



Step by step guide on how to start a Discovery faith study at your parish.

1. The best first step is to just get one started with people you know. Start at the grassroots level, and gather 2, 3 or hopefully more people and go through Discovery. Pragmatically this is a great way to orient *potential leaders* to the material, because you will need more leaders than yourself, if you wish to do a parish-wide campaign with multiple small groups.
2. Pray. Spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament and entrust these desires and plans to the guidance and protection of the Holy Spirit.
3. Think through logistics, so that you can present your ideas to other leaders, and especially to your pastor. For example:
 - a. Leaders: Who will you approach to be small group leaders with you, people who are familiar with the material and have invited Christ to be at the centre of their life? They will need to be approached, challenged "bought in" and ready to do this outreach before you launch the idea to the parish.
 - b. Time: With these people, determine when would be a good time to run the study?
 - i. Dates: Eg. In the fall or during Lent, or during Easter season.
 - ii. Time: daytime, evening, Sunday afternoon, or a variety of options?
 - c. Advertising:
 - i. Timing: How long would you run an advertising campaign (over one, two or more weekends)? Determine when you would have to start advertising, based on when you would like to start the studies. E.G. Advertise in the parish bulletin 2 weeks prior to a recruitment weekend.
 - ii. Means: How do you want to advertise? Posters, handouts and/or sign up sheets after every mass on a particular weekend, announcement and testimony in front of the parish at Sunday masses one weekend, bulletin announcements.
 - d. Location: Where will the small groups happen? At the parish in various break out rooms, or in a hall with various tables for each small group, or in host homes?
4. Speak to Father.
 - a. Let him know about Discovery, explaining its goals and evangelistic purpose. Show him the material.
 - b. Present your thoughts on dates/time to run it and what rooms in the parish you would like to use.
 - c. Talk to him about how you would like to advertise it.
 - d. Although you have thought through what you think would be ideal, the parish is a community and there are many other ministries

going on. Your pastor may not agree with your plans. Be open to being creative, obedient, and flexible to find something that could work for everyone in the parish. You want your Discovery studies to have the blessing of your pastor. If for some reason he is not ready to run this in the parish with all the advertising and such, you could humbly ask if you could then just submit a bulletin announcement and organize any small groups that come out of that to happen in people's homes. He might be open to this as a "plan B", and perhaps in the future he will be more open or convinced that it would be a good outreach for the parish.

5. Do any necessary bookings with the parish office for space. Although the study is 6 weeks long, book for 8 because sometimes a lot of people are missing a particular week, or a certain lesson takes longer to go through than expected.
6. Begin word-of-mouth, personal invitations. Most people will come out because they were personally asked. You want to ask many kinds of people. Begin asking soon as you have confirmation of when you will run Discovery. People need a heads up to plan for it, and consider it. Then when the real advertising begins, they will hopefully be prepared to be open to the idea and sign up.
7. Prepare advertising materials: poster, handouts, sign up sheets, bulletin announcements.
8. Order your materials (at least leader guides, and an estimate of participant guides, you can place another order after your recruitment weekend - but it is a bit of a challenge that if you order only days from the start date that they won't be able to be shipped to you in time).
9. Ask parish to run a bulletin announcement for 4 weeks. (2 weeks prior to recruitment weekend, the weekend of, and the weekend before the studies start).
10. If doing a recruitment weekend, you would want to have 2 or more people at every mass for the announcements and sign up table.
 - a. Have large posters to draw attention
 - b. Have a table with a sign up sheet (name, phone #, email).
 - c. Have faith studies on the table to show people
 - d. Don't stand behind your table; you need to go out to the people. Have a few hundred handouts printed, and have people to hand them out to people after mass. Don't forget to smile!
11. The weekend following, contact every person who signed up to see if they are in fact interested, give them location and times; and encourage them to bring a friend along.
12. You will have one more weekend of masses before the studies begin, so continue with bulletin announcements and word of mouth invitations.
13. Arrange your small groups/leaders and locations.
14. Have all leaders phone their small group members the night before to remind them that the study will be starting.
15. Pray and prepare.

16. Feel free to let people join up even at lesson 2.
17. After Discovery is done, you could encourage the parish and build momentum for another run of studies, by putting testimonies of participants in the parish bulletin, or announced at mass.
18. Challenge those participants who would be great at leading Discovery, to prayerfully consider leading a small group next time you do it.