

DISCOVERY GROUP: QUESTIONS 4 & 5

The 7-question 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 disciplined.

Now it's time to read the Bible passage together and hear directly from God. You can use one of the Scripture sets on Oakdale's website. For anyone who does not yet have a Bible, suggest that they download the free YouVersion app on their phone (we recommend NIV, NLT or ESV translation). Also remember that many people are not familiar with the organization of the Bible—so take time to go over how to locate books, chapters and verses, and practice finding passages.

Read the designated Scripture passage aloud in two different versions if available.

Ask someone to retell the passage in his or her own words. This is simply repeating what they just heard, as if they were sharing it with a friend, not explaining or interpreting what it means. (Note: Believers are especially prone to doing this! The Scripture is the authority and teacher, not us. We want them to discover what God is saying to them and to rely on the Holy Spirit for answers to their questions). Afterward, invite others to add any key point that that might have been missed. You want them to get the core or central truth from the passage. For instance, if you are in Genesis 1, the point is not creation versus evolution but that God is the Creator of all that there is.

- **QUESTION 4: What does this passage tell us about God?** (DNA: Revelation/Knowledge)
- **QUESTION 5: What does this passage tell us about people?** (DNA: Revelation/Knowledge)

Don't get sidetracked on peripheral issues, and if someone goes off on a tangent, refocus them by asking: "Where did you see that in this passage?" In fact, any group member can ask this of another person at any time. "Group correction" is a key component of Discovery Groups.

Church leaders and facilitators who are believers will often ask a great question: "What about heresy?" Groups may indeed have a tendency to be heretical in the beginning. They don't know everything about God's Word. As you pray for the Holy Spirit to guide them and they discover how God wants them to relate to Him, they become less heretical. That is part of discipleship.

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.