

TOOL: Three Living Questions

Scripture before screen • Daily



Introduction

We talk about how the Bible is a gift, how it gives us instruction on how to live, how it is God's Word. But, if we were to be honest, it can be a bit daunting. How do we study it? Where should we start? Is there an easy way to talk about it with others?

There are many different approaches to how to read, study, and meditate on scripture. One approach members of The Vine have taken to scripture is the use of what we call the **THREE LIVING QUESTIONS**. Using the same three questions, we read a section of scripture slowly three times (one per question). We pause between readings to consider how the Bible speaks to these three fundamental questions. They are:

1. What does this passage tell me about God?
2. What does this passage tell me about humanity?
3. How does this passage instruct me to live differently?

Pause and consider

- How do you feel about studying scripture this way?
- What obstacles do you anticipate coming up as you practice this week?

Practice

Let's break this down.

First, we ask the question: **What does this tell me about God?**

Looking at this passage, how do I see the character of God on display? You might see a picture of the patience of God or another characteristic, or how God speaks to or

moves people, or you could see what matters most to God. With this question, you read the passage first and consider how this illuminates who God is.

Second, we turn the passage a little to ask: **What does this tell me about humanity?** Though we are thousands of years away from when scripture was written, it's amazing how human experience remains the same.

So, when we look at scripture, we can see a picture of who we are as people. In this way, the stories of the Bible can be a mirror. There are times when I read a passage, and as I read I am judging the characters, but when I reflect on this question, I consider how I am no different. Perhaps this is what is meant in Hebrews 4,

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

That is the point of this second question. Through scripture we see a mirror of ourselves and the human experience around us.

Lastly, we ask: **How does this passage instruct me to live differently?** The gift of God's Word is not only that we would know God and know ourselves, but that we would be equipped to live differently. The Church planter, Paul, wrote to his younger apprentice Timothy,

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

God loves to lead and equip God's people. And a primary way we are led by God is through God's Word, not as a static experience, but one that is alive and active. There have been times when I read scripture I have read before, but for whatever reason, this day, it is giving me instruction on how to live well in this moment.

That is the gift of God's Word. So in this third question, we prayerfully read this passage considering how God might be telling us how to live differently - individually and corporately.

It is a simple way of reading, meditating on, and discussing scripture, but the amazing thing is that it consistently leads to so many meaningful insights. Scripture will teach us about who God is, who we are, and how we can live differently.

If you don't know where to start, pick the book of Luke or a Psalm, and slowly go through it. Choose one section and read it a few times through. Journal your thoughts as you approach the text through these different lenses, and see how three questions can help reveal the power of God's Word.

Debrief your experience

After practicing with this tool, debrief your experience with you Praxis Group. Below are some questions to process together:

- Check in on life. (Where are you experiencing Christ's presence this week? What burdens are you carrying?)
- What did you learn from this practice?
- Describe your experience with this practice. (What feelings came up, what went well, what got in the way? How has it impacted your relationship with God?)
- What is the next step for you?