

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

August 20, 2017

After a couple of weeks with our new **Communitas Lesson** format we want to give you some helpful tips for leading your group and some of the "why" behind the Discovery Bible Study format.

Why:

- 1. We believe in the "priesthood of all believers"** (1 Peter 2:9). God speaks to each of us through Scriptures, not just to Pastor Mike or the group leader. We can **each** hear from God.
- 2. We want to develop "self-feeders."** We realized that the previous lesson format gave you questions to ask (and in some cases, answers) rather than allowing the Holy Spirit to guide the discussion and bring forth the questions in your study.
- 3. Churches around the world have found this format to be both empowering and freeing.** We want to free our members to hear from God and to empower them to lead effective Bible studies.

If you have any questions, please contact Randy@GracePointChurch.net.

FIRST THIRD: LOOK BACK

- Care
 - Share any highlights or lowlights from the time since you last met.
 - Pray for one another.
- Worship God together in a simple and relevant way (one example/suggestion: during group prayer, have everyone who wants to pray offer one-sentence prayers of praise, or read a Psalm of their choice, or finish the sentence, "God, you are.....").
- Ask questions for accountability. Take time to review last week's message and what the group talked about from Mark 3:7-20.
 - **Following** (we want to move the Bible into action. Revisiting: How did you do obeying after the last lesson?
 - **Fishing** (we are encouraging all group members to share what they learned in group study. They can have groups anywhere and everywhere and can invite unbelievers into groups): Did you pray with anyone who was in need? Did you share a Bible study, your story, or Jesus's story? Did you mention what God is doing in your life?
- Cast vision.

Take a few moments to cast a vision for reaching lost people and making disciples (1. Give a safe and healthy challenge to invite one or two other people into a "Discovery Bible Study" Read the text and follow the guide).

- Ask each person to identify one person they know – a neighbor, a co-worker, a family member – who does not follow Jesus. Share the first name of this person, write it down, and covenant to pray daily for those on the list.

- Pray for people you know who are far from God (identify an unreached people group from around the world at www.joshuaproject.net and take a few moments and educate them on this days people group. Highlight a new people group everyday).

SECOND THIRD: LOOK UP

1. Read the new passage. This week's passages are Matthew 5:18-22 and Luke 5:1-11. Take a moment and compare and contrast the two different accounts.
2. Read the passage again from a different translation.
3. Without looking at the text, have a volunteer to retell the passage in their own words (commend the group member for their willingness to get involved).
4. Ask the following questions about the story:
 - What does the passage **teach us about God** and/or Jesus?
 - What does it **teach us about people**?
 - What does the text and the Holy Spirit telling us to DO? (Be specific; don't settle for general answers like, "I need to love God more." Lead group members to nail down a **specific action** they can apply.)

Think SPACE:

- Is there a **Sin** to confess?
- Is there a **Promise** to claim?
- Is there a **Command** to obey?
- Is there an **Example** to follow?

FINAL THIRD: LOOK FORWARD

Set goals and pray. Ask:

- What do you need to do this week to **obey** what you've learned?
- With whom could you **share** this passage, your story or the Gospel story?