
A Training Guide for DBS

A guide for facilitating Discovery Groups

Welcome

1. What brought you to the DBS training workshop? What are you hoping to see God do in your life through it?
2. What is one question you would like to explore through this training?
3. What is your primary feeling about sharing your faith; your story with others? Excitement, hesitance, fear?
4. Share a time when you participated regularly in a group where you did life together. What made that experience memorable for you?

Facilitate Discovery

This **DBS Training Guide** equips new **Discovery Bible participants** to confidently facilitate, disciple others, and multiply groups. Since **DBS groups should be simple, relational and reproducible**, facilitators do not need formal theological training - just a heart to **listen, learn and guide others in discovering the truth.**

- ♦ **KEY Mindset: “I am here to help others learn, not to teach them.**

Phase 1: Preparation Session One

**DBS is counterintuitive
to traditional spiritual
formation.**

1. Understand Your Role as a Facilitator

- **You are a guide, not a teacher**
The goal is to let the Bible speak, not to provide all the answers.
- **You are a facilitator, not a pastor**
Anyone can lead DBS - your job is to help others explore and apply God's Word.
- **You are modeling reproducibility**
The goal is not just one group, but groups that multiply through relationships.

Ordinary People Lead vs Trained Professional Lead

- **Traditional Missions:** Assumes pastors, clergy, or trained missionaries are the primary “givers” of spiritual truth. Locals often remain as “receivers.”
- **DMM:** Prioritizes empowering *ordinary seekers and new believers* to lead from day one. Leadership is based on **faithfulness and obedience**, not formal training.

👉 *Counterintuitive because:* It feels risky to give spiritual leadership to people who are still learning — but it actually multiplies growth faster and more naturally.

**Counterintuitive
to traditional spiritual
formation.**

Discovery vs Teaching

Discovery vs. Teaching

- **Traditional Missions:** Missionaries or pastors “teach” or “explain” biblical truths, often through sermons, Bible studies, or courses.
- **DMM:** Facilitators ask questions and let Scripture speak for itself. People *discover truth in community* and obey it.

👉 *Counterintuitive because:* It seems irresponsible to not provide “the right answers.” Yet people remember and obey more when they *discover* for themselves.

**Counterintuitive
to traditional spiritual
formation.**

Obedience over Knowledge

Obedience Over Knowledge

- **Traditional Missions:** Emphasizes believing correct doctrine and attending classes before being trusted to act.
- **DMM:** Obedience to Jesus — even in small steps — is valued more than intellectual agreement. Transformation comes through *practice first, full understanding later*.

👉 *Counterintuitive because:* We often equate maturity with head knowledge, but Jesus equated discipleship with obedience.

**Counterintuitive
to traditional spiritual
formation.**

Multiplication vs Maturity, Mission

Multiplication from the Start vs. Maturity First, Mission Later

- **Traditional Missions:** A person must grow spiritually, attend church, and mature before being expected to share their faith.
- **DMM:** New believers (even seekers) are encouraged to share stories of Jesus immediately, multiplying groups quickly.

👉 *Counterintuitive because:* It feels premature to send “new” people out — yet they are often the most connected and passionate.

**Counterintuitive
to traditional spiritual
formation.**

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KEY MINDSET: “I am here to help others learn through discovery, not to teach them.”



Tip

Don't allow one person to teach or explain.

A good facilitator doesn't give answers, but asks good questions.

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NO TEACHING OR EXPLAINING! Let people find answers in the Bible.

DISCUSSION: How do I recognize explaining
during a Discovery Group?



Tips

Give everyone a chance to share.

Don't just read the passages, put them into practice.

Obedience is the goal.

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NO BRINGING IN OTHER PASSAGES! Focus on the one central truth of the passage.

DISCUSSION: What are some reasons not to bring in other passages?



Tips

Share with other people what you are learning about your life in God.

Meet practical needs in the group or community

A memory aid to help

A LEMON BITE

Gathers

Many

Looks

Stimulate discussion from the group by asking questions using these words:

A - Attention

L - Like

B - Bother

G - God

M - Mankind

L - Life

Tip

Facilitate
curiosity, seek
discovery.

Discovering The Heart Of God

Luke 15: 20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. **24** For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

Discovering The Heart Of God

Luke 15: 20-24

Discussion:

- i. How does the passage describe the heart of God?

- ii. How would you define your ministry vision, location and team?

Discovering The Heart Of God

Assignment

- i. Prayer walk to discover more about your neighborhood/city
 - 1. Pray
 - 2. Take notes that characterize your neighborhood
- ii. 3 column study on John 15:1-8

What does it say? <i>(Write the text word-for-word.)</i>	What does it mean? <i>(Write it in my own words.)</i>	What must I do to obey? <i>(My "I will..." statement.)</i>
		With whom will I share? <hr/>

3 - Column Study Tool

Phase 2: Leading a DBS Session



1. Welcome & Connection (5-10 Minutes)

→ Ask simple life questions to
build relationships

What are you thankful for?

What has been difficult lately?

Have you seen a need in the
community this group could meet?

Did you apply last week's discussion?

Phase 2: Leading a DBS Session



2. Read and Discuss Bible Passage (20-30 Minutes)

→ Read the passage **TWICE**

One person **reads** aloud

Everyone silently **reads again**

(One could repeat the passage in their own words- group could help recall missed main points)

→ Ask Three Simple Questions

1. What does the story teach us about **God**?

2. What does it teach us about **people**?

3. How can we **apply** this in our daily lives?

→ Encourage Participation

Let everyone **share** - there are no wrong answers

Keep it a **discussion**, not a lecture or advise session

Phase 2: Leading a DBS Session

3. Apply and Share (10-15 Minutes)

→ ASK

How will you live this out this week?

Who can I share the story with this week?

→ ENCOURAGE Practical Action

If discussing forgiveness, ask "Is there someone you need to forgive this week?"

If you are discussing helping others, ask "How can you serve someone this week?"

→ End with short prayer (if the group is comfortable)

KEY DBS RULE

Scripture + Obedience = Transformation

[See a short video](#) this formula



Tip

Accountability is critical to keep obedience alive.



Best of Success!

We hope you'll use these tips to go out and facilitate people in discovering Jesus and his people!

2025