:19-23*
- *Acts 20:25-27*

LOOK UP (1/3 of your time)

Pray audibly and ask God to teach you the passage you are getting ready to read. Read this week's passage, chosen by the leader, and discuss:

1. *What did you like about this passage?*
2. *Did you find anything difficult to understand about this passage?*

Read this week's passage again and discuss:

3. *What does this passage teach about God?*
4. *What does this passage teach about people?*

LOOK FORWARD (1/3 of your time)

Pray audibly for the Holy Spirit to show each person how they might obey the passage, who they might train, and with whom they might share their testimony or the gospel. After you pray out loud, give each person the opportunity for silent prayer (3-5 minutes).

After praying, ask each person the following questions and write down their answers:

1. *How will you be obedient to the Holy Spirit?*
2. *Has the Holy Spirit placed someone on your heart that you should train?*
3. *Has the Holy Spirit placed someone on your heart with whom you should share your testimony or the Gospel?*

Practice (Never skip) - in groups of two or three, practice what you have committed to do in the above questions. For example, role-play a difficult conversation or facing a temptation, practice teaching today's passage, or practice sharing the Gospel.

Talk with God in groups of two or three, pray for every member individually. Ask God to prepare the hearts of the people who will be hearing about Jesus this week. Ask Him to give you the strength to be obedient to your commitments.

3Thirds Script with Training Tips

Ask someone to start with prayer.

LOOK BACK (1/3 of your time)

TRAINING TIP: When training and sharing this for the first time, you may skip the first third. After an explanation you can go right to the second third, the Look Up.

Care

Ask each person:

How has your personal relationship with God been this past week?
- or - *What are you thankful for this week?*

TRAINING TIP: It is important to stay on track. Do not get sidetracked with counseling, personal problems or detailed storytelling. An alternative question for non-Christians might be “*What are you thankful for today?*” If anyone is struggling, pray for him/her, and stay after to care for that person.

Check-Up

Use your notes from last week and ask each person:

How have you obeyed what you have learned?
Who have you trained in what you have learned?
With whom have you shared your testimony or the Gospel?

TRAINING TIP: This is where you ask, “*How have you been obeying in following and fishing?*” It’s one of the hardest areas, as a leader, to press in on sometimes because you may not be doing it. Nevertheless, it’s better to just admit your struggles and press on, rather than skipping it.

TRAINING TIPS:

- **Try to help people become obedient.** We ask how they did in their obedience steps, and if they fulfilled the previous week’s commitments. If they are sharing and obeying, that is wonderful. If not, I need to discuss with them because I may be able to help. Find

out why they're struggling. Was it a problem with understanding? Opportunity? Spiritual? A heart issue? If it's understanding, or an opportunity, maybe I could offer to go with them, or spend more time practicing.

- **Don't let it become legalism.** It's important to follow up because we love one another. If God shows me truth, and I faithfully give it away, He'll show me more truth. If I'm faithful in sharing what I know of God and His character, He'll show me more and become more intimate. If I'm faithful to hear and obey, He'll tell me more things. This is how God works. He'll give more truth and more understanding, and I want this for you because I love you and I want you to have this. We want you to experience the abundant life and fullness of joy. This won't happen if you're not obeying and sharing with others.
- **If I fail to hold you accountable, then I'm saying I don't really care if you have an abundant life.** That's not loving; we need to hold each other accountable. This is one of the ways God uses to grow us.

Vision

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TRAINING TIP: You may also want to share something from the news, a story from the Bible, a personal story, an inspiring slogan or song to

encourage one another to share Jesus with others, to start new groups, and to help others do the same.

LOOK UP (1/3 of your time)

TRAINING TIP: Sometimes you have to be aware of time, because the people we're trying to reach don't have a lot of time. However, ideally the group will not be rushed and the facilitator should be comfortable with silence. Sometimes people are thinking and rereading the passage – don't let the silence bother you.

Pray audibly and ask God to teach you the passage you are getting ready to read. Read this week's passage, chosen by the leader, and discuss:

1. *What did you like about this passage?*
2. *Did you find anything difficult to understand about this passage?*

TRAINING TIP: You don't need to be very mature to get truth from Scripture like this. The Holy Spirit will guide you. We can get better with time.

TRAINING TIP: This question is often a little confusing. Sometimes folks answer what is hard to do, although the question was originally designed to help clarify anything that was hard to understand. If you do understand the question, please feel free to explain it. If you don't know the answer, no problem, say, "looks like we're stumped. I'll write to some of the teachers in our movement and ask them." Feel free to email us and CC the person with the question. We're part of a network and support one another.

Read this week's passage again and discuss:

3. *What does this passage teach about God?*
4. *What does this passage teach about people?*

TRAINING TIPS:

- Standard questions you may need to encourage conversation, or get it back on track:
 - *"Where do you see that in the text?"*

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- *“Based on the passage we are looking at, what can we clearly and obviously conclude?”*
 - *“That is nice but what does our passage say about ____?”*
 - Use good eye contact and directly ask questions of quieter members.
 - Ensure everyone participates every meeting.
 - Talk to disruptive or overly talkative members outside of the group asking them to give others a chance to speak and to be mindful to keep their comments short.
 - As a leader, talk to the point of the passage and avoid sharing excessively of your personal experience. If you have a testimony that would benefit the group, try to introduce it during the vision casting time. You are equipping others so let them talk and learn.
 - After a few sessions, begin rotating leadership of the group meeting. Early adopters will often be ready to start filling this role after two or three sessions. Do not wait until your late adopters are ready to lead to begin sharing responsibilities.
 - You need to be comfortable with silence. Don't worry about it. People need time to think about the passage and may be going over it in their head.
 - We've often seen the middle third go too long. One way to make up time is by combining the last two questions into one:
 - *“What does this passage teach you about God or about people?”*
 - When the time comes to move on, then you're able to just cut it off and proceed to the final third.

LOOK FORWARD (1/3 of your time)

Pray audibly for the Holy Spirit to show each person how they might obey the passage, who they might train, and with whom they might share their testimony or the gospel. After you pray out loud, give each person the opportunity for silent prayer (3-5 minutes).

After praying, ask each person the following questions and write down their answers:

1. *How will you be obedient to the Holy Spirit?*
2. *Has the Holy Spirit placed someone on your heart that you should train?*

3. Has the Holy Spirit placed someone on your heart with whom you should share your testimony or the Gospel?

TRAINING TIPS:

- **It's critical to spend enough time in prayer** so that the people receive this from God. So, give enough time to pray – about five minutes. Stress that they are becoming accountable to God.
- **We ask each person questions 1, 2, and 3.** Write down the commitments of everyone and email the commitments out to the entire group. Then, when you rotate leadership, everyone has a copy. Furthermore, you can be praying for one another during the week.
- **Stress we're not looking for general principles, but specific actions.** "Lord how do you want ME to obey this passage?" Make the commitment a specific application that is measurable.
- When they go to practice, **they can practice any commitments** they've made on questions 1, 2, or 3. You'll want to practice at least one, and may practice up to all three. At minimum, they may practice sharing the Gospel, so they'll be ready to do that.

Practice (Never skip) - in groups of two or three, practice what you have committed to do in the above questions. For example, role-play a difficult conversation or facing a temptation, practice teaching today's passage, or practice sharing the Gospel.

Talk with God in groups of two or three, pray for every member individually. Ask God to prepare the hearts of the people who will be hearing about Jesus this week. Ask Him to give you the strength to be obedient to your commitments.

TRAINING TIP: Never skip the practice because the main reason people don't do something is because they don't feel confident/competent in doing it. When you're running short on time, it's tempting to skip, but don't even if there is only five minutes of time to dedicate to it. Very often this is when people really connect and get to know one another. Another option if you're really pressed for time is to keep the group together and practice on the RAMP, or one of the Disciple Making Movement (DMM) principles

like the candle, duckling discipleship, or the rings.

TRAINING TIP: Follow the MAWL process. Sometimes, 2-3 sessions is all people need when modeling a 3Thirds group. Assist and watch 2-3 more sessions, which should be plenty for requiring your presence. The total assist and launch should take approximately three months. One reason it might not be readily apparent is because we want six months reproduction rate. Model/Assist time is a generation because some will die or fail to reproduce. The Watch Process may take much longer. **PACE really matters.**

Ideas for Looking Up Passages

Use the following passages for the “LOOK UP” portion of your group. Your group may need more than one meeting for some of the passages.

HOPE SERIES (FOR SEEKERS)

1. Hope for the sinner: *Luke 18:9-14*
2. Hope for the poor: *Luke 12:13-34*
3. Hope for the runaway: *Luke 15:11-32*
4. Hope for the lost: *Luke 19:1-10*
5. Hope for the grieving: *John 11:1-44*
6. Hope for the seeker: *John 3:1-21*

SIGNS OF JOHN (FOR SEEKERS)

1. Turning of water into wine: *John 2:1-12*
2. Healing of the royal official's son: *John 4:46-54*
3. Healing of the paralytic: *John 5:1-17*
4. Feeding of the five thousand: *John 6:1-14*
5. Walking on water: *John 6:15-25*
6. Healing of the man born blind: *John 9:1-41*
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead: *John 11:1-46*

DISCOVER SERIES (FOR GROUPS THAT NEED BIBLE BACKGROUND & FAMILIARITY)

Discover God - who God is and what He is like

1. Creation: *Genesis 1*
2. Creation of People: *Genesis 2*
3. Disobedience of People: *Genesis 3*
4. Noah and the Flood: *Genesis 6:5-8: 14*
5. God's Promise to Noah: *Genesis 8:15 - 9:17*
6. God Speaks to Abraham: *Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-6*
7. God calls Moses: *Exodus 3:1 - 4:17*
8. The Passover: *Exodus 12:1-36*
9. Crossing the Red Sea: *Exodus 14*
10. The 12 Spies: *Numbers 13:16 - 14 :10; 14:28-35*
11. Joshua enters the Promised Land: *Joshua 1*

12. David and Goliath: *1 Samuel 17:1-11, 20-53*
13. David becomes King of Abraham's Descendants: *1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 7:1-28*
 14. King David and Bathsheba: *2 Samuel 11:1-27*
14. Nathan's Story: *2 Samuel 12:1-25*
15. God Promises Savior will come: *Isaiah 53*

DISCOVER SERIES (FOR GROUPS THAT NEED BIBLE BACKGROUND & FAMILIARITY)

Discover Jesus - Who Jesus is and why He came

1. Savior born: *Matthew 1:18-25*
2. Jesus's Baptism: *Matthew 3:7-9, 13-15*
3. Demon-Possessed Man Healed: *Mark 5:1-20*
4. Jesus never Loses Sheep: *John 10:1-30*
5. Jesus Heals the Blind: *Luke 18:31-42*
6. Jesus and Zaccheus: *Luke 19:1-9*
7. Jesus and Matthew: *Matthew 9:9-13*
8. Jesus is the Only Way: *John 14:1-15*
9. Holy Spirit Coming: *John 16:5-15*
10. Last Dinner: *Luke 22:14-20*
11. Arrest and Trial: *Luke 22:47-53; Luke 23:13-24*
12. Execution: *Luke 23:33-56*
13. Jesus is Alive: *Luke 24:1-7, 36-47; Acts 1:1-11*
14. Believing and Doing: *Philippians 3:3-9*

STRENGTHEN SERIES (FOR NEW BELIEVERS OR GROUPS THAT NEED DISCIPLING FOCUS)

Learn to obey the basic commands of Jesus - Keep sharing Jesus with people on your list.

1. Learn and do: *John 14:15-21*
2. Repent. Believe. Follow: *Mark 1:14-17, Ephesians 2:1-10*
3. Be baptized: *Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:26-38*
4. Love God. Love People: *Luke 10:25-37*
5. Talk with God: *Matthew 6:9-13*. (Learn and practice Jesus's model prayer).
6. Remember and Commemorate Jesus: *Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-32*
7. Give: *Acts 4:32-37*
8. Pass it on: *Matthew 28:18-20*

Follow as I follow - Make disciples. Pass on to others what you have learned. Teach these people to pass it on, too.

1. Find a Disciple: *2 Timothy 1:1-14*
2. Pass it on: *2 Timothy 2:1-4, 14-16*
3. Teach them to teach others: *2 Timothy 3:1-17*
4. Hard times: *2 Timothy 4:1-22*

Multiply your 3Thirds Group - Gather your disciples into new groups.

1. Get Started and Make a Plan: *Luke 10:1-11*. (Listen to Jesus's instructions when starting a new group.)
2. Gather Together: *Acts 2:14-47*
3. Person of Peace: *Mark 5:1-20, Mark 6:53-56*. (Look for people willing to share their story about Jesus. Start a group with that person and their friends & family).
4. Who is ready: *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

Lead - Learn how to lead a 3Thirds group.

1. Model (lead like this): *John 13:1-17*
2. Model (don't lead like this): *3 John 5-14*
3. Assist: *Mark 4:35-41*
4. Watch: *Luke 10:1-11, 17, 20*
5. Leave: *Matthew 25:14-30*

Go: Local - Learn how to reach your local community.

1. Go: Local: *Acts 1:1-8*
2. Help the poor. Share the good news: *Luke 7:11-23*
3. Go where God sends: *Acts 10:9-48*
4. Go with a plan: *Acts 13:1-3, 32-33, 38-39; Acts 14:21-23, 26-27*

Go: Global - Learn how to reach the ends of the earth.

1. Go: Global: *Acts 1:1-8, Matthew 28:19-20*
2. Go where God sends: *Acts 8:26-38*
3. God loves every people group: *John 4:4-30, 39-41*
4. Go with a plan: *Acts 13:1-3, 32-33, 38-39; Acts 14:21-23, 26-27*

Remember the Basics - Learn what to do when you meet.

1. Jesus is First: *Philippians 2:1-11*
2. Talk with God: *Matthew 6:9-13*
3. Community: *Hebrews 10:23-25*

4. The Bible: *2 Timothy 3:10-17*

Commit - Learn to stay strong and keep following Jesus.

1. Disobedience: *Jonah 1*
2. Commit: *Jonah 2*
3. Obey: *Jonah 3*
4. Obey all the way: *Jonah 4*
5. Use it or Lose it: *Matthew 25:14-30*