**Discovery Bible Study Method**

**Part 1: Building Community**

1. Share one good thing that happened to you this week, something you are happy about, thankful for. [Teaches thankfulness is important. That God is doing good things in our lives every week.]
2. What has been difficult, frustrating or hard this week? What have you been worried about this week? What do you think you need to make the situation better? [Fellowship, transparency, caring for each other.]
3. What are some of the needs of others that we have encountered this week?
4. How can we help each other and the other people we’ve mentioned with the needs we’ve expressed?

[Teaches prayer, service, care and compassion, other-focused living, transparency, burden-bearing, personal responsibility, etc.]

**Part 2: Accountability and service**

1. What did we talk about last class/lesson/story?
2. What changed in your life as a result of last week’s class/lesson/story?
3. Did you talk with someone about last week’s class/lesson/story and how did it go?
4. How did it go meeting the needs we identified last week?

[Teaches accountability, evangelism, obedience, reproduction, compassion.]

**Part 3: Listening & Learning**

Taking ONE passage of Scripture:

1. Divide a sheet of paper into three sections:

a.) What it says b.) What it means c.) How will I obey?

1. Have someone in your group read the entire passage.
2. Have someone else in the group restate/retell as much of the passage as they are able to. Ask group members to fill in any missing pieces and identify any added portions.
3. Ask the group to identify what they think the text is teaching. What do the different parts of the story mean/teach?
4. Further possible questions:
   1. What does this teach us about God?
   2. What does this teach us about people?
   3. If we believe that this passage is true/from God, what should be DO?

[This teaches that the Scriptures are the authority; how to understand the Bible, discovery, illumination of the Holy Spirit, dependence on the Holy Spirit, group accountability….]

1. Take 3 minutes to pray, think about and write down personal responses to the passage by stating, “I will…..”

**Part 4:** **Live it Out!**

1. WHO will you share this passage with before we meet again?
2. When do you want to meet again?
3. What are the needs we are going to address/assist with this week?

**Group Issues:**

1. The facilitator is not the expert. They are not to give answers but instead ask questions.
2. Everyone has something to contribute.
3. Self-correction: “Where does it say that in this passage?” This will cut down on hyper-linking to other texts. [Heresy comes from just one person’s interpretation. Every heresy has someone’s name associated with it!]
4. Stick with that week’s text on any given week.
5. This is an approach that drives to the application. Simple obedience to the scripture is the response that is most important.
6. The standard curriculum takes people from Genesis to the life of Christ. (See studies.)
7. The facilitator can be involved in the process but should not be the hub. Facilitators should break eye contact to force members to interact with each other rather than just the facilitator.
8. Participants don’t have to believe the Bible is authoritative, just want to read/study it. Belief will come later as they see the fruit of obedience. You can work with skeptics by simply saying, “IF this were true, what would you do differently?” Relativists are still interested in the Bible. Simply tell people, “This has changed my life” rather than “This is the truth.”

Other resources on Discovery Bible Studied:

* [www.cityteams.org](http://www.cityteams.org)
* *Miraculous Movements* by Jerry Trousdale, Thomas Nelson, 2012