

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

Before you start, pick a short passage of Scripture. Set aside about 20-30 minutes in a quiet space where you can be still and engage in this practice. Turn off your phone, take a few deep breaths, and open the pages of a physical Bible. Prayerfully reflect or journal: How does this passage answer each of the four questions below?

1. WHO IS GOD?

What does the text say about the character and nature of God? The Bible is God's story – Father, Son, Spirit- so we begin by asking about how His character and nature are revealed in what we're reading. The story is about Him! Look for specific references to His attributes. In narrative portions, look for implied references to His attributes. How do you see His character and nature as Father, Son, and Spirit?

2. WHAT HAS HE DONE?

What does the text say about the work of God? God's work throughout all of human history is diverse and magnificent. All of it is worth proclaiming! However, the person and work of Jesus is revealed in every book of the Bible (Luke 24:27). He is the hero and the main character. The Spirit does not want us to miss Jesus! Look for references to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, either through foreshadowing, through prophecy, or through the New Testament story of Jesus' earthly life and the establishment of His Church.

3. WHO ARE WE IN LIGHT OF THAT?

What does the text say about our identity? God has always been working to save "a people for His own possession." (1 Peter 2:9) Throughout the Bible, note the things that are true of God's people. For example, the Levitical priests were anointed and set apart for special service to God. Now, we are all anointed with God's Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22), and, because of Jesus, are all a part of God's "royal priesthood," set apart for special service to God.

4. HOW DO WE LIVE?

In light of all of this, how does it change the way we live? When reading the Bible, we almost always start with the question, "How does this apply to my life?" But rightly motivated, gospel-centered action flows out of an understanding of who God is, what He's done, and who we are in light of God's character and work. Rather than starting with this question, end with it. And then, take action! Jesus warns against being merely a hearer of His Word but not a doer (Matthew 7:24-27). The gospel motivates and empowers us to live in an entirely new way.