

A group of diverse people, including a young woman of Asian descent, a young man of African descent, and a woman of European descent, are sitting on a brown leather couch. They are all looking at Bibles or tablets, appearing to be in a study or discussion. The man in the center is smiling and looking at his Bible. The woman on the left is resting her chin on her hand, looking at the man. The woman on the right is looking towards the man. The background is a bright, indoor setting with a window showing some greenery.

HOW TO START A DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

A SIMPLE, BIBLICAL, STEP-BY-STEP
GUIDE TO HELP BELIEVERS MAKE
DISCIPLES WHO OBEY, GROW, AND
MULTIPLY.



**GLOBAL
OUTREACH AND
DISCIPLESHIP**
For All Nations

I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like to be taught.” — Winston Churchill

The Discovery Bible Study (DBS) approach has been used worldwide in Disciple-Making Movements (DMMs), fueling exponential growth by multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches—especially in regions such as India, the Middle East, and Africa. Instead of focusing on building large churches that require large budgets, the priority is to make obedient disciples who multiply and gather in simple and reproducible groups. And these groups can integrate seamlessly within larger congregations that meet on weekends, creating both depth and breadth of ministry.



LESSON OBJECTIVES

1

Understand the elements and virtues of Discovery Bible Studies.

2

Comprehend how you can integrate this small group model to your discipleship strategy.

3

Practice and experience the flow of DBS in the real world.



BEGIN the way you want to FINISH, *because your destiny is determined by your STARTING POINT*

WHAT IS A DBS?

- A Discovery Bible Study is a formal and informal gathering where non-believers are introduced to God and new believers are introduced to obedience through a simple, inductive study of Scripture using a discovery process.
- Obedience is key in this process of learning, obeying, and sharing.

THE METHOD

1. Start with a Person of Peace—someone open to God and influential in their community.
2. The purpose of the DBS is to lead a person/family/group to discover God and His salvation and to make disciples of Jesus.
3. Read the chosen passage several times and in different versions.
4. Retell the story in your own words. Have everyone participate in retelling the story.
5. Discuss three key questions:
 - ⇒ What stood out to you? What is God speaking to you through this text?
 - ⇒ How will you obey what God is showing in the passage?
 - ⇒ Who will you share this with?

The Meeting Flow

1. Prayer and Thanksgiving – What are you grateful for? What needs do you have? How can we help?
2. Accountability – With whom did you share last week’s lesson? How did you obey God’s Word?
3. Facilitate the DBS – Don’t teach; guide discussion and depend on the Holy Spirit.
4. Commit & Minister – End by declaring:
“God spoke to me _____, therefore I will _____.”

Multiplication Strategy

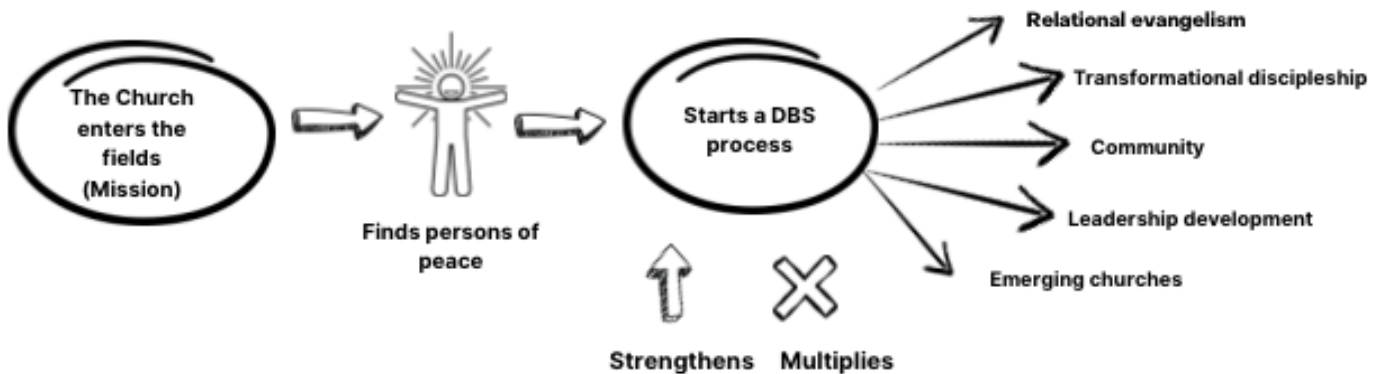
- Pray continually for souls and workers.
- Engage the lost.
- Intentionally seek persons of peace.
- Open new DBS groups and set annual goals.
- Identify and coach leaders to start new groups.

- Embed the DNA of the Kingdom in the process of doing DBS: prayer, the Spirit, evangelism, obedience, service, multiplication, leadership, and accountability.

Principles to DISCIPLE through DISCOVERY

1. **Prayer-** at DBS, prayer is essential. Prayer, in its simplest form, is telling God what we are thankful for and talking with Him about what stresses us out.
2. **Do not teach; facilitate the learning process.**
3. **Depend on the Holy Spirit** – Allowing each disciple to share allows room for the Holy Spirit to take the group study in a completely different direction than you planned.
4. **Study the Scriptures** - Reading, listening, and retelling Scripture are more important. Everyone has time to think about the passage and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through God’s Word.
5. **Obedience through discovery questions** -Use discovery questions to
6. encourage the group to engage the passage
7. **Commitment** - Challenge the group to obey God’s Word. . “I will statement”

FROM MISSION TO MULTIPLICATION



¿Who is a person of peace?

As the disciples enter the fields and engage with the community (Go on the mission), it is crucial to start looking for people who show qualities of leadership, spiritual openness, and hospitality.

In the New Testament, a "person of peace" is someone who was receptive to the gospel and had been prepared by God to receive and serve those who were sent. These people often serve as bridges, opening doors for others to learn about Jesus and the Gospel within their communities. We find persons of peace in the mission, and when the Holy Spirit guides us.

Biblical examples: The Samaritan woman, Levi, Cornelius, Lydia (John 4:28-41; Mark 2:14; Acts 10:1-5, 25-27; Acts 16:1-15)

7 STEPS TO OPEN DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDIES IN A CONGREGATION

1. Cast the Vision

Help the congregation understand *why* DBS matters. Teach that DBS is not another program, but a **biblical way to make obedient disciples** (John 8:31; James 1:22). Connect DBS to the Great Commission and the mission of God.

2. Model the Practice

Before asking others to lead, pastors and leaders must **personally facilitate a DBS**. People reproduce what they see practiced, not what they hear explained. Modeling builds confidence and trust.

3. Train with Simplicity

Provide short, hands-on training focused on:

- How to find a person of peace
- How to ask DBS questions
- How to listen instead of teaching
- How to guide toward obedience and sharing

Avoid overtraining. Simplicity fuels multiplication.

4. Start with Persons of Peace

Encourage disciples to begin DBS with **friends, family, neighbors, or coworkers**—especially those who are open and relational (Luke 10). DBS works best in natural relationships.

5. Launch DBS groups

Start DBS groups small (2–8 people) with people from the congregation but deploy all disciples with the tools to engage the lost outside of the small group. Emphasize the three core questions:

- What is God showing you through this passage?
- What will you obey from this passage?
- Who will you share this with?

6. Coach, Don't Control

Provide ongoing encouragement and strategic accountability through **coaching, testimonies, and check-ins**. Avoid micromanaging or centralizing leadership. Rely on the Holy Spirit to guide the process.

7. Celebrate Stories Publicly and Multiply

Regularly share DBS testimonies in services or gatherings. Celebrate obedience and small wins. Encourage groups to **multiply when they grow**, raising new facilitators from within.

A FINAL WORD

This resource is offered freely to serve the Church and strengthen God's people for faithful obedience—until every place has heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to go deeper, we invite you to register for our next online training, where we unpack the whole framework for making disciples who make disciples.

👉 Register here: en.godfan.us/training