# Getting to Know Jesus

A simple format for running a discovery bible study in a small group.

It is a series of 7 bible studies to help new people understand the Good News of Jesus.

The ideal size of a group would be 3 to 8 people in a circle. It is most important to be small enough so that everyone can participate in the discovery process.

The leader must not dominate the meeting nor give a message or a teaching.
The leader’s role is to guide the group members to make discoveries for themselves.

Everyone should have a new testament of the same version.

**Step 1.**  **Read.** Those who can read should read the story. Read it through several times.

**Step 2. Rebuild the story.** What happened first, then what happened next, then next and so on?
 Several members tell the story this way.

**Step 3. What does the story mean?**  Leader asks questions such as:

 What did people say or do?
 What did Jesus say or do?
 Is there a command to obey, a sin to avoid, a truth to believe, an example to follow?
 What stood out to you in the story? Why?

**Step 4. What will you do?**

Each person tells one thing they will do this week from what they have learned.

**Step 5. Who will you tell?**

 Each person tells of one other person, not in the group, they will re-tell the story to.

**Step 6. Close with prayer.** Encourage members to talk to God in this group. Keep it very simple.

# The stories to use each week.

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| **Week** | **Topic** | **Scripture**(support scripture) | **Main points to discover** | **Reading during the week** |
| 1. | Jesus in action | **Mark 1:14-34**(Mark 4:35-41) | Jesus was a man of action with authority over sickness, demons, nature and people. | Mark 1-4 |
| 2. | A sinful woman comes to Jesus | **Luke 7:36-50**(Mark 2:1-12) | Jesus doesn’t reject sinful people.If you are sinful come to JesusJesus can forgive sin.Faith in Jesus leads to being saved and having peace. | Mark 5-7 |
| 3. | A Pharisee and a tax-collector pray | **Luke 18:9-14**(Ephesians 2:8,9) | You can’t make yourself good enough for God.Those who ask for mercy get it.Be honest to God about your sins. | Mark 8-10 |
| 4. | Jesus is crucified | **Mark 15:16-39**(1 Peter 3:18) | Jesus paid the price for our sin when He died on the cross.We can be forgiven.Use book illustration to explain what was happening on the cross. (see below) | Mark 11-13 |
| 5. | Jesus is raised from the dead | **Luke 24:1-12Luke 24:36-44**(Acts 10:34-48) | Jesus rose from the dead.Jesus’ death and resurrection fulfilled what was said about him in the Old Testament.Jesus will return as judge. (see support scripture) | Mark 14-16 |
| 6. | A changed life -repentance | **Luke 19:1-10**(Luke 5:27-31) | Getting to know Jesus means a total change in life.This change shows itself in actions.It doesn’t matter how bad you are you can change. |  |
| 7. | Believing in Jesus | **Mark 5:21-42**(2 Cor.5:14-6:2) | Have faith in Jesus. BelieveIt doesn’t matter how big your faith isNo matter the size of the problem – believe. |  |

*Book illustration to use with “Jesus is crucified” story.*

Take a book, the bigger the better. Explain that this book represents their life story. Everything they have ever done, or wanted to do, every thought, all their life. There will be some good things in this book but there will also be a record of a lot of things that were wrong and that they wouldn’t like anyone else to know about, things they wish they hadn’t done, things which hurt other people and hurt God. There will be things they did that broke God’s laws and for which they deserve to be punished. It is the same for all of us. We have all sinned against God. The cause of all this is our rejection of God and turning away from Him. This is the source of our many sins.

Now hold the book balanced on your right hand and say “Suppose this hand is you and the ceiling is God. All the bad stuff in this book is what separates you from God. Even if there was only one thing it would be enough to separate you from God. What’s more we will be punished for all the things that we have done wrong because God must be just and cannot just let us off. So what was happening when Jesus went to the cross.”

Hold out your left hand, palm up, and say “This is Jesus, He had done nothing wrong. There was nothing blocking Him from God. When He was on the cross He took all our sin onto Himself.” Reach over with your left hand and take the book and leave it resting on the left hand and the right hand facing palm up with nothing on it. Now say “In fact Jesus took the sin of all people for all ages. You could say at that moment He became the most sinful man ever. By taking our sin to the cross He took the punishment that we deserve and paid the price for our sin.” Now look back to your right hand and say “If Jesus has taken all your sin to the cross what is left separating you from God.” Keep asking and gesturing with your empty right hand until someone says “nothing.” Now point out that they are correct and that for those who believe in Jesus and what He has done, their sins have been paid for, they are forgiven, and there is nothing to keep them from coming to God. Stress that forgiveness is not automatic and they must believe in Jesus and turn back to God.

**Notes:**

From week 2 you can begin by all sharing something that happened in the week since the previous meeting. Who did you re-tell the story to? What did you do as a result of last week’s study? After this sharing then begin the 6 steps of the next study.

You don’t need to use the support scriptures in brackets.

 Keeping the content and format very simple is most important. This gives confidence to others that they could lead a small group themselves. Change the leader sometimes to give experience to others at leading a group.

Weekly readings helps them to continue to make their own discoveries about Jesus.
You may need to find a spoken version on an app for non-readers. These readings may raise questions you can discuss with them.

It may be time to have baptisms after completing these studies.

It is good for Christians to be part of these studies because they will gain confidence that they can run their own small group.