

# Discovery Bible Study Session Timeline & Structure

**Total Session Time: 60-75 minutes**

## Opening (10-15 minutes)

- **Care & Prayer** (5-7 min): "What are you thankful for this week?" and "What challenges are you facing?"
- **Accountability** (5-8 min): For ongoing groups or AFTER your first session - "How did you apply last week's passage?" and "Who did you share with?"

## Discovery (35-45 minutes)

- **Read the Passage** (5 min): Have 2-3 people read the passage aloud in NLT or another version
- **Retell in Own Words** (5-10 min): Group members retell the story/passage without looking
- **Discovery Questions** (25-30 min):
  - "What does this passage tell us about God?"
  - "What does this passage tell us about people?"
  - "What do you like about this passage?"
  - "What do you find challenging?"

## Application & Commitment (15 minutes)

- **Personal Application**: "Based on this passage, what is God asking you to do this week?"
- **Sharing Plan**: "Who will you share this story/truth with this week?"
- **Group Needs**: Address any needs mentioned in the opening

# 12 Starter Passages for Each Group

## 1. NONBELIEVERS (Discovering Who God Is)

Focus: God's character, love, and invitation

1. **Genesis 1:1-25** - God as Creator
2. **Genesis 3:1-24** - The problem of sin
3. **John 3:1-21** - God's love and new birth
4. **Luke 15:11-32** - The prodigal son
5. **Luke 18:9-14** - The Pharisee and tax collector
6. **Mark 2:1-12** - Jesus forgives and heals
7. **Luke 19:1-10** - Zacchaeus encounters Jesus
8. **John 4:4-42** - Woman at the well
9. **Luke 23:32-49** - The crucifixion
10. **Luke 24:1-12** - The resurrection
11. **Acts 16:25-34** - The Philippian jailer
12. **Romans 10:8-13** - How to be saved

## 2. NEW BELIEVERS (Foundations of Faith)

Focus: Identity in Christ, basic discipleship, spiritual practices

1. **John 10:1-18** - Jesus the Good Shepherd
2. **John 15:1-17** - Abiding in Christ
3. **Matthew 7:24-29** - Building on the rock
4. **Romans 8:1-17** - Life in the Spirit
5. **Ephesians 2:1-10** - Saved by grace
6. **1 John 1:5-2:2** - Walking in the light
7. **Matthew 6:5-15** - How to pray
8. **Philippians 4:4-9** - Peace and joy in Christ
9. **Hebrews 10:19-25** - Importance of fellowship
10. **Matthew 28:16-20** - The Great Commission
11. **2 Timothy 3:14-17** - The value of Scripture
12. **1 Peter 2:1-10** - Your identity in Christ

## 3. EXISTING BELIEVERS (Deeper Discipleship)

Focus: Maturity, mission, multiplication

1. **Matthew 5:1-16** - Sermon on the Mount: Salt and light
2. **John 13:1-20** - Servant leadership
3. **Acts 2:42-47** - Model of Christian community
4. **Romans 12:1-21** - Living sacrifices
5. **Galatians 5:13-26** - Walking by the Spirit
6. **Ephesians 6:10-20** - Spiritual warfare
7. **Philippians 2:1-18** - The mind of Christ
8. **James 1:19-27** - Doers of the Word
9. **1 Corinthians 12:12-31** - One body, many parts
10. **2 Timothy 2:1-13** - Multiplying disciples
11. **Hebrews 11:1-16** - Faith heroes
12. **Matthew 25:31-46** - Serving "the least of these"

## Key Facilitation Tips

### DO:

- Let the Holy Spirit teach through the Word
- Ask open-ended questions
- Wait for participants to discover truths themselves
- Keep discussions focused on the passage
- Encourage everyone to participate

### DON'T:

- Preach or teach
- Answer your own questions too quickly
- Allow one person to dominate
- Add outside information not in the passage
- Judge or correct harshly