



# St Michael's Church

Worship • Community • Mission

## The Discovery Bible Method

*This pattern can be used within a number of formats. See 'Discipling Groups @ St Michael's' for how to integrate it into the meeting. Alternatively, to use as part of household devotions, see 'Structure for Shared Daily Devotions.'*

### **Reconnect:**

A chance to tell the story of the day / week / time since you last met.

Ask people to share:

1. What are you thankful for?
2. What stresses or challenges are you facing?

### **Review:**

A chance to feedback on how you put into practice what you learnt last time.

1. **Who** did you share last week's story with? (How did it go?)
2. Did you do anything different this week in response to last week's "**I will**" statement?

### **Read:**

Choose a short Bible passage to consider (from the Sunday Service, Daily Devotional, Wednesday Word or elsewhere):

1. Ask someone to read the passage out loud at least twice.
2. Ask for a volunteer to re-tell the passage in their own words.
3. Ask others to fill in any details that were overlooked.

### **Reflect:**

Use these simple questions to help people engage with the passage.

1. What does this story tell me about God?
  2. What does this story tell me about people (or myself)?
- or Where do I see myself in these verses?

### **Respond:**

How will this word be lived out? Where you have daily devotions, you might draw from what God has said through the week.

1. Who needs to hear this story? How can I tell them?
2. How would God want you to obey this teaching? Write an "**I will**" statement to be specific about your response.
3. Who needs our help? How can this group help them?

Pray for each other in light of the discussion you've had together, for the responses made, and according to individual's needs.



# The **CROWN** Rhythm

## Using the Discovery Bible Method- Guidance for Leaders - Top Tips For Your Meeting.

### Ground Rules

Read these five guidelines to the group as you begin the first three or four sessions.

1. Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs.
2. Focus only on what **this** passage is saying, not on other passages.
3. Focus only on what this group is seeing.
4. Give people time to respond. Silence is OK.
5. The 'leader' should facilitate discussion, not teach.

### Leader guidelines (NB this is a facilitating role.)<sup>1</sup>

1. Keep the session on schedule and complete all sections, though not necessarily all questions.
2. Prepare before with prayer\*; studying the passage for the main idea, thinking of some examples, stories or applications from your own life.
3. Respond to questions by asking the group, "What in the passage helps us answer that question?"
4. Respond to distracting comments by asking, "Where is that found in this passage?"
5. Respond to "off the wall" answers by asking, "Can you help us understand what you are thinking?"

\*Research shared by the Diocesan Healthy Churches Team suggests that working harder preparing studies our groups has little impact on growth - *it is the time spent in prayer that counts.*<sup>2</sup> This reflects the experiences of many missionary movements who have adopted simple patterns of study to help people of any background connect with God's living Word.

### Connecting Discovery Bible with CROWN

With CROWN, we emphasise moving from *Bible Study* to *Bible Living*. The Discovery Bible method, drawn from the wisdom and experience of a number of church planting and missionary movements, does this well but also has a proven track record in successfully leading non-Christians to a living faith in Jesus Christ through engaging with Scripture.

Using the Discovery Bible method can be a really exciting way of a group developing its' mission. Getting members to invite a Person of Peace to read the Bible together with this method is a pattern used successfully by many Missional Communities.

Meeting for Discovery Bible study can become part of our regular rhythms and, therefore, part of our CROWN lifestyle. We can do this as part of our Community rhythm as we meet with other Christians or part of our Networks pattern through being bold and reading the Bible with unbelievers. As we study, we should be intentional about applying the passage to our own patterns, by asking a question like: *How does this passage connect with, challenge or strengthen any aspect of my rule of life?*

---

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Discovery Bible Studies by David L. Watson and Paul D. Watson. They write in depth in this method in their blog at [www.contagiousdisciplinemaking.com](http://www.contagiousdisciplinemaking.com)

<sup>2</sup>Small Groups Big Impact by Jim Egli, <http://jimegli.com/4-surprising-discoveries-about-small-group-growth/>