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# Discovering God

Exploring together what  
the main message of the Holy Word of God is  
and what that could mean for your life

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## Looking for answers?

I find myself in a broken world – how do I cope? How do I make sense of it all? Who am I? Where do I come from? Where am I going? What is the purpose of my life? What is really important? Am I doomed to be a helpless victim for the rest of my life? If anything, what can I do to improve my situation?

Welcome to the real world where everything seems to be shaking and where questions about important issues are pushed to the background by urgent things that are not always that important.

This series of meetings will take you on a journey of discovery through the Holy Word of God. En route we will ask Jesus Christ to guide us and to help us to discover worthwhile answers to deep questions.

The small group approach we will be using, is known as Discovery Groups.

### Definition of a Discovery Group:

A Discovery Group consists of two to five seekers who want to get a deeper understanding of the main message of the Holy Word of God and what that could mean for people who live in a broken world.

### Simple Principles for hosting a Discovery Group

#### Group Size:

**Keep the group small, 3-5 people including the facilitator.** This is the optimal size for a group of busy people, especially for online meetings. Face to face groups may have one or two persons more. With a larger group, there is the risk of people missing out on important encounters. In a larger group, there would also not be enough time for deep sharing and personal involvement. If other people would like to join a group, it is better to aim for multiplication by creating a new group rather than by increasing the number of people in the first group.

Create the groups by inviting people from your own social circles to join you in the journey of discovery.

#### Meeting Frequency and Time:

**Meeting once a week or every other week** is adequate in most cases. Meetings further apart will have less impact in transformation and in multiplication. During holidays or emergencies, the time between meetings might be longer.

**Timing of the meeting:** it is important to meet only when all the members of the group can be present. This is the best way to develop depth of relationships between the participants.

## Venue:

Meet in places where people normally meet (at home, in a restaurant, at work, in a park, in a shopping centre, etc.).

## Program and Duration:

**Each meeting has three parts** – Look Back, Look Up, Look Forward. Each part is vital and should not be neglected. Use the same amount of time for each part – usually thirty minutes per part = ninety minutes total.

## The Facilitator's Role:

Each Discovery Group has a facilitator who initiates the meetings. After a facilitating a few times, the group members start taking turns to facilitate the meeting. This way they learn how to facilitate their own groups once that becomes possible. The facilitator should:

- **Be an example** by showing participants how to respond to the teachings of the Holy Word of God, as well as how to grow in love for and obedience to God.
- **Facilitate** group discussions (*organization, time management and speaking time*)
- Ask questions rather than teaching or preaching
- Give everyone an opportunity to participate
- **Consider everyone as a potential facilitator**
- **Focus more on the creation of new groups** through mentoring and multiplication than on enlarging the size of existing groups.
- Guide and support new group facilitators
- Encourage them to start a new group with other people
- Ensure good relationships between facilitators to maintain the formation dynamic and accountability....

## Discovering God Scripture Lists

For your convenience, we provide two Scripture Lists that you can choose from: An abbreviated list and a complete list. After those two lists, we have added a selection of other Scripture Lists.

### Where to start?

You know the participants in your group better than we do. You might even want to involve the group members in the decision about where to start – select your own route through the Scripture Lists 😊.

On the next page you will find the one-page outline for Discovery Group meetings. Please use it for every meeting. The temptation will be to spend too much time on one or two of the parts and to neglect the other part(s). Make sure you use one third of the time for each of the three parts.

## Discovery Group Meetings – One Page Overview

### Look Back: Celebration and Fellowship (1/3 of time)

Welcome everybody and open with prayer in the Name of Jesus.

- What happened in the past week that you are thankful for?
- How did it go with the implementation of your “I will...” statements?
- What challenges / struggles are you facing right now? (take notes, you will pray for one another in the third part of the meeting)

### Look Up: Listening to God’s Word (1/3 of time)

Scripture portion taken from the Scripture List (See the lists on the following pages)

#### Discussion based on the Scripture

- Share your answers to one or more of these questions:
  - What did you discover in today’s Bible input?
  - What did you learn about God / His ways / Jesus Christ?
  - What did you learn about people / yourself?
- What could Jesus be saying to you about what He has taught you in this meeting? How could that affect your family, friends, congregation, workplace, and neighbourhood?

### Look Forward: Bless one another to obey (1/3)

- What does Jesus want you to do about what He taught you? Pray about it now and write down your answer. “With the Lord’s help I will...” Participants share and write down one another’s answers
- Pray with one another:
  - For the Lord’s help to implement your “I will...” statements
  - For one another’s challenges/struggles shared in Part One
  - For the people on your Lost List (VIP’s – Very Important Persons)
- When and where do we meet again?

**Note:** make sure your “I will” statements meet the SMARTIE goal criteria: S = specific; M = measurable; A = attainable; R = result-oriented; T = time-limited; I = in line with the vision to see God’s kingdom come in your five social circles (family, friends, faith community, workplace, neighbourhood); E = exalting God

## Discovering God – Abbreviated list

Discovery Groups can use the following passages for the “Listening to the Word” portion of your group meeting.

Week	Core Story	Read Passages	Key Verses
1.	God creates	Genesis 1:1-25	Gen. 1:1,3,9,12, 14,20,24.
2.	God creates people	Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7-9; 15-25	Gen. 2:7-9 & 15-24
3.	Disobedience of people	Genesis 3:1-24	Gen. 3:1-7
4.	Noah & the Great Flood	Genesis 6:5-22	Gen. 6: 9-13, 17, 22,
5.	The Tower of Babel – scattering people	Genesis 11:1-9	All
6.	God’s promise to Abraham	Genesis 12:1-8 & 15:1-6	Gen. 15:1-6
7.	God approves Abraham’s faith/obedience	Genesis 22:1-18	Genesis 22:1-2, 9-18
8.	God spares His people	Exodus 12:1-28	Exodus 12: 21-28
9.	God tells His people how to live	Exodus 19:5-9; 20:1-21	Exodus 20: 2-17
10.	God shows Old Testament forgiveness	Leviticus 4:1-2, 13-21, 27-31	Leviticus 4:13-21
11.	God promises Saviour for the people	Isaiah 53:1-12	All
12.	Jesus is born	Luke 1:26-38 & 2:1-20	Luke 1:28-38
13.	Jesus is baptized & tested	Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-11	Matthew 3:13-17
14.	Jesus heals the paralyzed man	Luke 5:17-26	All
15.	Jesus talks about His betrayal	Matthew 26:17-30	Matthew 26:20-30
16.	Jesus is Betrayed & Faces Trial	John 18:1-40 & 19:1-16	John 19: 5-16
17.	Jesus is Crucified	Luke 23:32-56	Luke 23:32-34, 39-43, 46-48
18.	Jesus is Alive	Luke 24:1-53	Luke 24:36-48
19.	How to enter into the Kingdom of God	John 3:1-21; Mark 16:15-18	John 3:16-21; Mark 16:15-18

## Discovering God – Full list

Stories of the Beginning		
1	God creates	Genesis 1:1 – 8
2	God completes His creation	Genesis 1:26 – 2:3
3	Adam and Eve disobey God	Genesis 3: 1 – 8
4	Adam and Eve face consequences	Genesis 3:9 – 19
5	Cain and Abel	Genesis 4:1 – 16
6	Noah and the Flood	Genesis 6:9 – 22
7	The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1 – 9

Stories of Abraham		
1	Abraham the son of Terah	Genesis 11:26 – 32
2	God speaks to Abraham	Genesis 12:1 – 9
3	Hagar in the desert	Genesis 16: 1 – 15
4	God promises Isaac	Genesis 17:1 – 19; 21:1 – 7
5	Sacrifice of the lamb/ram	Genesis 22:9 – 19
6	Abraham seeks a wife for Isaac	Genesis 24:1 – 4, 56 – 67
7	Abraham dies	Genesis 25:7 – 11

Stories of the Prophets		
1	God speaks to Jacob	Genesis 28:10 – 17
2	Joseph forgives his brothers	Genesis 45: 1 – 15
3	Moses and the Passover Lamb	Exodus 12:21 – 28
4	The Holy God gives His Commandments	Exodus 19:16 – 25
5	Hanna, mother of the prophet Samuel	1 Samuel 1:1 – 20
6	David anointed king by Samuel	1 Samuel 16:1 – 13
7	Jonah the prophet and his assignment	Jonah 1:1 – 17
8	Isaiah the prophet and his calling	Isaiah 6:1 – 8
9	Elisha the prophet and the widow's oil	2 Kings 4:1 – 7
10	Daniel the prophet and the dream	Daniel 2:1 – 23

Stories of Jesus		
1	The angel Gabriel announces Jesus	Luke 1:26 – 38
2	The song of Mary about Jesus	Luke 1:46 – 55
3	Jesus and His birth	Luke 2:1 – 7
4	John the Baptist testifies about Jesus	John 1:19 – 34
5	Jesus and the sign of Jonah	Matthew 12:33 – 42
6	Jesus and His temptation in the desert	Luke 4:1 – 13
7	Jesus and the suffering woman	Luke 13:10 – 24
8	Jesus and the paralytic man	Mark 2:1 – 12
9	Jesus and Zacchaeus	Luke 10:1 – 10
10	The heart of the father	Luke 15:11 – 32
11	The Way, the Truth, and the Light	John 14:1 – 11
12	The death of Jesus	Luke 23:32 – 48
13	The empty tomb	John 20:1 – 10
14	The Great Commission	Matthew 28:16 – 20

Stories of early believers		
1	The story of Stephen	Acts 6:8 – 15
2	The story of the Ethiopian man	Acts 8:26 – 39
3	The story of Paul and the sorcerer	Acts 13:1 – 12
4	The story of the deliverance of a girl	Acts 16:16 – 18
5	The story of the burning of the books	Acts 19:23 – 41
6	The story of Paul in Malta	Acts 28:1 – 10
7	The fulfillment of the promises	Revelation 7:9 – 16



## Some more Scripture lists

### The four certainties of those who have entered the Kingdom of God

1	We have eternal life	1 John 5:11-13	1 John 5:13
2	Our sins have been forgiven	1 John 1:7-10	1 John 1:9
3	We are children of God	Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 3:26, 4:6	Romans 8:16
4	Our names are in the Book of Life	Revelation 3:5	Revelation 3:5

### Hope series (for seekers)

1.	Hope for the sinner	Luke 18:9-14
2.	Hope for the poor	Luke 12:13-34
3.	Hope for the runaway	Luke 15:11-32
4.	Hope for the lost	Luke 19:1-10
5.	Hope for the grieving	John 11:1-44
6.	Hope for the seeker	John 3:1-21

### Signs of John (for seekers)

1.	Turning of water into wine	John 2:1-12
2.	Healing of the royal official's son	John 4:46-54
3.	Healing of the paralytic	John 5:1-17
4.	Feeding of the five thousand	John 6:1-14
5.	Walking on water	John 6:15-25
6.	Healing of the blind man	John 9:1-41
7.	Raising Lazarus from the dead	John 11:1-46

## Strengthen series (for new believers)

**Jesus Says** - learn to obey the basic commands of Jesus. Keep sharing Jesus with people on your list

1.	Learn and do	John 14:15-21
2.	Repent. Believe. Follow	Mark 1:14-17, Ephesians 2: 1-10
3.	Be baptized	Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:26-38
4.	Love God. Love People	Luke 10:25-37

**Jesus Also Says** - learn to obey the basic commands of Jesus. Keep sharing Jesus with people on your list

1.	Talk with God <i>Learn and practice Jesus' model prayer</i>	Matthew 6:9-13
2.	Remember and Commemorate Jesus	Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
3.	Give	Acts 4:32-37
4.	Pass it on	Matthew 28:18-20

**Follow as I follow** - Make disciples. Pass on to others what you have learned. Teach these people to pass it on too.

1.	Find a Disciple	2 Timothy 1:1-14
2.	Pass it on	2 Timothy 2:1-4, 14-16
3.	Teach them to teach others	2 Timothy 3:1-17
4.	Hard times	2 Timothy 4:1-22

**Multiply your Discovery Group** - Gather your disciples into new groups.

1.	Get started and make a plan <i>Listen to Jesus' instructions as you start a new group</i>	Luke 10:1-11
2.	Gather together	Acts 2:14-47
3.	Person of Peace <i>Look for people willing to share their story about Jesus. Start a group with that person &amp; their friends &amp; family</i>	Mark 5:1-20, 6:53-56

**Lead** - learn how to lead a Discovery Group.

1.	Model (lead like this)	John 13:1-17
2.	Model (don't lead like this)	3 John 5-14
3.	Assist	Mark 4:35-41
4.	Watch	Luke 10:1-11, 17, 20
5.	Leave Increase Expand	Matthew 25:14-30

**Go into community** - learn how to reach your local community.

1.	<b>Go:</b> local	Acts 1:1-8
2.	<b>Go:</b> help the poor, share the Good News	Luke 7:11-23
3.	<b>Go:</b> wherever God sends	Acts 10:9-48
4.	<b>Go:</b> with a plan	Acts 13:1-3, 32-33, 38-39; 14:21-23, 26-27

**Go into workplace** - learn how to reach your workplace.

1.	<b>Go:</b> Do all your work for the glory of God,	1 Corinthians 10:31-33
2.	<b>Go:</b> Do all your work in the Name of Jesus	Colossians 3:17-23
3.	<b>Go:</b> Collaborate with others to bring the sick to Jesus	Mark 2:1-12
4.	<b>Go:</b> Do your work motivated by the compassion of Jesus	Matthew 9:36; 14:14
5.	<b>Go:</b> Work is serving the Lord (employers and employees)	Ephesians 6:5-9

**Go global** - learn how to reach the ends of the earth.

1.	<b>Go:</b> global	Acts 1:1-8, Matthew 28:19-20
2.	<b>Go:</b> where God sends	Acts 8:26-38
3.	<b>Go:</b> to every people group	John 4:4-30, 39-41
4.	<b>Go:</b> with a plan	Acts 13:1-3, 32-33, 38-39; 14:21-23

**Remember the basics** - Learn what to do when you meet.

1.	Jesus is First	Philippians 2:1-11
2.	Talk with God	Matthew 6:9-13

3.	Community of believers	Hebrews 10:23-25
4.	The Bible	2 Timothy 3:10-17

**Commitment** - learn to stay strong and keep following Jesus.

1.	Disobedience	Jonah 1
2.	Commitment	Jonah 2
3.	Obedience	Jonah 3
4.	Obedience all the way	Jonah 4
5.	Use it or Lose it	Matthew 25:14-30

## What next?

Choose your own Bible passages and keep meeting. For example, you could go through different books of the New Testament, one chapter per meeting.

### More lists are available on [hcfglobal.org/discipleship](http://hcfglobal.org/discipleship)

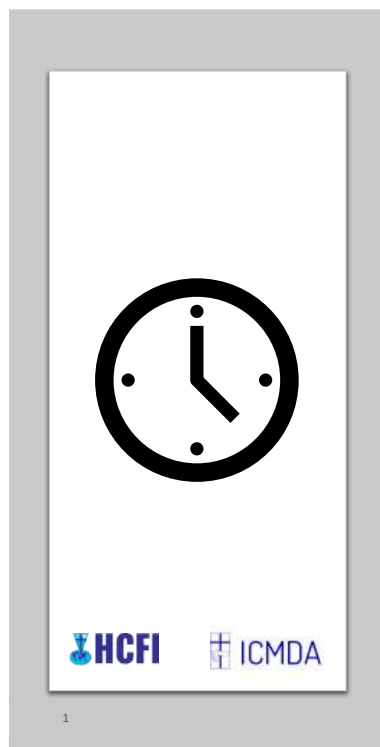
For example:

Discovering Jesus Christ (16 meetings)

Discovering God's Kingdom (22 meetings)

On the last two pages you will find a description of how you could develop your relationship with Jesus Christ through a daily devotional time.

# Guidelines for your daily devotional time: SOAPS



## S.O.A.P.S. Daily Devotional Time

Use a systematic approach to go through the whole Bible in your daily devotional times

To start with, prayerfully read one chapter a day and use a devotional notebook to write down your SOAPS notes

*Option one:* Start at the beginning of the Bible and proceed from there

*Option two:* Switch between a chapter in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament on alternate days

*Option three:* The Seven Sections Approach, which is explained later

Choose the option that works best for you

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## Use a Devotional Notebook to record the five elements of your SOAPS

1. **S = Scripture:** Prayerfully read one chapter of the Bible. Write down the portion of that chapter that speaks to you
2. **O = Observation:** What does this portion of the Bible say about God, His ways, people, you?
3. **A = Application:** How does God want you to respond to what He said to you through His Word?
4. **P = Prayer:** Ask God to help you to respond to Him in a way that brings Him joy.
5. **S = Share:** With whom will you try to share what you learnt during your SOAPS time?



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## The Seven Sections Approach



1. Genesis to Deuteronomy
2. Joshua to Job
3. Psalms
4. Proverbs to Song of Solomon
5. Isaiah to Malachi
6. Matthew to Acts
7. Romans to Revelation

*Practical Tip:*

*You might want to make seven book markers, one for each section*

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## How to go through the Seven Sections:



- **Week 1**

**1<sup>st</sup> day:** Read chapter 1 of section 1

**2<sup>nd</sup> day:** Read chapter 1 of section 2

**3<sup>rd</sup> day:** Read chapter 1 of section 3, etc.

After one week you will have read the first chapter in each of the seven sections

- **Week 2**

**1<sup>st</sup> day:** Read chapter 2 of section 1

**2<sup>nd</sup> day:** Read chapter 2 of section 2

**3<sup>rd</sup> day:** Read chapter 2 of section 3, etc.

At the end of the second week, you will have read the second chapter in each of the seven sections

- In week 3 you read chapter 3 in each of the seven sections. Continue using the same systematic approach to read the whole Bible

Once you have completed a section, go through it again. You will read some sections more frequently but that is fine

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