DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PLAN

Progressive Evangelism

The bookmark list — twelve passages that scale from a single study with anyone to a full evangelistic journey. Always start with the prodigal son.

12 Bible Studies by CoMission

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Progressive Evangelism

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How a Discovery Bible Study works

This page is for whoever leads the study. Everyone else only needs the passage.

A Discovery Bible Study has no teacher. The person leading only asks the questions; the Bible does the teaching. That is what makes it simple enough for anyone to lead — no title, no training, no materials, no money.

EAT, DIGEST, GROW

Eat the Word — Read the passage aloud, read it again, then close the Bible and have someone retell it in their own words. Reading is the bite, re-reading the chewing, the retelling the swallow. If the group can't retell it, read it once more before going on.

Digest — Work through the four questions. This is where the passage turns into faith and obedience — answered from what the text actually says, not from what someone already knew.

Grow — Growth is God's part, not yours. One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7). Do the cycle faithfully and leave the growing to Him.

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**
2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**
3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**
4. **Who will I tell?**

THE SHAPE OF A MEETING

Look back — What are you thankful for? What is hard right now? How did you obey what we found last time, and who did you tell? Pray briefly for each other.

Look up — Read, re-read, retell — then the four questions.

Look forward — Each person says their own “I will…” out loud and names one person they will tell. Next time, the group asks about both. Asking is what turns a discussion into obedience.

THE ONE RULE: DON'T TEACH

The moment you start explaining, the group stops discovering. If someone says something that is not in the passage, do not correct them — ask, kindly, “Where do you see that in this passage?” and let them look. The text and the group sort it out. This is the rule that lets someone who has been in two studies lead the third.

Four to fifteen people. About an hour, once a week. Nothing else required.

How to use this plan

Who this is for

- **Anyone, anywhere — including someone you have just met.** This is the list to reach for when you don't yet know the person, don't know how long you'll have, or don't know where to begin. The passages are short, story-shaped, and easy to retell, so nobody needs Bible background to take part.
- **A group that may never become a group.** Unlike a plan that assumes twelve weeks, this one is designed to be worth doing even if it only ever happens once.

How to use it

- **Always start with the prodigal son.** Study 1 — Luke 15:11–24 — is the door into everything else, and it is the one passage that works with almost anyone. Don't reorder the list to open with something you find more interesting.
- **Scale it to the commitment you actually have.** The list is built to stop cleanly at three points:
  - **One-off — study 1 only.** A single study with anyone, anywhere. A meal, a waiting room, a bus ride.
  - **A month — studies 1–4.** Weekly for four weeks. Enough to see whether a rhythm forms.
  - **The full journey — studies 1–12.** A complete evangelistic study.
- **Don't announce the length up front.** Ask for one study. If the group wants another, you already have the next eleven — and an invitation to "just one study" is far easier to say yes to than a twelve-week commitment.
- **Finish what you start.** Once a group has agreed to a month or to the whole list, complete it. Trailing off after study 6 teaches that God's word is optional.
- **Facilitate, don't teach.** The sequence carries the theology so you don't have to. Keep asking, "Where do you see that in the passage?" *Don't chew their food for them.*

- **End every study in obedience.** An honest **“I will…”** and **one person you’ll tell** — every time, from the very first study. That habit, formed on day one, is what turns a curious reader into a disciple who makes disciples.

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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The Father who receives the lost

Luke 15:11-24

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does the father do while the son is still a long way off?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What did the son expect to be, and what did the father make him instead?
   Where are you in this story right now?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What one step home will you take this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who do you know who thinks they are too far gone to be received?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, thank you that you watch the road for people like me and run to meet them. Bring me home as I am, and make me someone who welcomes others the way you welcomed me.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Jesus forgives and heals

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Jesus forgives and heals

Mark 2:1-12

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus do first for the paralyzed man, before he heals him?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What did the four friends do to get their friend to Jesus?
   What does the crowd's reaction show about how people see Jesus?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Whom will you carry to Jesus this week, and how?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who needs to hear that Jesus forgives, not only heals?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, thank you that you deal with what is deepest in me first. Forgive me, heal me, and give me friends who carry me to you.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Jesus obeys the Father through baptism

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Jesus obeys the Father through baptism

Matthew 3:13-17

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does the Father say, and what does the Spirit do?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Why does Jesus insist on being baptized even though John objects?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What has God plainly asked of you that you have been putting off?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you tell about a step of obedience you are taking?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, thank you for saying over Jesus, 'This is my beloved Son.' Teach me to obey you in the plain things, and let me hear that you are pleased.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Jesus seeks and saves the lost

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Jesus seeks and saves the lost

Luke 19:1-10

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   Who does Jesus say he came to seek and to save?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What does Zacchaeus do once Jesus welcomes him — and how quickly?
   What does the crowd grumble about?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What wrong will you make right this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who have you written off that Jesus is seeking?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, thank you that you called Zacchaeus by name and invited yourself in. Come into my house, change what needs changing, and let me make right what I have taken.*

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NEXT STUDY Jesus meets people personally

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Jesus meets people personally

John 4:7-19

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus offer the woman, and how does he describe it?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   How does Jesus handle what he knows about her life?
   Why is it surprising that he speaks to her at all?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What thirst will you bring to Jesus this week instead of to what you usually reach for?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you talk to as personally as Jesus talked to her?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, thank you that you asked a stranger for a drink and offered her living water. Meet me where I actually am, and let me stop drinking from wells that never satisfy.*

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NEXT STUDY Hearing and responding to God's Word

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Hearing and responding to God's Word

Mark 4:1-20

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus say the seed is, and what happens to it in each soil?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Which soil sounds most like you at the moment?
   What chokes the word in the third soil?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What one weed — worry, wealth, distraction — will you pull up this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you sow God's word to, leaving the harvest to him?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, make my heart good soil. Take away what hardens it, and hold what you plant in me until it bears fruit.*

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NEXT STUDY Jesus calls ordinary people to follow Him

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Jesus calls ordinary people to follow Him

Luke 5:1-11

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus tell Simon to do, and what happens?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   How does Simon respond to the catch — and what does that reveal about him?
   What do they leave behind?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What will you leave, or set down, to follow Jesus this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who around you assumes God could never use them?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, thank you that you call fishermen, not experts. I am not qualified either — call me anyway, and I will leave what I have to follow you.*

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NEXT STUDY The values of God's Kingdom

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The values of God's Kingdom

Matthew 5:1-12

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   Who does Jesus call blessed, and what does he promise each of them?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Which of these describes the kind of person you are becoming?
   Which one sounds least like the way people around you measure a good life?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Which of these will you deliberately live out this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who is poor, mourning, or persecuted near you that you could go to?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, your kingdom values what the world overlooks. Make me poor in spirit, hungry for what is right, and glad to be yours whatever it costs.*

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NEXT STUDY Trusting God instead of living anxiously

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Trusting God instead of living anxiously

Matthew 6:25-34

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus say about how the Father cares for birds and flowers?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What does Jesus say worry cannot do?

   What does he tell us to seek first instead?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What one worry will you hand to God this week, and how?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who do you know who is carrying more anxiety than they can hold?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, you feed the birds and clothe the fields, and you know what I need. Take my worry, and let me seek your kingdom first today.*

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NEXT STUDY Loving your neighbor: the good Samaritan

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Loving your neighbor: the good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does the lawyer ask, and how does Jesus answer him?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What do the priest and the Levite do, and what does the Samaritan do?
   Whom does Jesus say the neighbor turned out to be?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Who will you stop for this week, and what will it cost you?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you tell about the mercy you have received?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, keep me from walking past. Give me the Samaritan's eyes, the courage to stop, and the willingness to pay what mercy costs.*

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NEXT STUDY Jesus, the Good Shepherd

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Jesus, the Good Shepherd

John 10:1-15

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does the good shepherd do for the sheep, and how is he different from the hired hand?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   How do the sheep know which voice to follow?

   What does Jesus say he came to give?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Whose voice have you been following that is not his? What will you do about it this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who needs to hear that there is a shepherd who knows their name?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, thank you that you know me by name and lay down your life for me. Teach me your voice so I do not follow another.*

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NEXT STUDY **Who is Jesus, and what does it mean to follow Him?**

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Who is Jesus, and what does it mean to follow Him?

Mark 8:27-38

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   Who does Peter say Jesus is, and what does Jesus say must happen to him?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What does Jesus say anyone who wants to follow him must do?
   Why does he rebuke Peter?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What will you deny yourself this week in order to follow him?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who will you tell who Jesus is?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you are the Messiah. Show me what it really costs to follow you, and make me willing to take up the cross rather than save my own life.*

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