

SOW: Season of Witness - Week 6: Pathway of Scripture

HANDOUT

The Bible must be central to any discipleship pathway.

Joshua 1:8

Psalms 119:105

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Two Pitfalls With the Bible and Discipleship

1. We (in effect) ignore it
2. We over-intellectualize it

Both routes end up with disciples not having lives shaped by Scripture.

Instead, we seek to help others to....

- Encounter Jesus for themselves in the words that they read or hear
- Become self-feeders from Scripture

Discovery Bible Study (DBS)

Has emerged out of the non-Western church

1. A way of engaging with the Bible that focuses deeply on the text
2. Focused on discovering together, from the text, insight about God and how we are to live in light of that
3. Highly focused on personal application and, in addition, sharing what we learn
4. Not a program, but takes any passage of Scripture and applies the same questions to it

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The Questions

LOOKING BACK

1. What are you thankful for this week? (= thankfulness)
2. Who did you get to share the story with?
3. What are the challenges that you are faced with this week? (= so you can pray for them, and also someone in the group might be able to help)

BIBLE

Read the passage, and then re-read it

Ask someone to summarize this passage in their own words (= What do you personally understand about this passage)

LOOKING UP

1. What did you discover (learn) about God in this passage? (Bring out attributes of God)
2. What did you discover (learn) about people in this passage?

LOOKING FORWARD

1. How will you obey this passage? (Discipleship starts with you)
“I will _____ this week” (e.g. Example to Follow? Command to Obey? Sin to Avoid? Promise to Keep?)
2. Who are you going to share this passage with/ tell (reach out to others)
3. Based on this passage, how can we pray? (start and end with prayer - help people experience prayer)

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PAUSE

Share if any of you have come across DBS before now.

As you hear these questions, what strikes you?

What do you like?

What are you puzzled by?

Ground rules

1. Must stay in this text alone - no other passages!
2. If people say unusual or unorthodox things, ask where they see that in the passage
3. Don't allow one person to dominate the process
4. Keep the process short
5. Make sure you always get to the place of obedience
6. Depend on the Holy Spirit
7. You are not the teacher, you are the facilitator. Ask God to restrain you! Your job is to ask good questions

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Benefits

1. Helps people learn how discover Christ in the Bible
2. Makes them obedience-based, reproductive disciples (what they read, they obey)
3. Empowers the everyday person, so they live it out in their own context
4. Dials down anxiety, as people won't be made to look foolish at a lack of Bible knowledge
5. By sticking to that passage alone, it creates an equal platform for all to contribute
6. It is highly replicable

Two Types of DBS

- For those in the church (for believers) to start small groups that will grow with new people being added
- Outside the church

Which Passages?

- Start with a passage that meets them at their place of need
- e.g. the "I am" sayings of Jesus in John; the parables of Jesus in Luke; Jesus' Kingdom stories and parables in Matthew; the journey to the cross in Mark; a Bible overview; Creation and the Fall. The options are almost limitless!
- Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance about what to do

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HOMEWORK

Who can you reach out to this week to start a DBS with?

Think of non-Christians (to draw them to Jesus)

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And Christians (to train them)

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