

# *Discovery Bible Study*

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# ***DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY LEADER'S GUIDE***

## ***I. INTRODUCTION***

- A. This study contains four lessons suitable for people who want to know how to have a relationship with God. These folks are often found in the context of following up an evangelistic event, a Sunday School class, or from among friends, neighbors, and relatives.
- B. The lessons are taken from the Gospel of John and based on principles from a tract titled, "Would You Like To Know God Personally?" (published by Campus Crusade for Christ and available from the Home Office), stated as follows:
  - 1. **God loves you and created you to know Him personally.**
  - 2. **Man is sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know Him personally or experience His love.**
  - 3. **Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him alone we can know God personally and experience His love.**
  - 4. **We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know God personally and experience His love.**
- C. Each lesson reinforces one of the above principles in a Bible study format. Also, they each contain a question designed to help you discern whether a person has a relationship with Christ and to alert you to any opportunity to share the "Good News."

***II. PURPOSE*** — The intent of this study is to give people a chance to respond to the Gospel. If you plan to use it to that end, you should be prepared to share that message whenever you can (i.e. 1 Peter 3:15). To help you prepare, we suggest one or both of the following:

- A. Learn to use a gospel tract like, "Would You Like To Know God Personally?" or whatever you prefer that contains the facts people need in order to enter a relationship with Jesus Christ and/ or;
- B. Memorize a gospel presentation like the "Bridge to Life" illustration from the Navigators, the "Romans Road" (Romans 3:10-11; 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-10), or some scriptural "nutshells" of the Gospel (like John 3:16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 16:30, 31; 20:21; Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 2:1, 2; 15:3,4).

**III. TIPS FOR LEADING** — Our goal is for this study to be used as a tool for evangelism, either one-on-one or in small groups. To that end, we offer the following tips:

- A. Pray specifically for the people you are trying to reach. Especially pray for the Holy Spirit to bring them to the place where they say “Yes” to the Lord. As the saying goes, “Don’t go to men about God until you have gone to God about men.” Spend time with the Lord and let Him work in you too!
- B. Find out who might be interested. The best way to do this is to ask!
- C. Do the lessons yourself! You should be familiar with the Gospel of John and have a good grasp of each lesson before you do it with someone else.
- D. If you plan to use a group setting, make your invitations as personal as possible and advertise the study as at least five sessions (or more if you think you will need them). Be sure you have covered all the logistics like time, place, refreshments, materials, and any special childcare or transportation needs.
- E. At your first meeting:
  - 1. Do all you can to make the atmosphere informal, comfortable and non-threatening.
  - 2. Spend most of the time getting acquainted. Refrain from "God-talk." Show yourself friendly, be real, find out about jobs, families, etc. and share some about yourself. There is no need to do anything "religious" — that only serves to make non-Christians uncomfortable.
  - 3. Toward the end, pass out "DISCOVERY LESSON ONE: GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN" and simply read the introductory remarks. Give answers to the first two questions just to show how easy it is. Invite those who are interested in continuing to take the lesson home and complete it for your next meeting.
  - 4. Make sure you set the time and place for the next meeting.
  - 5. NOTE: Give out only one lesson at a time. Receiving all four at once can be intimidating for someone who is not in the habit of Bible study. The entire package can be handed out to those you might be grooming for ministry leadership. The study is not copyrighted, so you can adapt, cut, paste, duplicate or whatever you like. Additional copies are also available from the Home Office.

F. At subsequent meetings:

1. Have Bibles, pencils or pens, and extra lessons on hand. If you are working with a person who does not have a Bible, give him/ her one.
2. Simply review the lesson you gave out at your last meeting by asking the questions and letting the other(s) answer. The idea is to make the Word of God the authority and let people discover the truth for themselves. If they have not prepared the lesson, just let them do it in the course of your discussion.
3. Let answers be given by all group members in a spontaneous way. Don't embarrass anyone by calling on them by name.
4. Keep the discussion moving, but don't fear a pause for thinking. If the pause seems long, ask, "Does everyone understand?" If not, read the Scripture and ask the question again.
5. If someone dominates a group discussion, wait until they finish talking and say, "What does someone else think about this?"
6. Avoid "bunny trails." If something seems to sidetrack, just say, "We can explore that some other time. Right now let's look at this study."
7. When you finish the lesson at hand, pass out the one for the next meeting.
8. End your last meeting by rejoicing with those who have discovered a relationship with the Lord. Be sensitive to those who may want to know more. If you have a plan for continued follow-up (and you should!), share it with those who would be interested.

G. RELAX! Keep things in perspective by remembering that your job is to present the truth, it's God's job to convert people. Depend on the Holy Spirit to work supernaturally. Pray, do your thing, and trust God to do His!

# DISCOVERY LESSON ONE:

## GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN



This is the first in a series of four Bible studies designed to help us discover what it means to know God personally. The theme of the four lessons are four principles that form a logical presentation of the basic message of Christianity. The first of these four principles is stated as follows:

### ***GOD LOVES YOU AND CREATED YOU TO KNOW HIM PERSONALLY***

All of the passages you will look up in this series are found in the Gospel of John, the fourth book of the New Testament. The references given refer to chapters and verses in that Gospel. For example, 3:16 means John Chapter 3, verse 16.

It is suggested that you read the Gospel of John as you study this series. Reading the book itself will help you to better understand the verses you will be looking up in each lesson. Begin in Chapter 1 and read a chapter each day — you will finish the entire book in three weeks.

1. According to 1:1-4:
  - a. Who was the “Word”?
  - b. When did He come into being?
  - c. What has He done?
2. In 1:1, the title “Word” refers to Jesus Christ. Why do you think this particular title was used?
3. How can we be sure that this title “Word” refers to Jesus Christ? (1:14)
4. What has Jesus Christ done to help us understand what God is like? (1:18)

5. How did God demonstrate His love for us? (3:16)
6. Why did Christ say that He had come? (10:10)
7. In the following passages, Jesus used various figures to illustrate the abundant life which He came to give us. Explain the basic meaning of each figure as it is given.
  - a. (4:5-14; 7:37-38)
  - b. (6:26-38)
  - c. (8:12)
8. From the following passages, list some of the characteristics of the abundant life that Jesus Christ offers:
  - a. (8:31-32, 36)
  - b. (13:35)
  - c. (14:27)
9. Why did the apostle John, the author of the Gospel of John, write this book? (20:30-31)
10. Have you personally received this gift of abundant and eternal life from Christ? If so, explain how:

# DISCOVERY LESSON TWO:

## MAN'S SIN AND SEPARATION



In lesson one, we looked at the principle that God loves us and created us to know Him personally. But why is it that people do not experience His love and a personal, daily relationship with Him? That is explained in the second principle, which says:

***MAN IS SINFUL AND SEPARATED FROM GOD SO  
WE CANNOT KNOW HIM PERSONALLY AND EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE***

The Bible in Romans 3:23 states, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23 states, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Because of the results of sin, man is described as spiritually dead and therefore cut off from the life of God.

(Remember, all references in this study refer to the Gospel of John.)

1. On what basis can Jesus Christ justly judge people? (2:24-25)
2. Man is spiritually dead and needs the Holy Spirit to impart to him spiritual life. How does Jesus Christ explain this need to Nicodemus, a religious leader of His day? (3:1-8)
3. Why is it that many people choose to remain in darkness rather than coming to God's light? (3:19-20)

4. What is the condition of the person who has not believed in the Son of God and thus has not received eternal life? (3:36)
  
5. How does Jesus Christ relate to God's judgement against sin? (5:21-27)

Why is this so?

6. What did Jesus say was the reason certain people did not have the life He came to bring? (5:40)
  
7. What is the effect of sin on the person who sins? (8:34)
  
8. In Chapter 16, Jesus explains a work of the Holy Spirit. According to 16:8-11, what is the Holy Spirit supposed to do?
  
9. Have you received Christ and His gift of eternal life?

Remember to continue to read a chapter each day in the Gospel of John.



# DISCOVERY LESSON THREE:

## *GOD'S PROVISION*



In lesson two, we saw that man is sinful and therefore separated from God. In this lesson, we will look at the great news about God sending His Son to take the penalty for our sin, thereby making it possible for us to have a relationship with Him. The third principle says that:

***JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR MAN'S SIN  
THROUGH HIM ALONE WE CAN KNOW GOD PERSONALLY  
AND EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE***

(Remember, all references in this study refer to the Gospel of John.)

1. In 1:29 what did John the Baptist (the prophet who was the forerunner of Jesus Christ) announce was to be one of the great accomplishments of Christ? (*Note that the Jewish people to whom John spoke were very familiar with the Old Testament system of sacrifice for sin. This system was pointing to the time when Christ would once for all, by the sacrifice of Himself, take away sin. For more details, read the book of Hebrews, Chapter 10, verses 1-25.*)
2. According to 3:14-18, how does the death of Christ on the cross relate to man's personal faith? (*The account of Moses lifting up the serpent is found in Numbers 21:5-9. At that time, poisonous snakes had bitten many people of Israel as a judgement against their sin. Many were dying. God instructed Moses to lift up a bronze serpent on a pole so that when those who had been bitten looked at it, they would live.*)
3. What are the consequences for a person who does not look in faith upon Christ who has died to take away the penalty for that person's sins? (8:24)

4. How can we know that Christ had no sins of His own to die for? (8:29)
  
5. What did Jesus say about His death? (10:11-18)
  
6. What did Jesus say about Himself in 10:30-33?
  - a. How did the Jews respond?
  
  - b. Why did they respond that way?
  
7. What did Jesus Christ claim about Himself in 14:6?
  
8. What five witnesses did Jesus have to the truth of His claims?
  - a. 5:32-33
  - b. 5:36
  - c. 5:37-38
  - d. 5:39
  - e. 8:12-14, 18
  - f. Where did He say He had come from?
  
9. What did the man who condemned Jesus to death say about His guilt? (18:38)
  
10. In light of this lesson, review Christ's claim in 14:6. Have you by faith come to the Father through Christ?

# DISCOVERY LESSON FOUR:



## THE NEED TO RECEIVE CHRIST

In lesson three, we saw that Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin and it is through Him that we can know God personally. Now we will look at the step we need to take if we are to have the life which Jesus came to provide. It is stated in the fourth principle, which says:

***WE MUST INDIVIDUALLY RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST  
AS SAVIOR AND LORD  
THEN WE CAN KNOW GOD PERSONALLY AND EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE***

(Remember, all the references in this study refer to the Gospel of John.)

1. What two parallel ideas in 1:12-13 explain what we must do in order to be born of God?
2. What must happen to us before we can be properly related to God? (3:6,7)
3. What did Jesus say would happen to those who put their faith in Him? (5:24)
4. If by faith you have become a sheep of the Good Shepherd, what things are true of you according to 10:27-30?
5. What is true of those who trust in the One who has conquered both spiritual and physical death? (11:25-27)
6. How are people going to know that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ? (13:34-35)

7. What are we to do if we are to allow the life of Jesus Christ to be expressed through us? (15:1-8)
8. What has God appointed us to do? (15:16)
9. How does Jesus describe eternal life? (17:3)
10. What miracle convinced the disciples that the claims of Jesus Christ about Himself and about His death were true? (20:1-9, 19, 20, 24-29)

To believe in Christ is to put faith or trust in Him. What are we trusting in for God's forgiveness; for a right relationship with Him; for eternal life? Is Christ worthy of our trust? Would you like to put your faith in Christ as the One who paid for your sins by His death on the cross? Would you like to say of Him, "My Lord and my God" (20:28)? If you would like to put your faith in Him, why not bow your head and pray something like this:

***"Father in heaven, thank You for sending your only begotten Son into this world as proof of your love for me. Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for dying on the cross to pay the penalty for my sin and for coming back to life to give me real hope for the future. I receive You now as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. I intend to serve You and I invite You to make me the person You want me to be. Amen."***

If you have finished reading the Gospel of John, begin reading the First Epistle of John. He states the purpose of that epistle in these words, "And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. **These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life,**" (I John 5:11-13, emphasis added)

After you have finished the First Epistle of John, continue to study your Bible on a daily basis.