

Annotated outline of a one-hour Communal Discovery Bible Study

- Introduction (3 minute)
 - Pray, inviting the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to God's Word
 - Share background and context information
 - Read the passage out loud
- Individual Time (5 minutes)

Give your group about 5 minutes to study the passage individually. Encourage them to:

 1. Look for the specifics such as who, what, when, where, and how;
 2. Look for connections within the text such as repetitions and contrasts;
 3. Enter the text experientially by becoming one of the characters in the story.
 4. Write down the questions that come to their mind.
- Group shares observations and questions (10-15 minutes)

Ask: "What do you see here, and what questions do you have?" To encourage the sharing ask open ended questions such as "what else did you see?" and "what else did you notice?" Do NOT ask "content questions" such as "where were Jesus and the disciples going?" or "who did Jesus encounter on the road to Samaria?"

Note their questions but tell the group that we will hold off answering them yet. This time should be lively.
- Group answers questions together (25-30 minutes)
 - Starting with the beginning of the text, walk through the passage using questions generated by the group.
 - Use your own questions when necessary to cover the key sections of the text.
 - Encourage the group to base their answers on evidence from the text itself and the context. Do not let the group use cross references except for Old Testament passages that are alluded to in the text.
 - Keep them in the text, and help them develop good questions and answer them from the passage, its context, and the Old Testament background. If you have helped the group observe well, the group itself becomes self-correcting.
- Summary (2 minutes)

After walking through the passage and answering the questions as a group, a few main themes should emerge. Summarize those with a few sentences. Try to use the language of the text and the group as much as possible.
- Application (10 minutes)

Help the group process and apply the passage. Have some possible application questions ready to go. Make sure you leave about 10 minutes for this. This is where Jesus will solidify what He has been speaking to the group about in the study. He will transform them by His Word as they make specific applications and then do them.

Trust Jesus, the text, and the Holy Spirit to be the authority as you facilitate this encounter with God through his Word.