DNA of the Discovery Process (Acts 2:37-47)

Intro

* The questions in this Discovery Process are non-threatening and simple, allowing anyone to share.
* Note that they are not overtly “religious” or “spiritual” but they become foundational for key aspects of following Jesus in community.
* This format is consistent in every Disciple Making Movement, so there is no need to revamp or “reinvent” the wheel.
* The simplicity of this format lends to: “If you can read it, you can lead it”, so it is easy to hand off the facilitating to others in the group.

Review

* Following up on last week’s “I will” leads to encouragement and mutual accountability.
* Communicating to the group regarding who you shared with during the week keeps the focus on outreach/mission.

Relate

* Thankfulness leads to praise and worship.
* Sharing challenges induces open, honest, transparent sharing with each other which leads to caring relationships and praying for each other.
* Identifying someone in need in the community leads to staying on mission and outward focus.

Read

* Discovering truth on your own via the group is more powerful than simply being told the truth.
* The three questions help create spiritually hungry disciples who are “self-feeding” versus a co-dependent connection with the facilitator.
* Repetition is the master of retention.
* Teaching people how to hear from the Lord and respond to Him.
* Mutual sharing of insights from the passage with each other.
* Reveals how the Lord feels about people which leads to changing our view of them and develops a heart of compassion for them.
* Creates self-examination. How does the Lord view me?

Respond

* Develops a “hearing ear” by the Holy Spirit through the passage.
* Creating an “I will” statement helps a person to focus on specific steps of obedience, instead of general sentimentality and information gathering.
* By stating who you will share with also helps focus on specific steps of obedience which leads to further disciple making and an outward focus.

Helps in Facilitating a Discovery Group

* Meet on their “turf” or a neutral location.
* Facilitate! Avoid at all costs becoming the “answer man”.
* Rotate leadership after a couple of sessions.
* Stick to working through the entire format. It’s easy to get stuck in one or more of the areas.
* Keep passages as short as possible. Remember they have to do their 3 column study.
* Accountability to the “I will” statements and sharing with others outside the group is crucial. These can be easily glossed over or minimized.
* Trust the power of the Scripture and the Presence of the Holy Spirit to do the instructing.