

# Way of Discipleship

# Small Group Guide



## Leaders' Notes

Welcome to the Way of Discipleship Group resource.

These sessions are smaller units drawn from the 'Way of Discipleship' "library", designed to be easy to pick up and use, and to last about 60 minutes (often with additional material if desired). There are over sixty group sessions on all aspects of discipleship, offering the opportunity to pick and mix according to need. You might like to use them as baptism or confirmation preparation, homegroup resources or Lent Courses.

## How it works

Each session aims to provide information, but also lead to enabling transformation by the Spirit. Discipleship is to be lived. Change happens through a combination of things which we see in the life of Jesus.

- We **understand** new information and biblical insight.
- We **see what this looks like** when it is lived out.
- We put it into **practice**.
- We have friends who can help us **respond** and see where we are growing.

## What each session contains

**Information:** through teaching and reflecting on Scripture.

About a page of key ideas is offered for both the leader and as participants' notes. You can read this together, or if you prefer, adapt and share the main thoughts in your own style.

When it comes to discussing the Bible, we use the same four Discovery Bible Study questions in each session - a guide to leading this is on the next page. This is both to make "Bible study" accessible for everyone, and to offer a model which anyone can use elsewhere. There are optional further materials and questions.

**Modelling:** through a video of people speaking of their lived experience, or the opportunity to share together.

**Responding:** A chance to respond and to live out what God is showing us.

**Checking in:** A chance to check in with others in a supportive way, at the beginning and end of the session. The notes don't offer response suggestions, but instead invite people to respond to whatever God might be showing them. It can be tempting to skip this part, but it is very possible to offer each other accountability which helps us grow in a friendly and supportive manner. As Christian disciples we love one another by having real and transformative relationships.

**Pray:** there is a suggested closing prayer.

There are suggested timings, often a few additional options should you wish them, and participants' handout..If you have any queries please contact [guydc@cofebirmingham.com](mailto:guydc@cofebirmingham.com)



In recent years the Discovery Bible Study method has led to significant growth in the church around the world, and offers us a way of reading the Bible with anybody. It is a method that emphasises discovery, not teaching, and is particularly aimed at empowering people who may not have read the Bible before to be able to start.

Discovering truth is far more powerful than being told it. The process allows the Holy Spirit to be the teacher rather than a person, helping to avoid over-dependence on a gifted individual.

Crucially, it helps us not only to understand what the Bible says but also to respond in our own lives, putting into practice what we feel God is showing us. This is why it helps us grow as disciples.

It works with a simple way of reading together, followed by using the same straightforward questions each time.

## The method:

Read - Reader 1 reads passage all the way through

Read - Reader 2 same as above (useful to read from another translation)

Retell - With Bibles closed the re-teller tells the essence of the narrative/theme/parable from memory. The re-teller should feel NO pressure to memorize or capture everything and should not interpret the passage.

The leader asks four simple questions:

What does this passage teach me about God?

What does this passage teach me about people?

How does this passage call me to obey God?

What might I do in response to this this week?

When interpreting the Scripture, try and keep away from linking to other books or theologians – this allows the new and mature Christian to be on equal footing. No one should feel not knowledgeable enough to listen to God.

Questions 3 and 4 are the key questions, where the rubber hits the road – what is God saying to me and how will I respond?

This method is accessible and applied. Used over time it will enable most people to have confidence in listening to God through Scripture for themselves, and in leading others to do so.

