



# TEACHING PLAN FOR ADULTS:

## *The **DISCOVER** Triad:*

### *Three Facets of a Dynamic Sunday School Class*

Developed by David Apple, Adult Ministry Specialist

**PURPOSE:** To provide a two hour training experience for Adults Sunday school leaders and members to identify specific ways to strengthen Bible teaching and learning experiences.

How to use this plan

- For the local church: Use to train Adult Sunday School teachers and members during a local church training or kick-off event.
- For regional and state training: Use to train leaders in state or Associational training events.

#### **PREPARATION:**

Provide the following resources for use throughout the training:

- Index cards for name tags, or pre-printed name tags
- Marking pens
- Tape

Gather the following materials:


- Bibles for participants who do not bring their own
- Large sheets of paper
- Pictures of adults to be mounted on colored paper and attached to the focal wall (OPTION)
- Adult Sunday School curriculum for upcoming Sunday. Each participant will need a copy for Step 3 (OPTION). One choice is to download a copy of the lesson from [www.lifewaylessons.com](http://www.lifewaylessons.com)

Download the following items:

- *The DISCOVER Triad: Three Facets of a Dynamic Sunday School Class*, by David Francis. For ordering information, visit [www.lifeway.com/sskickoff](http://www.lifeway.com/sskickoff) or write LifeWay Church Resources Customer Service, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0113 or FAX 1-615-251-5933. Provide one copy for each participant.
- Powerpoint presentation: The Discover Triad: Three Facets of a Dynamic Sunday School – Adults.ppt
- Worksheets 1-6 and Reading Assignments 1-3 that are part of this teaching plan

Make copies of the following worksheets, one for each participant:

- Worksheet 1: DISCOVER Someone Who ...

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- Worksheet 2: Purpose of DISCOVERING
  - Worksheet 3: Preparing for DISCOVERY
  - Worksheet 4: Priorities of Discovery Learning
  - Worksheet 5: ReDiscover STORIES
  - Worksheet 6: Adult Class leader Job Descriptions

Make copies of the following reading assignments:

- Reading Assignment 1: Shepherds Know Their Flock
- Reading Assignment 2: The Shepherd's Staff
- Reading Assignment 3: The Shepherd's Secret Weapon

Prepare home made placards (or print from powerpoint presentation) to be attached to the focal wall. (Statements are prepared as part of the powerpoint presentation.)

- Discover Power of SCRIPTURE **(frame 11)**
- Discover Significance of STORIES **(frame 22)**
- Discover focus of SHEPHERDING **(frame 31)**
- What have you rediscovered about the role of Teacher? **(frame 39)**
- What have you rediscovered about the role of Shepherd? **(frame 40)**

Prepare a display of the following resources:

- The Discover Triad: Three Facets of a Dynamic Sunday School Class, by David Francis.
- Spiritual Gifts, David Francis (ISBN: 0-6330-9936-8)
- Sample of Adult Sunday School resources, including Teaching Pack, leader and learner guides; Bible Navigator

Prepare the room for Discovery learning

- Arrange chairs in a semi circle facing a focal wall (OPTION - with pictures of adults).
- Provide name tags, marking pens, and tape for participants to prepare their own name tag.
- Place paper for name tags on chairs; place marker pens at or near chairs for easy access.
- Place a copy of The Discover Triad on each chair along with any registration card for the session.
- Arrange AV equipment for powerpoint presentation (screen, extension cord with multiple outlets), a large marker board with markers and eraser (or easel with large sheets of paper) as well as CD player and selected disk for background music (OPTIONAL).

## PROCEDURES

### Step 1: Introduction and Get Acquainted (10 minutes)

As participants arrive, encourage participants to sit down and make a name tag. Provide background music on a CD player. **(frame 1)**

Welcome participants. Briefly overview that this training will help adults focus on what we can discover through our role in Sunday School **(frame 2)**. Explain that this builds on and is part of the three dimensions of a dynamic Sunday School: Invite, Discover, and Connect.



Distribute “Discover Someone Who ...” (Worksheet 1) and instruct participants to stand, interview and get signatures of as many different persons as they can in the room (**frame 3**). Encourage participant to get a different signature per blank on the worksheet. Allow participants to work approximately three minutes before calling time. Invite several participants to introduce one person whose signature is on their sheet.

Call attention to the last category on the worksheet (**frame 4**). Invite participants to brainstorm “a dream for your Sunday School.” Record these responses on a large sheet of paper or a marker board. Invite participants to see these as prayer requests. Call attention to the mounted pictures of adults on the focal wall. Encourage participants to consider the various needs, challenges, opportunities, and abilities of adults like these throughout the session so we can help focus on help adults discover the power of Scripture, the significance of stories, and the focus on shepherding (**frame 5**). Lead in prayer.

### **Step 2: Purpose of Discovering** (15 minutes)

Distribute “Purpose of Discovering” (Worksheet 2), one for each participant. Divide participants into four teams. Assign each team to read and summarize one of the four passages from 2 Chronicles (**frame 6**). After each team briefly highlights what is taking place in their passage, use powerpoint **frames 7-10** to call attention to questions we must answer (fill in the blanks) if indeed we will be leading adults to rediscover a dynamic Bible study experience. Be prepared to call attention to significant challenges and opportunities discovered through this passage.

#### **2 Chronicles 33:21-34:7**

Are we rediscovering the need to remove obstacles in our life? (**frame 7**)

#### **2 Chronicles 34:8-13**

Are we rediscovering the need to repair the temple with integrity? (**frame 8**)

#### **2 Chronicles 34:14-25**

Are we rediscovering that God’s Word means what it says? (**frame 9**)

#### **2 Chronicles 34:26-33**

Are we rediscovering The covenant? (**frame 10**)

Explain that Sunday School is designed to help adults discover (and rediscover) God’s Word. Reveal a placard: DISCOVER Power of Scripture (**frame 11**). Ask participants to consider their response to the following question: What would be the result if we rediscover what God has done and has promised? (**frame 12**). Challenge participants to make a commitment to personally rediscover the power of God’s Word.

### **Step 3: Prepare for DISCOVERY** (35 minutes)

Distribute “Preparing for Discovery” (Worksheet 3) (**frame 13**). Call attention to several significant actions each teacher needs to take in preparing to lead a dynamic Bible study experience. Remind participants that teachers and learners play a significant role in preparing for a dynamic Bible study experience. Actions by the teacher would be enhanced as learners prepare and participate in the Bible study experiences.





Examine three things each teacher needs to know (**frame 14**):

- 1. Know WHAT you are trying to teach. The teacher must be a student of God's Word. Lead participants to brainstorm things a teacher would need to know about the Bible content in order to prepare for a dynamic Bible study experience. Call attention to the fact that Jesus modeled dynamic Bible study experiences because He knew what He was teaching.
- 2. Know WHO you are assigned to teach. The teacher is more effective as he gets to know and demonstrates Christlike compassion in building relationships with and ministering to persons who are part of the class. Call attention to pictures of adults on the focal wall. Invite participants to consider potential life challenges and opportunities faced by persons represented in the pictures. Also call attention to the fact that Jesus modeled dynamic experiences because He knew and showed compassion and focus on those He was teaching.
- 3. Know HOW to teach. The teacher must be a student of how to effectively teach adults. Once again, call attention to the example of Jesus as a teacher of dynamic teaching experiences.

Use **frame 15** to overview actions a teacher (and class members) can take in "Preparing Yourself for a Dynamic Bible study experience" on Worksheet 3. Call attention to resources that are designed to help in preparing (session commentary, Bible Navigator – available for each session in Teaching Pack for Bible Studies for Life and in Explore the Bible resources).

Use **frame 16** to lead participants to list and overview actions to take to "Prepare a Discovery Plan" on Worksheet 3. Call attention to examples in Leader Guide(s) and Teaching Pack to help prepare and lead:

- Create Interest – help learners connect with the need to encounter God's Word
- Encounter God's Word – lead learners to read and investigate from God's Word. There are three primary teaching methods you will want to prepare to do a stronger job during the session: question/answer, discussion, illustrations (stories).
- Apply God's Word – lead learners to identify implications for life
- Closure – help bring the session to a meaningful conclusion and open the opportunity for learning to continue throughout the week.


(OPTION to extend the training session: Distribute copies of Adult Sunday School curriculum for upcoming Sunday so that participants working in teams receive the same lesson material. One option is to download a copy of the lesson from [lifewaylessons.com](http://lifewaylessons.com). Divide participants into four teams. Assign each team one of the four segments of the discovery plan to identify at least two things they could do as part of that part of the lesson for the upcoming Bible study experience.)

Use **frame 17** to briefly overview ways a teacher can enhance Bible study experiences with teaching and learning aids (including teaching Pack items, electronic/internet teaching or learning aids) and room preparation.

#### **Step 4: Priorities of Discovering learning**

(15 minutes)

Distribute "Priorities of Discovery Learning" (Worksheet 4). Call attention to the instructions at the top of the page. Lead participants to read all the bulleted statements (all of which are statements from The Discover Triad), and select two statements based on the instructions (**frame 18**). Lead participants to get in teams of two or three in order to share which



statements they chose and why they chose them. Call time after teams have shared together for five minutes.

After teams share, call attention to the Bible passages listed at the bottom of Worksheet 4. Explain that these represent passages where Jesus was teaching **(frame 19)**. [OPTION: In the same teams of two or three persons, invite participants to select and read one or two passages and list teaching methods Jesus used in their assigned passage. Invite teams to briefly report.]

Lead participants to overview actions Jesus did that modeled discovery learning (actions a learner would take to be part of a dynamic Bible study experience) – **(frame 20)** and teaching (actions a teacher would take) – **(frame 21)**.

### **Step 5. ReDiscover Stories**

(15 minutes)

Call attention to the second “triad” that helps us focus on a dynamic Bible study experience. Reveal the “Discover Significance of STORIES” placard **(frame 22)**. Distribute “ReDiscover Stories” (Worksheet 5); **(frame 23)**. Invite adults to overview significant concepts to help them strengthen the Bible study experience. Use powerpoint **(frames 24-29)** to lead participants to fill in blanks. Supplement information by overviewing key concepts from the Discovering Stories section (pages 22-31) of The Discover Triad.

**S** – Sharing our pilgrimage of faith **(frame 24)**

**T** – Tell me the greatest story ever told **(frame 24)**

**O** – Open groups: an intentional mix **(frame 25)**

**R** – Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep **(frame 26)**

**I** – Intersect our life story with God’s Story **(frame 27)**

**E** – Everyone has a story! **(frame 28)**

**S** – Safe place to show how Scripture is impacting our stories **(frame 29)**

Emphasize the importance of the teacher knowing and caring for class members and prospects and enhancing a safe atmosphere for persons to impact their own story with God’s Story **(frame 30)**. Also encourage participants to look for examples in Bible study curriculum (including teaching suggestions) where stories and illustrations are provided or encouraged (OPTION).

### **Step 6 DISCOVER focus of Shepherding**

(20 minutes)

Introduce the third aspect for a dynamic Bible study experience; reveal the placard: Discover focus of Shepherding **(frame 31)**. Call attention to information in the section, “How the Shepherd is Different” (page 33); **(frame 32)**, and lead participants to overview the difference between a “teacher” and a “shepherd.” Explain that we will investigate the significance of shepherding (as opposed to merely “teaching”). Emphasize the opportunity and need for teachers to have develop one or more apprentices (see pages 33-34).



Divide participants into three teams. Assign each team one or two specific sections from The Discover Triad: Shepherding (**frame 33**). Distribute copies of Reading Assignments 1-3; give each team copies of one of the reading assignments.

- Shepherds Know Their Flock (Reading Assignment 1)
- The Shepherd's Staff (Reading Assignment 2)
- The Shepherd's Secret Weapon (Reading Assignment 3)

After group members read the material, assign them to work together to compile key ideas they identified from that section. Provide a large sheet of paper, marker pen, and tape for each team. Teams are to record key concepts on the large sheet of paper and report to the larger group.

As the team reports regarding "Shepherds Know Their Flock" (**frame 34**) be prepared to supplement the report with highlights about the need and opportunities to know and care for members of the class.

As the team reports regarding "The Shepherd's Staff" (**frame 35**) distribute "Adult Class Leader Job Descriptions" (Worksheet 6). Emphasize the importance of the following:

- Every adult class needs at least three workers: one person leads the class to focus on discovering God's Word (teacher), one person leads the class to focus on inviting (outreach), one person leads the class to focus on helping people connect with the group, with ministry opportunities, and with Christ (Hospitality) (**frame 36**)
- Each worker in the class builds relationship with and seeks to minister to up-to five members of the class.
- Class members can help lead the class in other roles of the class: prayer, missions/ ministry, administration/planning (**frame 37**)

As the team reports regarding "The Shepherd's Secret Weapon" (**frame 38**), be prepared to supplement the report with highlights about ways God can use you in ministering to and empowering members of the class. Briefly overview the process teachers will help members develop as fully committed followers of Jesus Christ (**frame 39**)

- We are seeking to help adults CONNECT to God with an open heart. We will do that as we help adults experience Him in worship and as we encounter Him through His Word.
- We are seeking to help adults GROW in body, mind, and spirit. We will do that as we help adults engage others in studying and applying God's Word in the context to our life and the cultures we encounter.
- We are seeking to help adults SERVE with willing hearts. We will do that as we help adults express ministry action to individuals and groups. We understand that as adults serve others in Jesus' name, not only are we blessed, but we are expressing the ministry of Christ to others.
- We are seeking to help adults GO share our stories of faith with persons who do are in need of hearing and responding to the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Step 7 Commit to lead more dynamic Bible study experiences** (10 minutes)

Reveal a home made visual headed with the two words: "teacher" and "shepherd" (**frames 40, 41**). Lead adults to answer the question: "What are some significant things you have





(re)discovered about the importance of the teacher? **(frame 40)**. Record these responses as review. Call attention to the “Shepherd” side of the visual. Lead adults to answer the question: “What are some significant things you have (re)discovered about the role of the shepherd?” **(frame 41)**. Record these responses as review.

Lead participants to review the story of God’s people when they rediscovered God’s Word while in process of repairing the Temple (2 Chronicles 34; also in 2 Kings 22). Lead adults to read 2 Kings 23:1-3 **(frame 42)**. Emphasize the following actions we can take as we strengthen our Sunday School class:

- Gather people together who need to hear God’s good news
- Lead people to rediscover the power of God’s Word
- Recommit to keep the promise between God and His people
- Agree to the covenant

Invite adults to pray together that God would use us to be part of dynamic, life changing Bible study experiences. Dismiss the participants so they will lead others to discover what God is doing through the work we call Sunday School. **(frame 43)**

