

DISCOVERY GROUP: QUESTION 2

The 7-format used in Discovery Groups represents biblical DNA, the genetic code of the spiritual life that Jesus left behind. The questions are the method by which the Spirit will transfer the genetic code into the lives of those being discipled. This week, we are going in-depth with each of the 7 questions.

QUESTION 2: What has challenged or stressed you this week? (Connection/Intercession)

This question steers participants toward sharing with and caring for one another on a deeper level. Many people outside the Church may never have experienced small-group dynamics that include opening their hearts, being vulnerable and creating close connections.

Asking a North American this question, however, can lead to a 30-minute answer. This is not a support group, so answers shouldn't be long and drawn out. This is one time when it may be beneficial for you to answer the question first, providing a model for how it should be done. Remember, because a Discovery Group is made up of people who have a pre-existing relationship, they can talk in more depth outside of the group.

The suggested approach is to ask people (and remind them, if needed) to **share in sentences not paragraphs**.

If you are leading a group of believers, each person can share in the form of a prayer or someone can pray over all of the shared concerns to wrap up this question. With a group of non-believers, as they discover prayer in the Scriptures, the facilitator can help the group gradually begin to practice it by saying "In the same way that you shared with each other, now you can share those same things with God. Let's do that now."

Occasionally, a group member will have an issue that requires the facilitator to put aside the passage from the Bible. In these moments, it is appropriate to be transparent and take the pressure of getting to the Bible passage off the group. If this happens frequently, though, you probably have a group member whose motivation to be in the group is not to hear from God but to gain a hearing for his or her problems.

Sources: "Spent Matches" by Roy Moran, "Contagious Disciple Making" by David L. Watson & Paul D. Watson, "How to Launch a Discovery Bible Study" by novo.org.