

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

TO ASK ANY BIBLE PASSAGE

The Four Questions is a helpful tool from [Jeff Vanderstelt](#). His tool helps apply Scripture to your life in a gospel-centered way. Often we jump from “what does this passage mean” to “how does it apply to my life” and we skip over a very important part of understanding Scripture. Jesus is very clear that all of Scripture is about himself (Luke 24:26-27), and these four questions help us rightly interpret Scripture the way Jesus intended it to be understood.

1. **Who is God?** — What does this passage tell us about the nature of God? How is God’s character, motives, identity revealed? What does this passage say about the Father, Son or Holy Spirit?

Leader Tip: Before asking the next question, pick only one of God’s attributes to focus your discussion.

2. **What has God done?** — What has God done to demonstrate this characteristic? How does this passage point to Jesus? How does Jesus fulfill this passage? How might Jesus be the hero? Who might be contrasting Jesus in this passage? What theme (like covenant, kingdom, temple, marriage, law, etc.) might be tied to Jesus in this passage?
3. **Who are we?** — In light of who God is and what He has done, what does that make us? What does this passage tell us about our identity in Christ?
4. In light of who we are in Christ, **how should we live?** What might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to take a step of faith? What might we need to repent of? What lie do we need to reject? How does this passage inform my prayer life?

Leader Tip: Feel free to personalize this last question to make sense of your conversation. For example, you asked, “Since God is our Shepherd (Question 1), who has laid down his life for his sheep (Question 2), we are now his flock who can hear his voice (Question 3), what might you need to hear from your Shepherd as you follow Him this next week (Question 4)?”

If it becomes apparent that one person would be helped if we focused on him/her, then that’s ok. Sometimes, for the sake of time and depth, we need to take turns pursuing each other and shepherding one heart at a time. If I sense this need, I usually say, “Wow, Chris, that sounds like you are going through something significant. Let’s use the rest of our discussion to focus on him. We’ll all get our turn in our future meetings.” Then I would process with that one person and pray over that person.

EXAMPLES

1 John 4:7-21

1. What does this passage tell us about God?
God is love.
2. What has God done (how do I know He is love)?
He sent His Son to die for me while I was still a sinner.
3. Who are we in light of that work?
I am dearly loved by God – I am God's son/daughter.
4. How should I live in light of who we are?
I should love others as God loved me.

Matthew 9:35-38

1. What does this passage tell us about God?
He's a compassionate shepherd.
2. What has He done (how do I know He is a compassionate shepherd)?
When I was lost He had compassion on me and came and rescued me from myself. He became the good shepherd that lays down His life for His sheep. He continues to lead and guide my life into fullness and life, not death and emptiness!
3. Who am I in light of God's Work (Him coming to my rescue)?
I am loved and cared for deeply by my shepherd. I am protected from the penalty of my sin through His sacrifice on the cross. I no longer have to be led by my own desires and dreams but by His design for my life that He is guiding and directing.
4. How should I live in light of who I am?
I should show the same compassion that has been shown to me