



The **CROWN** Rhythm

QUESTIONS FOR ANY (AND EVERY) BIBLE STUDY

if you are forming a CROWN rule of life an unstated fear you might have is that that you can now only use 'official' CROWN studies or material. What a terrible thought! In fact, it should be possible to allow the Word of God to shape your rhythm however you've heard it, whether through a sermon, group study or personal devotion. You just need to make space to reflect and respond, perhaps drawing upon the support encouragement and accountability of others as the Holy Spirit leads you.

Outside of the CROWN resources, there are simple things groups can do whenever they meet and study the Bible to keep connection and focus on the formation of consistent and life-giving rhythms. It might be as simple as asking each time:

- 1) Does this passage connect with or challenge any aspect of my rule of life?
- 2) How can the truth in this text help me strengthen an aspect of my CROWN rule?

With CROWN, we emphasise moving from *Bible Study* to *Bible Living*. This renewed focus on applying the Word of God has found various expressions in the wider Church over recent times. Whilst all the best Bible Study groups lead to life change as members live out their faith, many can become comfortable and insular.

So how do we lead a growing group with healthy disciples? Research shared by the Coventry Diocesan Healthy Churches team suggests that working harder preparing studies our groups has little impact on growth - *it is the time spent in prayer that counts*.¹ This reflects the experiences of many missionary movements who have adopted simple patterns of study to help people of any background connect with God's living Word.

Introducing the Discovery Bible Method:

One significant expression of this has focus on application has been the emergence of the Discovery Bible method. It draws from the wisdom and experience of a number of church planting and missionary movements. The approach has worked in a variety contexts and cultures, successfully leading non-Christians to an engagement with the Scriptures, and through that, a living faith in Jesus Christ.

Discovery Bible Study is summarised as simple method to see for oneself what the Bible says about life's big questions. It has been most clearly developed by David L. Watson and Paul D. Watson.² We commend this approach to groups, hoping its simplicity will be life-giving and a means of helping those, at any stage of searching or faith, engage with the Bible. A pattern for Discovery Study adapted for CROWN can be found overleaf, with more details on the background to the method available via the website: <http://dbsguide.org>

We recognise that once people have established good patterns as part of their rule of life, a discipling group may not want to follow CROWN material each and every time they meet, perhaps alternating between content. Developing study patterns in this way also has the proven potential to engaging unbelievers and can be a really exciting way of a group developing its' mission. Let's build powerful life-giving rhythms and unleash the Word of God!

¹Small Groups Big Impact by Jim Egli,
<http://jimegli.com/4-surprising-discoveries-about-small-group-growth/>

² For more details and background see the blog: www.contagiousdisciplemaking.com

CROWN & The Discovery Bible Method

Ground Rules

Read these five guidelines to the group as you begin the first three or four sessions.

1. Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs.
2. Focus only on what this passage is saying, not on other passages.
3. Focus only on what this group is seeing.
4. Give people time to respond. Silence is OK.
5. The 'leader' should facilitate discussion, not teach.

Leader guidelines (NB this is a facilitating role.)

1. Keep the session on schedule and complete all sections, though not necessarily all questions.
2. Prepare before with prayer; studying the passage for the main idea, thinking of some examples, stories or applications from your own life.
3. Respond to questions by asking the group, "What in the passage helps us answer that question?"
4. Respond to distracting comments by asking, "Where is that found in this passage?"
5. Respond to "off the wall" answers by asking, "Can you help us understand what you are thinking?"

Step 1 - Re-connect

1. What are you **thankful** for?
2. What is causing you **stress**?
3. Who needs our help? How can this group help them?

Step 2 - Review

1. **Who** did you share last week's story with? (How did it go?)
2. Did you do anything different this week in response to last week's "**I will**" statement?
3. Would anything I've tried since last time fit into an ongoing **CROWN** rhythm?

Step 3 - Reading the Bible

1. Get someone to read the passage out loud at least twice.
2. Ask for a volunteer to re-tell the passage in his/her own words.
3. Ask the rest of the group to fill in any details that were overlooked.

Step 4 - Discovering God's Word

1. Read the passage again.
2. "What does this passage teach us about God?"
3. "What does this passage teach us about people?"

Step 5 - Responding to God's Word

1. According to this study, what am I doing well? What do I need to change?
2. How would God want you to obey this teaching? Write an "**I will**" statement.
3. Who needs to hear this story? How can I tell them?