



DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PLAN

Knowing the God Who Loved First

Six passages to read slowly, asking one question of each — what does this show me about who God is?

6 Bible Studies by CoMission

Knowing the God Who Loved First

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How a Discovery Bible Study works

This page is for whoever leads the study. Everyone else only needs the passage.

A Discovery Bible Study has no teacher. The person leading only asks the questions; the Bible does the teaching. That is what makes it simple enough for anyone to lead — no title, no training, no materials, no money.

EAT, DIGEST, GROW

Eat the Word — Read the passage aloud, read it again, then close the Bible and have someone retell it in their own words. Reading is the bite, re-reading the chewing, the retelling the swallow. If the group can't retell it, read it once more before going on.

Digest — Work through the four questions. This is where the passage turns into faith and obedience — answered from what the text actually says, not from what someone already knew.

Grow — Growth is God's part, not yours. One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7). Do the cycle faithfully and leave the growing to Him.

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

- 1. What does this passage show me about God?**
- 2. What does it show me about people — and about myself?**
- 3. What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**
- 4. Who will I tell?**

THE SHAPE OF A MEETING

Look back — What are you thankful for? What is hard right now? How did you obey what we found last time, and who did you tell? Pray briefly for each other.

Look up — Read, re-read, retell — then the four questions.

Look forward — Each person says their own “I will...” out loud and names one person they will tell. Next time, the group asks about both. Asking is what turns a discussion into obedience.

THE ONE RULE: DON'T TEACH

The moment you start explaining, the group stops discovering. If someone says something that is not in the passage, do not correct them — ask, kindly, “Where do you see that in this passage?” and let them look. The text and the group sort it out. This is the rule that lets someone who has been in two studies lead the third.

Four to fifteen people. About an hour, once a week. Nothing else required.

We love because he loved first

1 John 4:7-21

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. What does this passage show me about God?

*John says "God is love." Where in this passage do you see God loving first, before anyone has loved him?
What does this passage say perfect love does with fear?*

2. What does it show me about people — and about myself?

*Do you come to God mostly afraid of punishment, mostly because you need something, or because you want him?
Answer honestly; this is to locate you, not to condemn you.*

3. What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)

John says whoever loves God must also love his brother. Whom will you love in a practical way this week, and on what day?

4. Who will I tell?

Who do you know who relates to God mainly through fear? How could you tell them that he loved them first?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

God, you loved me before I ever loved you, and you sent your Son for me. Where I still come to you afraid, let your love drive the fear out. I want to know you as you are.



This study online

NEXT STUDY Whom have I but you?

comission.cc/en/study/knowning-the-god-who-loved-first/02/

Whom have I but you?

Psalm 73:1-28

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. What does this passage show me about God?

The psalmist's thinking changes when he goes into the sanctuary of God. What does he see about God there that he could not see before?

In verses 23 to 26, what does God do for him, and what does God become to him?

2. What does it show me about people — and about myself?

Where have you looked at someone else's life and felt that following God was not worth it?

If God gave you none of the things you are asking for today, would you still want to know him?

3. What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)

The psalmist says "it is good to be near God." When will you spend time with God this week asking for nothing, only to be near him?

4. Who will I tell?

Who is close to giving up because life seems unfair? When could you read this psalm with them?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

★ Pray

God, I have envied people who seemed to have everything, and I have come to you for your gifts more than for you. You hold my right hand. Be my portion, and teach me that being near you is my good.



This study online

Loving the One we have not seen

1 Peter 1:3-9

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. What does this passage show me about God?

What has God already done for us, according to verses 3 to 5, before we have done anything at all?

How can people love someone they have never seen? What does this passage suggest?

2. What does it show me about people — and about myself?

How does your trust in God hold up when trials come? What does Peter say trials do to faith?

3. What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)

Choose one thing God is (his mercy, his faithfulness, his patience) that you want to know better. When this week will you look for it in the Bible?

4. Who will I tell?

Who finds it hard to love a God they cannot see? What could you share with them from this passage?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

Father, I have not seen you, but you have given me a living hope and you guard me by your power. Let me know you through your Word until I love you, though I cannot see you yet.



This study online

NEXT STUDY Even if he does not

comission.cc/en/study/knowning-the-god-who-loved-first/04/

Even if he does not

Daniel 3:13-28

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. What does this passage show me about God?

What did the three young men believe about God that let them say "But if not..."?

Who was in the fire with them? What does that show you about God?

2. What does it show me about people — and about myself?

Do you love the Giver, or mainly his gifts? What would change in your relationship with God if he said no to what you are asking for now?

3. What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)

Name something you are asking God for right now. What step will you take this week to keep trusting him, whatever his answer?

4. Who will I tell?

Who is going through a fire right now? How could you tell them that God walks into it with his people?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

God, you are able to deliver me, and even when you do not do what I ask, you are still worthy. Help me to trust who you are when I do not understand what you are doing, and meet me in the fire.



This study online

Love that keeps his word

John 14:15-24

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. What does this passage show me about God?

What does Jesus promise to the one who loves him? What does that show about how much God wants to be near us?

Who does Jesus say he will send, and why?

2. What does it show me about people — and about myself?

Is obedience to God, for you, more a way to avoid trouble or a way to love him? How do you see the difference?

3. What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)

Which word of Jesus will you keep this week as a way of loving him? Name a step and a day.

4. Who will I tell?

Who could you tell that obeying Jesus can be love, not only duty?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

★ Pray

Jesus, you said that whoever loves you will keep your word, and that you and the Father will come and make your home with him. I want to love you with my obedience, even on days when my feelings are not there yet.



This study online

The father who ran

Luke 15:11-24

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. What does this passage show me about God?

What does the father do when he sees his son still a long way off? What does that tell you about God?

The son had a speech ready. How much of it does the father let him finish?

2. What does it show me about people — and about myself?

The son planned to come back as a hired servant. In what ways do you come to God like a servant hoping to be paid, rather than like a son or daughter who is loved?

3. What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)

Write a short prayer to God this week that begins, "God, I want to learn to love you for who you are..." When will you write it?

4. Who will I tell?

Who feels too far gone to come home to God? When will you tell them about the father who ran?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

★ Pray

Father, you saw me while I was still far off, and you ran. I come home, not because I have earned a place, but because you have loved me first. Teach me to love you for who you are.



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