



Discovery is a four-session study designed to present what the Bible says about Jesus Christ and explain how to know Him personally. It is aimed specifically at people who have made no Christian commitment or who are uncertain where they stand.

DISCOVERY • LG

Leader's Guide

DISCOVERY is a four-session study designed to present what the Bible says about Jesus Christ and explain how to know Him personally. It is aimed specifically at people who have made no Christian commitment or who are uncertain where they stand. (This series has also proven useful with new Christians and individuals with a religious background.) Experience has shown that many non-Christians are open to investigating what the Bible has to say and discussing it with others. This study series has proven to be very fruitful in helping them come to Christ. It is attractive to the non-Christian because it:

- Allows open discussion.
- Is short-term.
- Encourages people to make up their own minds about Jesus Christ.
- Uses contemporary Scripture translations and quotes.

The **DISCOVERY** series can be used effectively both on an individual basis and in small group discussions. It provides an opportunity to give people a better understanding of what Christians believe and why. Because it is short-term and flexible in nature, **DISCOVERY** studies can begin at any time. They are useful:

For those interested in more information after a Four Spiritual Laws presentation; as follow-up

after an evangelistic event (e.g., film, speaker, luncheon); within an already existing group (e.g., civic club, social organization or professional association); with friends or co-workers in an office or home setting.

● SETTING UP A STUDY AND INVITING PEOPLE

1. Make a list of people to invite.
2. Pray for yourself and for those you want to invite.
3. Tell them, *"I think you may be interested in this series of four studies on the person of Jesus Christ. These discussions look at what Jesus claims about Himself, and what happens when a person becomes a Christian. They are designed to give you a chance to evaluate who He is."*
4. Tell them the series involves meeting for four one-hour discussions.
5. Set up a time and a place for your first meeting.

● LEADING YOUR STUDY

1. Be faithful to pray regularly for the participants.
2. Show genuine personal interest. Be sure to ask about the person's life. Ask questions and listen

- to become aware of needs and concerns.
3. Prepare each study thoroughly. The more adequately you have prepared and are in command of the material, the more you will be able to relax and give your attention to the group members.
 4. Always teach from your study sheet. Additional Scriptures and questions you might want to use should be written on your study sheet.
 5. Keep your audience in mind. Do not open in prayer. Do not talk negatively about denominations or use Christian jargon.
 6. Encourage open discussion on what the Bible says. Do not preach or be concerned with getting “the Christian viewpoint” across at every opportunity. Let the Bible speak for itself.
 7. As leader, your task is to help guide the discussion and keep it from straying off course. Avoid dominating the discussion. Encourage the participants to contribute, and let them know that their contribution is appreciated.
 8. Keep the session within the predetermined time frame—preferably one hour.
 9. If a participant does not own a modern translation of the Bible, offer to lend one of yours or find one for him or her.

● HOW TO CONDUCT THE DISCOVERY SESSIONS

Follow the simple plan below for each session, adapting it for a group study or for a one-to-one study.

1. Find a comfortable place with minimal distractions.
2. Take as much time as necessary to establish rapport.
3. Transition to spiritual things by asking about their background, or about what they have thought about your last discussion or contact with them (e.g., “JESUS” video viewing, outreach luncheon, Four Laws presentation, the last Bible study session).
4. Introduce the topic for the day. Make sure everyone has a **DISCOVERY** sheet. Bibles are optional, since all Scriptures are written out in modern language in the lessons. Encourage participants to look up the verses in their own Bibles at a later time.
5. Talk about each section on the study sheet. Read aloud the information, quotes, Scriptures and questions given. Ask the participants to

read some of the material as you go along. This will encourage participation and avoid only you reading the material. Use the DISCUSS questions as beginning points for dialogue. If time is limited, pick one of the two or three questions to ask.

Other questions you may find helpful are:

- What do you think that means?
 - Why do you think that idea is important?
 - What have you heard about this before?
6. Read the REFLECT questions, allow participants a few moments to think about the question, and then move on.
 7. At the end of each session, read the *To Think About* questions, and ask group members to think about their answers during the week. Encourage them to read the books listed in the *For Further Study* section. Be sure to help them get a copy of a book if needed.
 8. Try to call or meet with each person during the week to find out what they are thinking about the *To Think About* questions. Explain briefly the context of passages if necessary, or give background information that would be helpful.
 9. Use the study sheet to keep the discussion focused. Avoid getting off on tangents. When people raise unrelated questions, offer to talk with them after the study.
 10. Close the session by summarizing the topic discussed and by giving a preview of the next study.

● WHAT NEXT?

Be ready to pursue at least one of the following possibilities, depending on the needs of your group members.

1. If you are uncertain that a group member has received Christ, meet with him or her individually to share the Four Spiritual Laws.
2. Continue to meet as a group for a few weeks to study aspects of growing as a Christian.
3. Meet individually with new believers for follow-up. Consider using the Cru series entitled *Foundations* or *Practical Christian Living*.
4. Suggest another investigative study for those who are not ready to receive Christ but are interested in more information.



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