

## A Reproducible, Inductive Bible Discovery Pattern for Disciple Making

### Background Questions

- To whom was the text written?
- What was the occasion of the text?
- What was God communicating? What did the text mean to the original audience? What does it mean now?
- How does the text relate to the verses around it?
- Are there other scripture passages shedding light on this passage?

### Observation Questions

About the text, ask who, what, where, when, how, and why

### Application Questions

“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful...”

(2 Timothy 3:16) for:

Teaching: what we should know

Rebuking: what we should avoid doing or stop doing

Correcting: what we should do differently

Training: what we should begin or continue to do

- 1) Participative Method
  - a) What do I like about this passage?
  - b) What do I dislike about this passage?
  - c) What do I not understand?
  - d) What do I learn (the text says) about God?
  - e) What do I learn (the text says) about mankind? (myself and others)?
  - f) What is one thing I will meditate on or memorize?
  - g) What is one thing I will apply to my life?
- 2) FAITH Method
  - a) Is there a *favor* to seek?
  - b) Is there an *action* to take?
  - c) Is there an *idol* to forsake?
  - d) Is there a *truth* to learn?
  - e) Is there a *hope* to claim?
- 3) Accountability Method
  - a) Agree on *when* they will obey
  - b) Discover together *when* it will be difficult to obey
  - c) Discuss *where* they will be when they obey
  - d) Identify to *whom* will they teach what they have learned
  - e) Discuss to *whom* they will report progress
  - f) *How* did you do? Review progress the next week

### Hints for asking effective questions:

- Ask questions about the text which have an answer in the text. Avoid asking questions about the text which promote speculation. (e.g., what you think he meant when he said...) The key is to let the disciple make the simple discoveries which are available to be made from the text so that the truth of the text is unambiguous and clear.
- Guide listeners to particular places in the text for the answers (e.g., the beginning of verse 4) to your questions.
- Do not answer your own questions. Wait on them and/or assist them to find the answer themselves.
- Ask questions which lead the disciple to restate the words of the text (e.g., say “God so loved what”); Ask questions which when answered emphasize a point. (!)
- It may not be necessary to review every part of every selected verse. Neither is it necessary to review every verse. Identify in advance of the meeting the key parts of verses which need to be considered to accomplish the discipling objective and/or which will be most easily grasped by the disciple. Ask questions to help them see the answers for that discipling objective.
- Commend the disciple when they begin to mimic your questions with their own. Answer their questions with another question which directs them back to the text. Be careful that you don’t allow the disciple to create dependency upon you as the “answer man” and that they learn to regard the text as the authority.
- Remember that your questions are teaching them an inductive Bible study method which they can use in their own studies and which will be the model for future disciple making groups.
- Intersperse one kind of question with another kind where it is appropriate. It is appropriate to raise application questions during the course of the study. It is not necessary to wait until the end to ask the application questions.
- Not all questions need to be asked each time. A good measure for effective questions is: does this question help me to understand the text. There are certain logical questions which naturally cross the mind as you read a passage, (e.g., if the text read “Unless I wash you, you have no part in me,” it is essential to know who the pronouns refer to.
- Some answers may seem obvious to the long time Bible reader. You will find they are not always obvious to the new disciple.
- Watch the eyes of the disciples. You should be able to tell when they “get it.” At that point, move on to the next verse. Remember, that you are not asking questions to exercise your vocal chords. You are guiding the disciple to see for themselves the truths of the Word. When they see it, move on. If they don’t, ask another question.