



NOBODY TOLD ME

Week Five

A Note to All Groups: For the remainder of this series, our weekly Discussion Guide will be transitioning to the Discovery Bible Study method. This is a study method that centers on reading a text from the Bible and discussing what's in the text. This method is not about someone from the group emerging as a Bible expert or Bible teacher. In fact, this study works best when we all engage with the text in front of us and not outside sources.

A great way to help everyone better understand how the Discovery Bible Study works is to watch the [Discovery Bible Study Overview](#) video.

For additional support, email groups@eastlakechurch.com.

As we get started, let's all remember that this method of Bible study works best when:

1. We all come ready to participate as listeners and sharers. The hope is we all answer every question, but if you want to skip one, there is freedom to do that.
2. We are expectant that God wants to use this time to teach us and shape us. Be ready to engage with each other, the text, and with God. If you don't believe in God, your participation is still welcome and important.
3. We make space for the ways we will engage with the text in our own ways. May the bigger goal be unity and kind engagement with God's spirit, the text, and one another — not uniformity.

PART ONE

Suggested Time: 15-20 Minutes

One: Connect

As a group, let's take a few minutes to connect about how our week went; let's share our highs and lows.

- **What are you thankful for this week?/Where did you see God move in your life this week?**
- **What difficulties have you faced this week?/What is causing you stress?**

Two: Opening Prayer

Have the leader open us in prayer. [Let's use this prayer to welcome God's will and Spirit. Here is a sample opening prayer: "*God, we welcome you and your leadership into our group. Help us to hear the ways you are inviting us to grow closer to you and one another. May you empower us to listen well to what you have for us here and to see the ways you are calling us to act. Amen.*"]

[As your group continues to grow in familiarity, consider using time here to pray specifically for one another's needs.]

(Content continued on the next page.)

Three: Review Last Week [Skip This Section Week One]

- **Who can give a general recap of what we covered last week?**
- **How did our previous learning impact your life this past week?** [In other words, did you apply and try to live out what you learned last week? How were you challenged in light of what we last discussed? Did you share what you learn with anyone in word or action?]

PART TWO

Suggested Time: 30-40 Minutes

Four: Read John 3:1-21 (NIV)

- **Read this week's Bible reading out loud using the same Bible translation.**
- **Retell this story in your own words.** [Let's have one to three people recap the story and be sure to focus on retelling the story — not explaining it.]

Five: Discover God's Word

For this next set of questions, let's focus on what the text tells us. We want our answers here to come straight from the text, not from outside sources.

- **What in this text stood out to you?**
- **What does the passage tell us about God?**
- **What does this passage tell us about people or myself?**
- **Is there a command to obey or an example to follow in this text?** [Is there an invitation here and/or a new skill to adopt? What does it mean to live this text out?]

PART THREE

Suggested Time: 10-15 Minutes

Six: Obey and Share / Setting Goals for the Week

- **How can you live out what you learned this week?** [What is your next right step in light of all we looked at? How will you put what you learned into practice? How is God inviting you to grow? Consider coming up with one "I will..." or "this week I will..." statement.]
- **Who could you share what you learned with this week?** [Remember to think creatively here and within the context of your life and relationships. Be open to thinking about how God may want to use you to bring God's love, hope, or wisdom into someone else's life. Be open to seeing how God may invite you to step out to share the good news you are learning in word or action with others.]

Seven: Closing Prayer

Have someone who is interested in praying out loud close us in prayer. [In light of all the ways we feel challenged and invited to grow, who can pray for us as we head out of here and into our week? Here is a sample prayer: *"God, thank you for this time of sharing and listening. Help us honor the ways you have invited and challenged us into growth. Amen."*]