

M28 Bible Discovery Guidelines

The following guidelines help to keep a group and facilitator focused on the purpose and value of the Bible discovery time.

Group Guidelines

1. Everyone shares in **sentences, not paragraphs** (avoids anyone dominating the discussion).
2. Focus only on what **this passage** is saying (not other passages).
3. Focus only on what **this group** is seeing (not other people's perspectives or outside sources).
4. Give people **time** to respond (don't be afraid of silence, but allow people to "pass" if they wish).

Facilitator Guidelines

1. **Facilitate**, don't teach (use the Facilitator Guide).
2. **Keep the session on schedule—Complete all sections.** (25% **Connect**, 50% **Discover**, and 25% **Respond**).
3. **For questions about the passage:** "*What in this passage helps us answer that question?*" (The goal is to help the group see that everyone can understand the Bible.)
4. **For questions NOT about the passage:** "*Let's discuss this further after our group time*" or, "*Let's do a separate study at another time on a passage that answers that question.*"
5. **"Strange" or "wrong" interpretations or discussions:** "*Where is that found in this passage?*" Ask the group if they see the same thing (builds an environment of self-correction). Remember, "*The goal for today is to focus on what this passage has to say.*"
6. **Close the group to new people after the second or third week.** If someone wants to bring other people after that, help them start a new group.