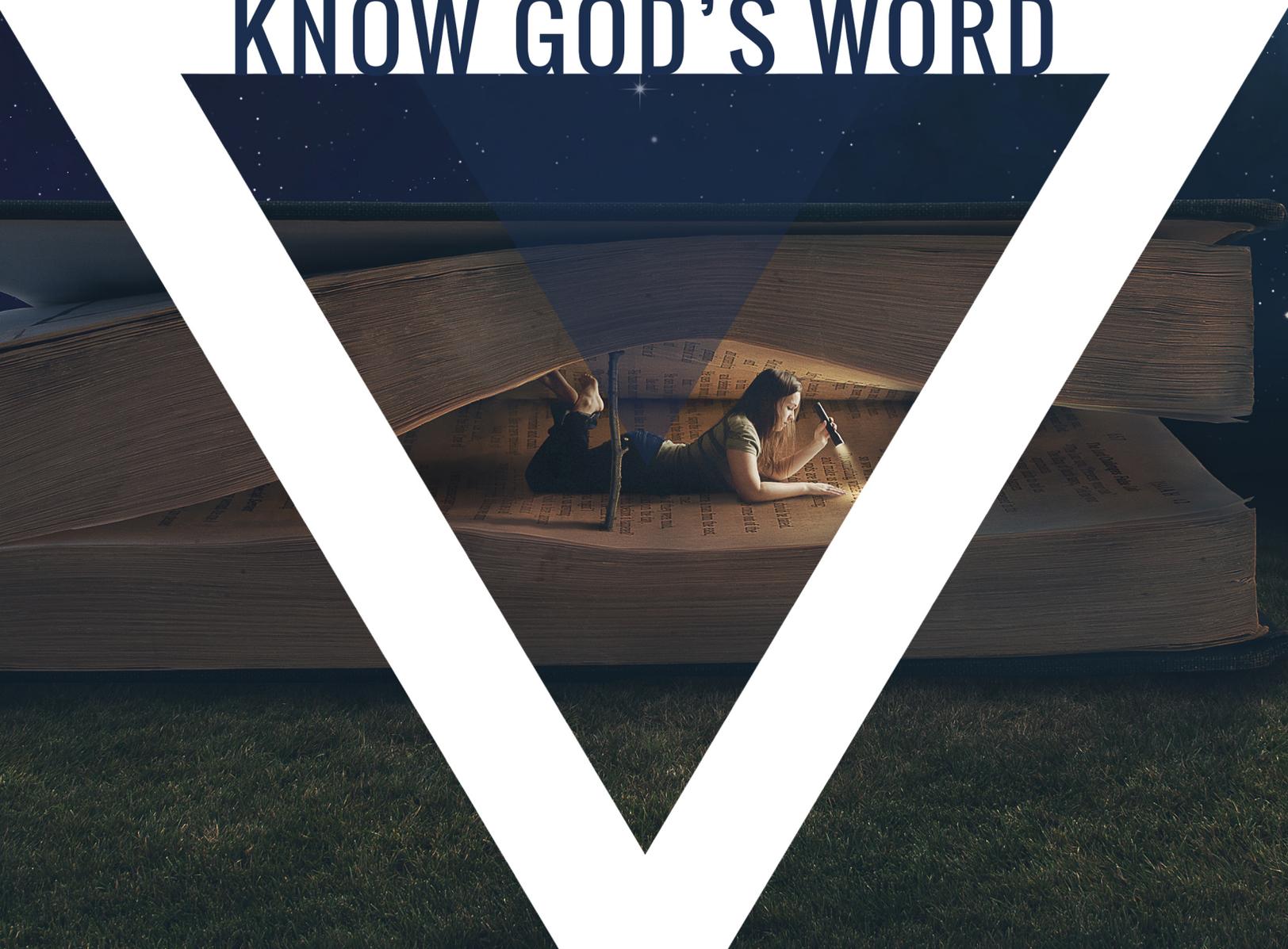


GOOD QUESTIONS

LEAD TO GREAT OBSERVATIONS

*75+ Questions to Help You Observe the Text
and Go Deeper in Your Bible Study*

KNOW GOD'S WORD



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Christ-Centered Bible Teaching + Resources

Good Questions Lead to Great Observations

Learning how to ask good questions often doesn't come naturally, but it is something we must learn if we desire to go deeper in our study of God's Word. That said, having a bunch of great questions in your metaphorical Bible Study Toolbox can help when you study a passage of Scripture.

Note: this is a series of questions you can use in your study. Not every question will be applicable to every passage. Also, most of these are starter questions ... a good followup question is: "so what?" or "why?"

Overview (Big Picture) Questions:

1. Who is the author? How does that help understand the book/passage?
2. Who is the author writing to? What do we know about them?
3. Who are the characters in the book/passage?
4. What is the purpose of the book I'm studying and how does that give insight into this particular passage?
5. When and where was the book written?
6. When did this book, event, or passage happen in relation to other events?
7. What is the context? (i.e.: What is happening before and after the passage?)
8. What genre is this? (i.e.: biography, prophecy, narrative, parable, poetry, proverb, exposition/epistles, etc).

The Classic Journalist Questions:

9. Who?
10. What?
11. When?
12. Where?
13. Why?
14. How?

Background Questions:

15. Is there any cultural background that would be helpful to know?
16. Is there any historical background that would be helpful to know?

Old Testament Questions:

17. How does this Old Testament passage reveal Jesus Christ?
18. How does the passage/concept find its fulfillment in the New Testament?

New Testament Questions:

19. Does this New Testament passage or verse show up in Old Testament? If so, how does the original context give insight into the New Testament passage?
20. Can this New Testament passage be illustrated from the Old Testament? If so, how?

Word Questions:

21. What is the meaning of this word in its original language?
22. How can I properly understand this word in light of its context?
23. Does the original language give any pictures or illustrations that help me understand the word better?
(i.e.: The Greek word baptizō – baptism – gives the picture of a cucumber being immersed in the vinegar solution and turning into a pickle)

Sentence Questions:

24. What are the key words in this sentence? Should I do a word study on them?
25. Is there any repetition of words, phrases, concepts? *(repetition often shows importance)* (i.e.: God is holy, holy, holy)
26. Is there a contrast? *(things that are different)*
27. Is there a comparison? *(things that are alike)*
28. Is there a list given?
29. Is there a cause and effect? *(note: sometimes the effect is given before the cause)*
30. Is there a conjunction? *(i.e.: and, but, for, therefore, since, because ...)*
31. What is the main verb?
32. Who is the subject of the sentence?
33. If there are pronouns, who do they refer to? *(i.e.: he, she, them, they, you, me, etc)*
34. Are there any figures of speech or idioms?
English Examples: it's raining cats and dogs, he's in a jam, underdog ...
Bible Examples: lamp unto my feet, harden your hearts, white-washed tombs, a double edged sword ...

Paragraph Questions:

35. What are the key words in this paragraph? Should I do a word study on them?
36. Is there any repetition of words, phrases, concepts? (*repetition often shows importance*) (i.e.: "In Christ" shows up 30 times throughout Ephesians 1-3)
37. Is something stated generally or specifically? (i.e.: general: "I like desserts" | specific: "I like chocolate cake")
38. Are there questions asked ... or answers given? (*note: sometimes you have a question without an answer, an answer with a presumed question, or both a question and its answer*)
39. Is there dialogue? If so, who is speaking? Who are they speaking to?
40. Is there a purpose statement given?
41. Does the *means* by which something is accomplished mentioned? (i.e.: "in the power of the Spirit")
42. Does the author give actions or roles of people?
43. Is there actions or roles of God mentioned?
44. Are there any emotional terms?
45. What is the tone of the passage? (i.e.: affection, chiding, discipline, instruction, reproof, correction)

Grammar Questions:

46. What can the grammar of the passage tell us? (i.e.: examine each word and its contribution to the whole – nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, direct objects, etc)
47. Should I diagram this passage? (remember 6th grade sentence diagramming? Sometimes this can help see how a passage breaks into its pieces)

Other Great Questions and Things to Look For:

48. Is the passage prescriptive or descriptive? (i.e.: prescriptive: tells you what to do, a command | descriptive: tells what someone else did, narrative, story)
49. Is a location mentioned? Where is it? (*use a Bible Atlas*) Is there any significant to the mention of it?
50. Do other Bible translations use a different word or phrase? If so, why? (e.g.: Philippians 2:5 – "let this mind/attitude/lifestyle be in you")
51. Is there a logical order or progression in the passage?
52. What do we learn about God's character and nature?
53. What do we learn about people? (i.e.: character, nature, attitude, behavior, etc)
54. What do we learn about how to relate with God and/or others?
55. How would you describe the before and after of an event or encounter?
56. How long did something take?
57. Look for key words
58. Look for commands

59. Look for warnings
60. Look for comparisons (*things that are alike*)
61. Look for contrasts (*things that are different*)
62. Look for illustrations
63. Look for causes and effects and reasons for doing things
64. Look for promises and their conditions for fulfillment
65. Look for progression from the general to the specific
66. Look for progression from the specific to the general
67. Look for steps of progression in a narrative or biography
68. Look for results
69. Look for advice, admonitions, and attitudes
70. Look for connectives, articles, and prepositions
71. Look for explanations
72. Look for Old Testament quotes in the New Testament
73. Look for paradoxes
74. Look for emphasis through the use of space (*proportion*)
75. Look for planned exaggerations or hyperboles
76. Look for the use of the current events of the times
77. Look for the force of the verbs
78. Look for anything unusual or unexpected
79. Look for anything that is emphasized
80. Look for things that are related
81. Look for things that are alike or unlike each other
82. Look for things true to life

For more help and resources to aid you in Bible Study, check out:

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