

A large, stylized sunburst graphic in shades of blue and white. The sunburst is composed of numerous thin, radiating lines of varying lengths, some ending in small dots. The central part of the sunburst is a large white circle, which is partially overlaid by a blue circle. The background is a solid blue color with a white circle in the center, creating a high-contrast, modern aesthetic.

Households of

faith

Pastors and Church Leaders

**Resources for your church to discover
God's word at home**

PRAXEIS

Dear Pastor,

As a church leader in this difficult time, we want to help and equip you with resources that will encourage people to grow as disciples at home. With this in mind, we believe a Discovery Bible Study is an invaluable tool.

A Discovery Bible Study is a simple, inclusive and inductive method that doesn't require people to have expertise or pre-knowledge to explore the Bible - it simply relies on the word of God and the Holy Spirit for deep discovery and action.

Through exploring each step of the Discovery Bible Study, we hope this resource helps you not only survive this season, but see your church thrive. That your church might be a training ground for everyone in your gathering to be on mission together.



As an example of a way forward using Discovery Bible Studies, watch these interviews:

- [Danny and Alex Wherret of Copping Christian Fellowship, Tasmania.](#)
- [Marc and Pat from Overlake Christian Church, Seattle.](#)
- [Brian Spicer at The Chapel, New Zealand.](#)

As pastors and leaders, like you, grapple with the shut down of Sunday services due to COVID19, there have been a variety of responses. Some churches have been able to replicate their services, streaming to lounge rooms and families, however, this can be resource and time heavy. Churches, whose strength has been their sense of community, have struggled because of the lack of face-to-face connection and have had to innovate new ways to connect. Whether large or small - the Discovery Bible Study is a great way for churches to continue to engage their gathering and grow as disciples in small clusters or online.

Through introducing and using Discovery Bible Studies with their congregation, church leaders have noted a/an:

- shift in their own role as pastors - moving from being the leader-in-charge to coaching facilitators
- opportunity to examine traditions and get back to the basics of the Spirit and Word of God
- increase in intimacy within the groups
- larger attendance of their Sunday service - those not normally connecting with Church are connecting online

Continued:

- preparation of the church for a shift to small groups
- exciting preparation for future mission as everyone in the church is being trained in Discovery Bible Study – people are equipped to reach their own networks.
- foundation for a vision of multiplication.

A Discovery Bible Study is a great resource as:

- it is an inductive method of studying the Bible
- it involves groups asking questions that lead to thanksgiving and prayer
- anyone can run one – the leader facilitates the group by asking questions, not teaching
- it is not based on theological knowledge. This makes it accessible to everyone
- we discover together what God is saying through the Spirit revealing his Word
- everyone has an opportunity to apply what they learn by responding in obedience to the Bible
- everyone gets to share with others what they have learnt.

In a Discovery Bible Study, we rely on the word of God and Spirit of God. In short, it makes disciples who can learn the Word, obey it and be on mission by sharing with others.

We pray that despite all the hardship of this time, that people in your congregation will rediscover a deep sense of God's call on their lives and grow as disciples who multiply.

Serving Jesus with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Lawton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Praxeis National Director

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.



A Discovery Bible Study

FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE COMPUTERS OR INTERNET

A Discovery Bible Study can easily be held in a household or family. It is also really engaging in an online space such as Zoom or Skype.

However, there will be people who are isolated and don't have access to a computer or the internet.

Take for example, Caroline from [Life Stream Fellowship](#) in Canberra. She recognised there were people in her church community who didn't have access to technology. So she connected with them using phone conferencing to build community and continue deepening their understanding of God.

Caroline's story

As COVID-19 began to change the way we could meet together, I quickly realised there are a number of people in our community that an online tool like Zoom, was just not going to work for.

So I started with a simple text to invite people to a conference phone call.

Hi ladies,
Trust you are all keeping well.
We would like to connect tomorrow at 10 am through a phone conference that I will organise.
If you would like to join please give me a thumbs up .👍
We will have a short chat together and then share a few thoughts from 1 John 3:14-24 (DBS), followed by prayer.
Looking forward to catching up tomorrow if you can.

Making the call

I use an iPhone (please check if your phone carrier allows you to do this):

- Make your first call
- On the screen you will see a +
- Press this and add the contact details of the next person
- They are added to the call
- Continue doing this until you have added all participants to the call.

Note: As you add each person, the previous person is put on hold. It is good to let people know about this, so they don't hang up.

After the call

After the call, I emailed (or printed and posted) everyone a summary of our call with a few of our discoveries. I mentioned that we would aim to do this again at the same time next week.

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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