

Bible Study Skills:

Reading God's Word Profitably

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. - 2 Tim 2:15 (KJV)



Calvary Chapel Vallejo

Reading God's Word

DISCOVERING THE IDEAS THROUGH QUESTIONS...

IDEA (Concept Or Thought) = SUBJECT + COMPLEMENTS

SUBJECT = What's Talked About

COMPLEMENTS = Things Said About The Subject

--- The Subject can be stated in the form of a question

--- Complements answer the question

The English author Rudyard Kipling penned a poem highlighting the importance of asking questions. He said:

"I had six faithful friends they taught me all I knew,
their names were WHAT and WHERE and WHEN
and HOW and WHY and WHO."

Reading God's Word

OBSERVATION: Uncover The Facts
(What does it say?)



CORRELATION: Unify The Facts
(What do other scriptures say?)



INTERPRETATION: Understand The Facts
(What does it mean?)



APPLICATION: Use The Facts
(What do I do about it?)

Read Actively: Ask Questions

One of the easiest and most profitable methods of studying the Bible is to ask questions and record your answers. There are seven questions you can ask as you read your Bible:

1. **WHAT?** find the principle, ideas, or events
What is being said? What lead to it being said? What is said before and after it?
2. **WHERE?**find the places involved
Where is it said?
3. **WHEN?**find the time
When is it said?

Read Actively: Ask Questions

4. **HOW?** find the procedures, ways/steps
How is it said?
5. **WHY?** find the purposes involved
Why is it said? Why is it said here? Why is it said this way?
6. **WHO?**find the people involved
By whom is it said? To whom is it said? Of whom is it said?
7. **WHEREFORE?** find the personal applications
Blessings to enjoy; Errors to avoid; Sins to confess; Thoughts to ponder;
Prayers to make; Lessons to learn; Actions to take; Commands to obey;
Examples to follow; Scriptures to memorize

Read Actively: Ask Questions

Types of Questions - Asking questions helps us to focus our attention as we read. When we read to answer a question, our minds are engaged because we are reading with a purpose. There are many kinds of questions that can be asked as we read our Bibles. Consider the following:

MT 23:17	Asked to stir or awake interest
MK 2:25-26	Asked to remind or rebuke
MK 3:4	Asked to challenge or exhort
MK 10:3	Asked to clarify an idea
LK 5:22-23	Asked to provoke thought
LK 8:30	Asked to provide information
LK 10:36	Asked to lead to other things
JN 3:10	Asked to express feelings

Read Actively: Ask Questions

Discovering The Ideas Through Questions

A. Read with a purpose: to answer specific questions. One of the easiest and most profitable methods of studying the Bible is to ask questions and record your answers. There are seven questions you can ask as you read your Bible:

1. WHAT? find the principle, ideas, or events

What is being said?

What circumstances lead to it being said?

What is said before and after it?

2. WHO? find the people involved

By whom is it said?

To whom is it said?

Of whom is it said?

Read Actively: Ask Questions

Discovering The Ideas Through Questions

3. WHERE? find the places involved

Where is it said?

4. WHEN? find the time

When is it said?

5. HOW? find the procedures, ways, or steps

How is it said?

Read Actively: Ask Questions

Discovering The Ideas Through Questions

6. WHY? find the purposes involved

Why is it said?

Why is it said here?

Why is it said this way?

7. WHEREFORE? ... find personal applications (BEST PLACES)

Blessings To Enjoy Promises to claim/Prayers to make

Errors to avoid Lessons To Learn

Sins to confess Actions to take

Thoughts To muse Commands to obey

Examples to follow

Scriptures to memorize

Read Actively: Ask Questions

Discovering The Ideas Through Questions

B. Read like a detective: looking for CLUES

1. Find things emphasized

- a. A word or phrase that is repeated
- b. A subject that occupies many verses

2. Find comparisons

- a. Things alike ... identified by "as" or "like"
- b. Things different ... identified by "but"

3. Find things related

- a. "If/then" statements
- b. "For" usually gives a reason

Read Actively: Ask Questions

Discovering The Ideas Through Questions

- C. Place yourself into the text and see how you would feel, what you would think, what you would say, and what you would do.**
- D. Record your answers by making a list of the verses and the facts you have found**

Learning To Ask Questions

Note: Making lists is a simple and powerful way to record the answers to your questions. The first question that we need to ask is what is the subject or topic of our Biblical text? This question will form the title for our list of facts.

Let's read James 1:1-4. What is the subject or topic of this text?

Write it as a question to form a heading or title for your list of facts regarding this text.

Learning To Ask Questions

Below is a plausible question about the subject of James 1:1-4

WHY SHOULD I COUNT TRIALS A JOY? JAMES 1:1-4

Now use the question as the title of your list and make a list of the details you find in the Biblical text.

What answers do you find in James 1:1-4 that answer the question: **WHY SHOULD I COUNT TRIALS A JOY?**

Learning To Ask Questions

WHY SHOULD I COUNT TRIALS A JOY? JAMES 1:1-4

In James 1:1-4 we find the following answers...

1. Trials test my faith v3
2. Trials work patience in my life v4
3. Patience, if permitted, makes be mature v4

Now turning our question into a statement, and using it as a title for our list, we have the following:

REASONS FOR COUNTING TRIALS A JOY? JAMES 1:1-4

=====

1. Trials test my faith v3
2. Trials work patience in my life v4
3. Patience, if permitted, makes be mature v4

Learning To Ask Questions

Now let's read **Psalm 117** with a purpose. In other words, let's read the Psalm with a specific question in mind and record our answers in a list.

What about the following question - **WHO are the people in the PSALM?**

Did you find the following?

PSA 117 W H O is in this Psalm?

=====

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. All Gentiles (nations) | v1 |
| 2. All people - this includes me | v1 |
| 3. LORD | v1, 2 |

Learning To Ask Questions

Continuing to probe **Psalm 117** with questions, what about the following question - **WHAT** things or ideas are stated in **Psalm 117**?

Did you find the following answers?

PSA 117 W H A T does this **PSALM** say?

=====

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Praise the LORD | v1 |
| 2. Laud HIM | v1 |
| 3. HIS merciful kindness is great toward us | v2 |
| 4. The truth of the LORD endures forever | v2 |

Learning To Ask Questions

Let's pose one more question – **WHY** was Psalm 117 written?

Did you find the following answers?

W H Y praise the LORD?	PSA 117
=====	
1. HIS merciful kindness is great toward us	v2
2. The truth of the LORD endures forever	v2

From our fact finding it would appear that this Psalm exhorts us to praise the LORD and gives us reasons to do so.

Can you think of a good title for this Psalm?

Learning To Ask Questions

How about the following title – **Reasons To Praise The LORD**

So our list is now:

Reasons To Praise The LORD

PSA 117

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1. HIS merciful kindness is great toward us

v2

2. The truth of the LORD endures forever

v2

Learning To Ask Questions

Homework Assignment

Read Psalm 1 and make several lists of questions:

WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN?

HOW? WHY? and WHEREFORE?