

## DISCOVERY GROUP: QUESTION 6

*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.*

After the group has read the Scripture passage and discussed what it tells us about God and people, the next step is for group members to act on (apply) what they have heard from God's Word.

### **QUESTION 6: If this is God speaking, what will I do in response this week? (Obedience)**

Each person should write down a tangible "I will..." statement to put into practice what they learned from the designated passage. Encourage people to make their "I will..." statement specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART). Another way to say this is, "In the next 24 to 48 hours, what can you do in response to what God is saying to you?" One way to test them is to ask, "So when you come back next week, how will we know whether you've done that 'I will' or not?"

SPECIFIC: "I will begin to recycle because God has given me the earth to take care of."

NOT SPECIFIC: "I will take better care of God's creation."

SPECIFIC: "I will take 10 minutes per day to reflect on how much God loves me."

NOT SPECIFIC: "I will spend more time meditating on Scripture and praying."

SPECIFIC: "I will sit and watch a baseball game on TV with my husband without talking all the time."

NOT SPECIFIC: "I will be more respectful of my husband."

Be patient, have grace, and provide a good model as your group gets used to acting on the truths found in the Bible. Simple acts of response to God speaking is the goal.

Watch for trends in your group, such as people not doing their "I wills." This probably is a sign of their spiritual temperature. Be ready to ask them after three or four weeks how you can help them follow through on their "I wills." Usually this kind of attention will either energize someone's spiritual interest or expose that there is no spiritual appetite there.

Another trend is to have the same "I will" statement every week. Obviously, we could all focus on a few things for a long time and grow through that focus. But repeating an "I will" can expose spiritual laziness and perpetuate our attempts to plant good seed in infertile soil.

*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.*