



10 mins - GIVING THANKS AS WORSHIP

Start promptly, and start by asking people what they're thankful for this week.

Take time for singing one worship song (*led live, or by CD, or YouTube*)



10 mins - PRAYER REQUESTS

Possible discussion starters: What is stressing you out lately? What is a challenge you are facing? What is a need you have?

(*Insist on confidentiality, and encourage people to make note of prayer requests*).

- The facilitator of the small group should be sure to write down what is shared



10 mins - REVIEW

How did you do with last week's "I will" statement? ie: How did you put into practice what you learned from last week's lesson? (*see below*)

With whom did you share last week's lesson? (*see below*)

30-45 minutes - BIBLE STUDY (*this could be anywhere from 30-45 minutes but no longer*)



There is flexibility in what a small group chooses to do during this time, but we recommend a specific way of following up whatever "method" is used during this time.

A group can use a straightforward Bible study approach called a **Discovery Bible study** (*explained below*), or use a video series from a selection recommended on Gateway's



RightNowMedia resource. Whatever method of **Bible Study** is used it is meant to be a method so simple that any person in the group can facilitate it

The **Discovery Bible Study** is an approach that:

- Requires no advance preparation.
- Is Bible-centered and Spirit-led
- Is obedience-focussed
- Is discipleship-driven
- Is discovery-based as God speaks to us from His Word



Rather than a teacher being in charge, a facilitator makes room for the Word of God to teach us by using a particular format and by asking particular questions explained here:.

READ & RE-TELL



- Before looking at the passage, ask 2 people to read and someone else to re-tell what was read.
- Read the Bible passage in 2 translations (*ideally*)
- Ask one person to re-tell what they heard – not interpret it, but simply paraphrase it in their own words.



- The person re-telling what they heard should know there's NO pressure to capture every detail, because the group is then asked to add any missing details they remember.
 - This is not a quiz or a test, but is practice at hearing and caring about God's Word.
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ASK (*these questions should also be used after a video teaching if a video method is being used for the Bible Study*)

The facilitator asks 4 simple but important questions:

1

Knowing God - What did we learn about **God** in this passage/in the video?

2

Knowing ourselves - What did we learn about the **human race** in this passage/video?

- It's vital that when answering these questions that participants stick exclusively with the passage that has been read.
- This means NO cross-referencing with other passages, which means every participant is on a level playing field with every other participant as they all focus strictly on the passage in front of them.
- A fair question anyone can ask anyone in a Bible study is, ***“Where is that in this passage?”***

3

Obedying God - What is a tangible way I can put what I've learned from this passage/or the video into practice?

- This is where real life-change happens, and should be phrased as an “**I will...**” **statement** in the spirit of Jesus wanting us to obey what He has commanded us.
- For each person to have a suitable “I will...” statement, it’s worth taking a few minutes of waiting quietly and letting the Holy Spirit speak.
- Encourage people to have SMART “I will...” statements: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound.
- The leader of the small group should be especially sure to write down people’s “I will...” statements as a reference for the following gathering..

4

Mission to others - Who in your life will you share what you learned this week?

(Discipling toward mission)

- It’s preferable if people share with those who don’t know Jesus and with whom there is some level of relationship (*a friend, neighbour, workmate, schoolmate, family member, etc.*).
- The leader of the small group should again make written notes of these answers.

5 mins - CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER



At this point, the facilitator refers the group back to what people shared earlier about what’s stressing them out, or what’s challenging them, or any needs people know of, and ask if there is any **action** that the group can take to help with something.

Whatever is agreed upon should be specific and realistic, and can be outreach oriented if it’s a need of someone who is in relationship with someone in the group, or it can be a way of one-anothering one another if it’s a need of someone in the group.

Don’t allow your small group to be a “holy huddle” that doesn’t do life outside of the group.

That’s a total of about **80-95 minutes**, which should leave time for a group to pause and pray for a particularly heart-felt need that may have been shared, or for some fellowship time afterwards.

