

Households of faith

Resources to help you discover
God's word as a family at home.

PRAXEIS

How do we do church

WHEN WE CAN'T MEET AS A CHURCH?

We as a society have been thrust into uncertain times. Just about every aspect of our lives has been torpedoed by the COVID-19 crisis. Yet, as the body of Christ we have an unprecedented opportunity. **As followers of Jesus who love to meet, gather and worship God, many of us are asking - how do we do church?**

When the church first began, Jesus gave it a commission; to go and make disciples and be a witness for his kingdom everywhere. In the middle of our social distancing, empty supermarket shelves and devastating job losses, Jesus' commission hasn't changed - but the way we live it out is, as we adapt to a different way of life.

As our church buildings close, we are being forced to think about what it means to be 'the' church and a disciple in a very different world. I like to remind myself that God knew this would happen - he has a plan and a way through. It is our job to keep his commission for the church as our guide as we navigate the rapid changes this virus has brought.

Not long after the church began, persecution hit and disciples were scattered everywhere. Instead of the church floundering in this difficult time - it flourished. The kingdom of God grew among many different class groups, as well as across nations and geographical boundaries.

It feels as though in someways we are being scattered again - in a different way - as we can no longer gather together and meet as usual. So how can we now engage and fellowship, discover biblical truth and be a witness for God's kingdom in and from our homes?

A Discovery Bible Study is a simple outline and process to help people gather as the scattered church: to engage, learn, grow and be a witness as twos, threes and families during these tough circumstances.

You'll find all the resources you need on our website to get started. If you'd like to know more contact us, we can offer online coaching and training. We encourage you to give it a go and see what God shows you as you gather in tiny groups to learn, worship and grow as a disciple.

Doing a Discovery Bible Study

SIMPLE STEPS TO EXPLORE THE BIBLE TOGETHER

A Discovery Bible Study with your group or family is a great way to do church at home. There is no need for experts or training – you just need to be willing to open the Bible, share and discuss questions and be ready for what God wants to teach you. Here are simple steps you can follow:

Discovery Bible Study Map

Ask

- What are you thankful for this week? What has been difficult?
- What are the needs in our community? How can we help?
- Have you followed what God showed you last week? Have you shared? How did it go?

- Choose a Bible passage: (see the Scripture Lists for help)
 - o Read the passage out loud.
 - o Read the passage again.
- As a group, close your Bibles and retell the story together.
- Ask these questions:
 - o What does this tell us about God?
 - o What does this tell us about people?

Bible

Commit

- Ask the group:
 - o What will you do in response to what we've read?
 - o Who will you share this with?

Tips

- Share the lead – anyone can lead a Discovery Bible Study, even the kids.
- No worries if you don't understand something – keep reading and exploring.
- Remember no experts – stick to the Bible story and questions – try to avoid one person teaching.



If you've got kids – see our [Family Discovery Bible Study resource](#) to help them meaningfully join in.

Family Discovery Bible Study



A HOW-TO-GUIDE

What you'll need

- A Bible - whether a hard copy or App (you can choose a children's version)
- The Discovery Bible Study Map
- Food to share
- Something creative - pencils, paper, play dough, lego etc



Watch Mel - Praxeis worker and Mum - explain how her family does a Discovery Bible Study together. [Click here](http://www.praxeis.org/resources) or visit www.praxeis.org/resources

Discovery Bible Study Map

You can learn a lot about what's going on in the family, when you share these questions.

Ask

Ask the whole family to share:

- What are you thankful for this week? What has been difficult?
- What are the needs in our community? How can we help?
- Have you followed what God showed you last week? Have you shared? How did it go?

Bible

- Choose a Bible passage: (see Scripture Lists for help)
 - o Read the passage out loud.
 - o Read the passage again.
- Close your Bible and retell the story together.
- Ask these questions:
 - o What does this tell us about God?
 - o What does this tell us about people?

As the story is read out, have the kids draw what they hear or create the story in lego or playdough. Let them retell the story from what they created.

Commit

- Ask everyone to share:
 - o What will you do in response to what we've read?
 - o Who will you share this with?

This part is really important - this is where the story becomes an action.

Why Discovery with the whole family?

- Creates a shared sense of what God is doing in the whole family's life.
- Gives parents an idea of how kids are experiencing their faith.
- Adults don't have to have all the answers.



Connecting with God

SCRIPTURE LIST

Just focus on one passage to explore each time you gather -
using the Discovery Bible Study Map to guide you.

- How Do I Pray to God? - Matthew 6: 5-15
- Who Does God Listen to & Welcome? - Luke 18: 9-17
- Ancient Examples of Prayer (by a man after God's own heart)
- Psalm 27: 7-14, Psalm 51: 1-17, Psalm 139
- God is Not Far From You - Acts 17: 24-31
- Jesus' Invite to You - John 14: 1-6, Matthew 11: 28-30

Together as a family

SCRIPTURE LIST

Just focus on one passage to explore each time you gather -
using the Discovery Bible Study Map to guide you.

- Do not worry - Matt 6:25-34
- The Good Samaritan - Luke 10: 25-37
- How to pray - Matt 6: 5-21
- Thinking about good things - Philippians 2: 12-18
- Friends lowering man through roof - Luke 5:17-39
- Jesus heals with mud - John 9:1-12
- Build your house upon the rock - Matt 7:24-27
- Lost sheep or Lost Coin - Luke 15: 1-7 OR 8-10

Stories of hope

SCRIPTURE LIST

Just focus on one passage to explore each time you gather -
using the Discovery Bible Study Map to guide you.

- Jesus comes into a home - Luke 19:1-10
- Party at Levi's house - Mark 2:13-17
- Who God listens to - Luke 18:9-14
- The ultimate quarantine - Mark 5:1-20
- When social distance does not apply - Matthew 9:18-26
- Remember to say thank you! - Luke 17:11-19
- Hungry for God - John 4:1-42

Family relationships

SCRIPTURE LIST

Just focus on one passage to explore each time you gather -
using the Discovery Bible Study Map to guide you.

- Different ways of relating - Luke 10:38-42
- Changing relationships - Ruth 1:1-22
- Parents and siblings - Luke 15:11-32
- No room to move - Genesis 13:1-18
- Sibling rivalry - Genesis 4:1-16
- Family issues - Genesis 20:1-21

Overcoming fear

SCRIPTURE LIST

Just focus on one passage to explore each time you gather -
using the Discovery Bible Study Map to guide you.

- Exodus 14 (promise - Exodus 14:13)
- 1 Samuel 17 (promise - 1 Samuel 17:45)
- Psalm 23 (promise - Psalm 23:6)
- Psalm 91 (promise - Psalm 91:10-11)
- Matthew 6:25-34 (promise - Matthew 6:33)
- Mark 4:35-41 (promise - Mark 4:39-40)
- Mark 6:45-52 (promise - Mark 6:50)
- John 20 (promise - John 20:19)
- Romans 8 (promise - Romans 8:28, 38-39)
- Philippians 4 (promise - Philippians 4:6-7)
- Hebrews 11 (promise - Hebrews 11:6)
- Revelation 22 (promise - Revelation 22:3)

This Scripture List was collated by [Phil Alessi, Novo](#).

Jesus' stories

SCRIPTURE LIST

Just focus on one passage to explore each time you gather -
using the Discovery Bible Study Map to guide you.

- The good samaritan - Luke 10:25-37
- Do not worry - Matthew 6:26-34
- The prodigal son - Luke 15:11-32
- The parable of the talents - Matthew 25:14-30
- The parable of the sower - Mark 4:1-20

Jesus out and about

SCRIPTURE LIST

Just focus on one passage to explore each time you gather -
using the Discovery Bible Study Map to guide you.

- Jesus turns water into wine - John 2:1-11
- A paralysed man healed - Mark 2:1-12 or Luke 5:17-26
- The Samaritan woman - John 4:1-42
- Levi and his party - Luke 5:29-32
- The adulterous woman - John 8:2-11
- Forgiven much - Luke 7:26-50

For more resources go to:
www.praxeis.org/resources

We would love to hear from you – if you have suggestions, stories or would like coaching or training in Disciple-Making Movements, contact us
connect@praxeis.org

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