

5 Question

Relational Bible Study

1. This question is designed to draw a **REACTION**.

Question: **Tell me in one word how you feel about this passage?**
(Or...What is your reaction to this? Or...How does this grab you?)

Some helpful pointers:

- a. Limit reaction to one word-this is not a discussion question.
- b. Stress “no answers are right or wrong.”
- c. Eliminates the need of an additional icebreaker.
- d. Have everyone share his or her reaction verbally – its function is to get everyone to “buy” into the meeting.
- e. Reinforce comments – especially the ones along your chosen theme.

2. This question is designed to draw a **REFLECTION**.

Question: **What one thing really stood out in this passage?**

Some helpful pointers:

- a. Limit reflection to one sentence or statement.
- b. Keep focus personal and in the present.
- c. This question identifies and focuses in on the study’s central theme.
- d. Have everyone share his or her reflection.
- e. Reinforce comments –especially the ones along your chosen theme, but be open and alert to a new direction that the Holy Spirit may open.

3. This question is designed to bring out an **ILLUSTRATION**.

Question: **Can you illustrate this truth from your personal experience? If not, perhaps you can share a Bible story that illustrates this point.**
(Or...Can you share or illustrate a time in your life or a situation from the Bible which illustrates the point you just made during reflection?)

Some helpful pointers:

- a. This question assumes the passage is true, therefore, the focus is not going to be on debating or speculating.
- b. By having people illustrate the central point, you are inviting them to affirm the validity of the scripture for them.
- c. If people share from personal history, you also get the bonus of building community and relationship through shared history.
- d. Keep illustrations as short and to the point as possible.
- e. It’s best to allow the group to illustrate their own reflection or truth.
- f. Occasionally, the leader can pick a “majority reflection” or the one he is trying to teach and ask everyone to illustrate it.
- g. Not everyone must share –especially if the reflections and illustrations seem to be the same.

4. This question is designed to flow into **APPLICATION**.

Question: **If this is true, what difference does it make for you/us right now? What one thing do we need to ask God to do in your life as a result of what we have just discovered?**

(Or...Is there anything you need help with tonight in regard to this area? /If you had one prayer to the Father, what would you pray for tonight?)

Some helpful pointers:

- a. At this point, be very open to the movement of the Holy Spirit as this question usually leads directly into ministry.
- b. After 3-5 share their answers, it's probably best to break into groups of three to continue answering the question and begin ministry.
- c. Ministry must involve the Holy Spirit –avoid “just praying around the group” without expecting the supernatural.
- d. Have each person pray first about their own problems—then others can add following the leading of the Spirit.

5. This question is designed to bring application into **ASSIGNMENT**.

Question: **In light of what we've shared and prayed what are you going to do different this next week? Can I call and check on how you are doing?**

Some helpful pointers:

- a. Not everyone will share during this time. It is important that any assignment be God-directed.
- b. It is often difficult for people to move from thinking and feeling to doing.
- c. You may have to model sharing your own assignment first, asking others to pray for you during the week. Invite them to ask you at the next meeting how you did.
- d. This step can minister condemnation (death) rather than change (life) if we are not gentle with one another. Take care that we do not “minister” where not invited and that we do demonstrate the Father's love and encouragement.