

## How can we let the lost lead a Discovery Bible Study

A discovery study for those struggling with this concept.

Remember that in the discovery model, we are not asking the lost to "lead" in the sense of teaching and giving answers - but "lead" only by facilitating the group by gathering them and asking questions and letting answers come from the Bible. They are the facilitator or question-asker only – not the answer person.

The insider (hopefully two insiders) is the best one to gather and then facilitate their group. In this way the group is developing and leaders are being developed instead of relying on outside leaders for long periods of time.

However, the outside believer (an outsider to the family, not necessarily an outsider to the culture) is ALWAYS coaching the group through the process. They often ask the questions in the first few meetings to model the process and then continue attending the Discovery Group for a while after passing off the question-asking. They meet after every Discovery Group with the one or two insider facilitators to review the meeting and also coach them through what to do at the next meeting. They will still know and visit the group, but they are not the facilitators.

This "shadow pastoring" allows them to help course-correct and troubleshoot by helping the facilitators ask questions to get back on track. Questions such as "where do you see what you just said in this passage" and "let's not speculate – we will learn about the topic you have mentioned later in our studies – let's focus on this passage only".

### **Discovery Bible Study - Study the following passages and consider:**

1. Luke 8:26-39 – What did the man tell his family? Who 'controlled' the message? (Note: principle of 'know a little, share a little').
2. Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-16 – What did the disciples believe when they were sent? How much did they know? We're they "believers"? (Note: They were sent repeatedly before Peter's confession (Matt 16:16) and before they received the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-23; Acts 2:1-4).
3. Acts 17:10-11 – Who led the Bible discussion group when Paul and his team was not present?
4. John 4:28-29 – What did the woman say when she went back to her village? How much did she need to know to bring people to Jesus (the Word)? If Jesus is not physically present, how best could we bring people to the Word?
5. Luke 9:49-50 – "Outsiders" are ministering in Jesus' Name: would you stop people who are studying the Bible if they don't have a "proper" teacher?
6. Mt 7:21-23 – There's some pretty powerful "ministry" happening in these verses—but Jesus 'doesn't know them'! So, how do we really know who is a believer? Is it possible many "Christians" teaching and ministering in various ways today are actually not real believers (but we entrust the pulpit, lectern, leadership, etc. to them).
7. Mt 23:8-11 – What's the danger here? How do we avoid it?
8. Mt 23:15 – What's the danger here? How might we be teaching others in similar ways?

9. Mt 15:3-7 – How might our traditions and rules surrounding teaching models inadvertently lead people to break God’s commands? (Consider 1 Cor 12:7-11; 1 Cor 14:26-33; etc.)
10. John 6:43-45; 16:13 – Who will guide people into Truth?
11. Is 55:10-11 – What does God promise concerning His Word? Overall, is it better for unbelievers to study God’s Word or *not* study God’s Word? (Remember the reality across the world that many people have access to God’s Word and are not studying it or only study it with “approved” teachers which are often insufficient.)
12. Heb 4:12 – Is God’s Word able to accomplish the things listed or do we need a human interpreter to make sure it accomplishes what God intends?
13. Mt 7:15; 2 Pet 2:1-22 – How do we recognize false prophets? What’s the best antidote for false teachers? (See how Peter answers in 2 Peter 3:2)

**Discussion** – *After reading and considering the above, discuss in small groups:*

- How can we can “teach” without “teaching”? (Note the verbs in Acts 17:1-3 to describe Paul’s many ways of teaching.)
- How have our concepts of “teaching” and “preaching” been informed by our own cultures in ways that actually may be OK but not biblically required?
- How have you seen humans usurping the Teacher role that is rightfully God’s? How can we avoid that doing that?
- While the Discovery Group is not a tool explicitly found in Scripture, do you think that it is a legitimate way to “teach”? Why/why not?

### **Application**

- ~ What 1-2 things are you going to do differently as a result of this study?
- ~ How will you teach differently?
- ~ How will you treat others’ ministry differently?