

Discovering Church Planting

Field Testing Guide

v4.2

Draft

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Version 4.2

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Discovering Church Planting

Field Testing Guide

Project Manager
David Watson

Development Team
Aychiluhm Beyene, Harry Brown, Bob Craft,
Younoussa Djao, Denise Hadley, Dave Hunt, Joe Hernandez,
Victor John, John King, Stan Parks, Jerry Trousdale,
Pat Robertson, Paul Watson,

Organizations
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Using This Guide

This book is a resource point for you as discover what God's Word says about church planting. We hope it serves you well and guides you as you train others.

The most important parts of this book are the Scripture list and the Guide to Discovery Bible Study. The Scripture list is a collection of Scripture used to train indigenous church planters around the world. The Guide to Discovery Bible Studies outlines a process that establishes patterns of healthy discipleship.

Everything else in this resource is for you. If you don't need anything but the Scripture list and the Guide to Discovery Bible Study, that is great. Use what helps you the most.

Oh, by the way, please do not hand this book out church planters. It won't work - we promise. When you lead these studies, all you need is a Bible and maybe a pencil and paper. Anything else establishes a bad precedent and a poor foundation for discovering what God says about church planting. If you can't resist the urge to use this book as a workbook, delete the file now and throw away any paper copies. We are that serious.

Discovery Bible Study

In the last 15 years, over 40,000 churches sprang up in an area in North India known as the ‘graveyard of missions and missionaries.’ Some of these churches are tenth generation church plants and studies show that the tenth generation is as mature and Biblically sound as the first. While persecution in this area is high, so is the faith of the church. They walk and talk with God. They see miracles everyday. They share their faith. They plant more churches. They pray for the sick. They take care of the widows and orphans. Although many are illiterate, they study the Bible inductively. They believe we have a choice – we read or listen to God’s Word, believe, and obey Him or we don’t. There is no middle ground.

People ask, “Why don’t we see church planting movements in the United States?” It is because we read God’s Word, but are not obedient. We amass knowledge about God, but we don’t do anything with our knowledge. We say we read God’s Word inductively but we usually stop before we get to the hard part: obedience. Until we read God’s Word and obey it, we will not see church planting movements in the United States.

Read, obey, and share – that is the discovery process in a nutshell. We read God’s word out loud (if we are in a group) or write it word for word (if we are studying on our own.) Next, we put God’s Words into our own words – just to make sure we really understand what His Word says and to make sure we can share it in informal situations. Finally, we commit to two things: to change our life to obey God’s Word and share what God taught us with at least one other person. Obedience and sharing must happen within the next 24 to 48 hours. If too much time passes between reading God’s Word and obeying it, people disobey God and establish a habit of negligent disobedience in their lives.

According to Scripture, if we read God’s Word and disobey it we either don’t love God (John 14:15-21) or we are a fool (James 1:22-25, Proverbs 10:8, 14:9, 14:16). If we don’t share God’s Word, we don’t love others. (John 14, Matthew 22, 1 John 3:13) If we know what to do, but choose not to do it, we are disobedient. (James 4:17) But we often follow a religious system that does not require obedience (which makes the religion disobedient.) We judge spiritual maturity by what someone knows rather than if they obey what they know. If we judge spiritual maturity by obedience to God’s Word, there are new Christians in North India who are more spiritually mature than many people who chose to follow Christ years ago. If we want to grow spiritually, we need to adopt a system that encourages behaviors that lead to spiritual growth. Discovery Bible Study is one process that encourages those behaviors.

Let’s take a look at how Discovery Bible Study works for personal study and group study as well as oral and literate cultures.

Personal Discovery Bible Study

Turn a piece of paper on its side, or landscape. Then divide the paper into three columns. Label the first ‘Scripture.’ Label the second ‘My Words’ and the third ‘I Will.’

Scripture

The length of the passage you chose affects how much time the study takes. Longer

passages take longer to study. This isn't a bad thing, but you need to keep it in mind. Generally, try to keep your passages between 10 and 15 verses.

In the 'Scripture' column, write the passage: word-for-word. This takes time but you control how much time by choosing smaller chunks of Scripture. Break larger passages into several sections, spread out over several days. What is most important, however, is this – when you copy a passage word-for-word you actually read it through several (about five to seven) times. It is a form a forced meditation for those of us who can't sit and think about a passage without losing focus. This process also keeps us from skimming familiar passages. When you write it out you have to think about every word.

My Own Words

When you finish copying the passage, use the second column to write the passage in your own words. Write it out like you're telling a friend about it over a cup of coffee. Don't move on until you can write the passage in your own words. You see, you don't really understand it if you can tell it to someone else in your own words. And you can't obey Scripture unless you understand it. It's that simple. Sometimes, you might have to stop on a passage for a couple of days and talk it out with the Holy Spirit before you can finish putting it into your own words. When you start this process, you will probably find there are several familiar passages that you can't write in your own words. Sometimes we 'know' more than we truly understand.

I Will

In the third column we transition from knowing God's Word to obeying God's Word. Look at each part of the passage. Ask God to reveal things you need to add to your life, take away from your life, or change in your life to obey this passage. Be specific. The passage may say that God created the Earth, but you have to decide what that means in your life. How does your life change because you believe God created the Earth? What do you need to do differently? What can you do in the next 24 hours to obey this passage? Every time we open God's Word, He invites us into relationship. We call His invitation 'grace,' because we can't do anything to deserve it. Obedience is how we accept His invitation. God lives with those who obey His Word. (John 14:23-24) When we study God's Word we have a choice: we choose to obey Him or we choose to disobey Him. It is really that simple. This third column is your response to God's invitation.

Share

When you finish this study, you have two responsibilities. First, you need to meet with other followers of Christ and discuss what you learned. Tell them your 'I Will' statements. They can hold you accountable and figure out ways to help you obey God's Word. Second, look for opportunities to share what God said. Work the phrase, "God taught me something today." or something similar, into conversations and wait for a response. This creates discussion opportunities. If people care, they ask for more information. If it isn't the right time for them, they will ignore you. Don't continue to share. Please share your faith with those who are ready and interested, not those who are not ready.

Summary

To summarize the process:

1. Write the passage word-for-word in column 1.
2. Write the passage in your own words in column 2.
3. List the actions you must take to obey this passage in column 3.
4. Share what you learned with other believers for accountability.
5. Create discussion opportunities with not-yet-believers. Share with people who are interested.

Group Discovery Bible Study

Prayer

When you meet with groups for Discovery Bible Study, go around the room and have everyone share one thing they are thankful for and one thing that is stressing them out. Eventually, point out to the group that prayer in its simplest form is telling God the things we are thankful for and talking with Him about what stresses them out. Transition this interaction from a group share time to an open, interactive prayer time. This form of prayers is very interactive and gets the quietest people involved in group prayer.

The Holy Spirit

Right after you pray, ask the group to share what God said to them in their personal time with Him since your last meeting. Asking this question at the beginning of every meeting encourages group members to have a personal time with God. It also reiterates every member's ability to hear God's voice. Giving them an opportunity to share allows room for the Holy Spirit to take the group study in a completely different direction than you planned. Be sensitive to the group and make sure they have this time.

Scripture

After everyone has a chance to share, have someone read Scripture out loud while everyone follows along in their Bible. When they are done, have someone else read the same passage out loud again. This time have everyone listen to the reading. When they are done, ask for a volunteer to retell the passage in their own words. When they finish, ask the group to fill in any points they feel were left out.

Reading, listening, and retelling Scripture is more important than you might think. This pattern allows different learning styles to engage Scripture. Everyone has time to think about the passage and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through God's Word. Retelling the passage allows them to think through sharing this passage with someone outside the group. Allowing the group to add to the retelling encourages everyone to think about the main points in the passage. Even though going through the passage multiple times seems repetitive and time consuming, the process helps develop reproducing disciples.

Discovery Study

After your group retells the Scripture, you can study the passage. Your discussion

must be question driven. Questions facilitate the discovery process. Questions allow your group to wrestle with Scripture and grow spiritually. Below are some sample questions to encourage interaction with Scripture:

- Did anything in this passage capture your attention?
- What did you like about this passage?
- Did anything bother you? Why?
- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What does this passage tell us about Man?
- What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Keep discussion focused on Scripture. If you or someone else in your group is well-read, it will be hard to avoid introducing outside materials into the study. You, as the facilitator, need to work hard to limit the discussion of extra-Biblical or other Biblical materials. These materials are not bad, but they don't facilitate interaction with Scripture. In most cases extra-Biblical materials underscore the intelligence of the one introducing the materials rather than keeping Scripture at center stage. Sometimes this is not the case, but those moments are rare. Do your best to keep discussion focused on the Scripture that is the focus of the study.

Commitment

Knowledge of God's Word must translate into obedience or it is wasted. This next step begins with a statement and a question: "Since we believe God's Word is true, what must we change in our lives to obey God?" Everyone in the group must answer this question before they leave. If they already obey this Scripture, have them share how they obey it. Ask them if there is anything else they need to do to increase their obedience to God's Word in this area of their life.

Keep this part of your time focused on specifics. For example, realizing that there is only one God is awesome, but that realization needs to become action. In this case you might encourage them with a follow up question: "Now that you believe there is one God, what do you need to change in your life? What will you do differently?" Encourage your group to identify specific things to do to obey the passage.

After everyone shares how they are going to obey Scripture, have them identify someone who needs to hear what God said to the group. Encourage them to share what they learned with that person.

Before you wrap up, ask the group to identify people they know who are in need. Ask the group to identify ways to meet those needs in the next week.

Finally, close in prayer.

Summary

To summarize group Discovery Bible Study:

1. Share one thing you are thankful for and one thing that is stressing you out in a group prayer process.
2. Ask the group to share what God told them through His Word since the last meeting. Ask them to share how they were obedient to the previous week's Scripture.
3. Read Scripture out loud while people follow along in their Bibles.

4. Have someone else read the same passage out loud while the group listens.
5. Have someone in the group retell the passage in their own words. Allow the group to add to the retelling, if necessary.
6. Use discovery questions to encourage the group to engage the passage.
7. Challenge the group to obey God's Word. Have each person share what they are going to do to obey the passage over the next week.
8. Have the group identify people they will share the passage with during the next week.
9. Have the group identify people in need and commit to meeting those needs.
10. Close in prayer.

Discovery Bible Study in Oral Cultures

In oral cultures the discovery process is similar to the group process outlined above. Since they can't read, you need to use an audio Bible like those provided by Faith Comes by Hearing (www.fcbh.org) or you need to have someone who can read actually read the passage through for the group. Allowing the group to retell the passage is even more important in oral settings because repetition helps them remember the passage.

Why do all these lessons say the same thing?

Great question! We are so glad you asked!

The way we teach lessons is almost as important as the lesson itself. We can choose to use teaching techniques which build a student's dependence on a teacher. Or, we can use techniques which prepare a student to stand on their own two feet from day one.

The repetition you observed in these lessons is intentional. We want someone to - after only a few lessons - see this process is easy. We want them to know they can repeat the process when they study God's Word individually and when they eventually facilitate a group.

A little repetition leads to rapid multiplication.

Thanks for asking!

Oral and Print Communicators

Notes for Oral Communication

Read each passage out loud. If possible, listen to each passage from an audio Bible, like the one provided by Faith Comes By Hearing . After the group listens, ask someone to retell the passage in their own words. Allow the group to interact with the re-told story, adding points that might have been left out or stressing things they see as particularly important. You may have to read/listen to the passage several times before the group is able to comfortably re-tell the passage in their own words.

Notes for Print Communication

You can use the Oral Communicator portion of this lesson with Print Communicators. The following is another way to study the passage, if you think it is appropriate.

Ask the group to turn a sheet of paper on its side. Divide the sheet into three columns. In the first column have the group write the passage, word-for-word. They can use additional paper if necessary. After they finish writing the passage in the first column, have them rewrite the passage in the second column using their own words. Finally, ask them to write what they will do to obey what God says in this passage in the third column.

Scripture

My Words

I Will

Scripture

My Words

I Will

Scripture List

Matthew 22:24-40	Love and Obedience
Deuteronomy 6:1-6	Love and Obedience
John 14:15-26	Love and Obedience
Matthew 28:16-20	The Great Commission
John 12:20-33	Draw People to Christ
John 20:21	Draw People to Christ
Philippians 2:1-11	Draw People to Christ
1 Corinthians 9:1-27	Draw People to Christ
Acts 10:9-48	Overcoming Barriers - Part 1
Acts 1:8	Overcoming Barriers - Part 1
Matthew 28:18-20	Overcoming Barriers - Part 2
Acts 17:15-34	Overcoming Barriers - Part 2
Mark 16:15-16	Overcoming Barriers - Part 3
Acts 28:1-10	Overcoming Barriers - Part 3
Luke 24:45-49	Overcoming Barriers - Part 4
Luke 24:13-27	Overcoming Barriers - Part 4
John 20:21	Overcoming Barriers - Part 5
Acts 13:1-4	Overcoming Barriers - Part 5
John 18:15-27	Overcoming Barriers - Part 6
John 21:15-19	Overcoming Barriers - Part 6
Ephesians 6:10-18	Spiritual Warfare - Part 1
2 Chronicles 20:1-30	Spiritual Warfare - Part 2
Exodus 17:8-16	Spiritual Warfare - Part 3
Matthew 24:9-14	Spiritual Warfare - Part 4
1 Corinthians 4:1-17	Imitate Christ
1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1	Imitate Christ
Luke 9:1-6	Person of Peace
Luke 10:1-20	Person of Peace
Matthew 10:5-20	Appropriate Evangelism
Acts 16:11-15	Appropriate Evangelism
Matthew 28:19-20	Spiritual Community
1 Corinthians 12:12-20	Spiritual Community
Matthew 16:13-21	Spiritual Community
Acts 2:41-47	Spiritual Community
Ezekiel 34	Leadership - Part 1
1 Peter 5:1-11	Leadership - Part 2
Matthew 23:1-39	Leadership - Part 3
1 Chronicles 16:7-36	Functions of Church

Love and Obedience

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Matthew 22:24-40, Deuteronomy 6:1-6, John 14:15-26

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Loving God is the most important thing in life.
We show our love for God when we obey His commands.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will" ... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement – "I will love God by

At the end – ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

Please email your notes on this lesson to
pwatson@cityteam.org

The Great Commission

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:
Matthew 28:16-20

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Disciples obey Christ
Disciples worship Christ
All authority belongs to Jesus
Jesus commanded: Go – make disciples – baptize – teach obedience
Jesus is with his disciples always
This commission applies to everybody
We are called to disciple everybody, including those we hate and/or fear
Discipleship begins with non-believers
Going is important but only if we make disciples
Making disciples is important but only if they believe and are baptized
Baptized believers are important but only if we teach them to obey

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement – "I will love God by

At the end – ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience.

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Please email your notes on this lesson to
pwatson@cityteam.org

The Great Commission - Continued

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

Draw People to Christ

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

John 12:20-33, John 20:21, Philippians 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Jesus Christ came to give His life to draw all people to Himself for the Father's glory.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Please email your notes on this lesson to
pwatson@cityteam.org

Overcoming Barriers - Part 1

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:
Acts 10:9-48, Acts 1:8

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

We have to take the Gospel to people we consider 'unclean.'

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by"

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

Please email your notes on this lesson to
pwatson@cityteam.org

Overcoming Barriers - Part 2

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 17:15-34

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

We take to the Gospel to the unreached on Jesus' authority.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Please email your notes on this lesson to
pwatson@cityteam.org

Overcoming Barriers - Part 3

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Mark 16:15-16, Acts 28:1-10

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Jesus gives us the power we need to go and share the Gospel.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

Please email your notes on this lesson to
pwatson@cityteam.org

Overcoming Barriers - Part 4

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Luke 24:45-49, Luke 24:13-27

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

We testify to Christ because all Scripture points to Him.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by"

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Please email your notes on this lesson to
pwatson@cityteam.org

Overcoming Barriers - Part 5

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

John 20:21, Acts 13:1-4

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

We go in the power of the Holy Spirit.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

Please email your notes on this lesson to
pwatson@cityteam.org

Overcoming Barriers - Part 6

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

John 18:15-27, John 21:15-19

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

We go, because there is forgiveness and restoration when we fail.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

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Spiritual Warfare - Part 1

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Ephesians 6:10-18, Matthew 10:16-25, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Spiritual Warfare is normal in church planting. We must put our trust in God.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

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Spiritual Warfare - Part 2

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:
2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Spiritual Warfare is normal in Church Planting. We must put our trust in God.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

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Spiritual Warfare - Part 3

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How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Exodus 17:8-16

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Spiritual Warfare is normal in church planting. We must always put our trust in God.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

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Spiritual Warfare - Part 4

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Matthew 24:9-14

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Spiritual warfare is normal in church planting. We must always put our trust in God.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

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Imitate Christ

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

1 Corinthians 4:1-17; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

We should do the same things Jesus did as He made disciples.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by"

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

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Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Luke 9:1-6, Luke 10:1-20

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Jesus teaches us how to make disciples:

- Go
- Pray
- Focus
- Bring peace
- Remain in the same house
- Eat and drink what is offered
- Do not move around
- Heal the sick
- Proclaim, 'The Kingdom of God is near.'
- When not welcome - shake the dust of the town off your feet.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by"

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

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How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

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Appropriate Evangelism

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Matthew 10:5-20, Acts 16:11-15

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Jesus sent the disciples to find Persons of Peace.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement - "I will love God by

At the end - ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

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Spiritual Community

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

**Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Corinthians 12:12-20, Matthew 16:13-21,
Acts 2:41-47**

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

I am commanded to baptize new believers.
We are baptized into one body.
Jesus builds His church and gives us power.
Baptized believers live in Spiritual Community.
I will baptize new believers.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how they will obey. Help them make specific "I will"... or "we will" statements (or their cultural equivalent). Encourage them to help each other actually obey.

Help them move from a general statement such as I will love God to a specific statement—"I will love God by"

At the end – ask them to write down / memorize their obedience statement. Then ask them to pray with each other for God to accomplish His plans through them in this area of obedience

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

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Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?

Do you know anyone who needs help?

What can this group do to help them?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

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Leadership

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:
Ezekiel 34

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

God judges leaders who feed off the flock.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how their lives can change if they live like the passage is truth. Help them make specific statements about the results of any change.

Help them move from a general statement to a specific statement.

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

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Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

1 Peter 5:1-11

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Leaders demonstrate humility as they lead the church.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how their lives can change if they live like the passage is truth. Help them make specific statements about the results of any change.

Help them move from a general statement to a specific statement.

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

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Leadership - Part 3

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

Matthew 23:1-39

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

Jesus denounces hypocritical leadership.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how their lives can change if they live like the passage is truth. Help them make specific statements about the results of any change.

Help them move from a general statement to a specific statement.

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?
What is the price of obeying these passages?
How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?
Do you know anyone who needs help?
What can this group do to help them?

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Functions of Church

Review

Who did you share last week's passage with?
Did you do anything different since our last meeting?
Have you experienced God since the last time that we met?

Discover

What are you thankful for this week?
What problems do you have this week?
Is there any way this group can help you?

Discovery Passages:

1 Chronicles 16:7-36

Do NOT teach these following truths - ask questions until they discover the basic idea that:

The church has several functions:

- Give thanks.
- Call on His name
- Make known to the Nations what He has done.
- Sing to Him.
- Sing praise.
- Tell of all His wonderful acts.
- Give glory to the Lord.
- Rejoice.
- Seek the Lord.
- Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and His judgements.
- Proclaim His salvation.
- Declare His glory among the nations.
- Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- Bring an offering.
- Worship.
- Cry out for salvation.

What happens in this passage?
What does this passage tell us about God?
What does this passage tell us about people?

Now that the group members have discovered truths from God's Word, help them identify what difference this makes in their lives.

Obey

Ask questions to help individuals and groups say how their lives can change if they live like the passage is truth. Help them make specific statements about the results of any change.

Help them move from a general statement to a specific statement.

You are part of developing this curriculum! Please take the time to write a few notes as you reflect on the following:

How did the group respond to the passage?
Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

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Did their response surprise you? If so, what surprised you?

Did the questions guide them to discovering more about God?

How did they say their lives would change if they believed God's Word to be true?

Is there anything you think the curriculum development team needs to know about this lesson?

What do I need to change in my life to obey these passages?

What is the price of obeying these passages?

How do these passages affect how I plant churches?

Share

Do you know anyone you can share this story with?

Do you know anyone who needs help?

What can this group do to help them?

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