

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS



Sometimes it helps to have a simple summary of “the right questions” to ask when interpreting and applying Scripture. Here are four foundational questions for understanding the Bible and four questions of application. Print out this guide, keep it in your Bible, and refer to it as you read and meditate upon the Scriptures.

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

1. What do we learn about God?
 - a. Look for God’s character (who he is, what he is like).
 - b. Look for God’s conduct (what he is doing).
 - c. Look for God’s concerns (what things, events and people he is concerned about).
2. What do we learn about people?
 - a. Look for aspects of what it means to be created in God’s image.
 - b. Look for the fallen condition.
 - c. Look for how God’s people should live.
3. What do we learn about relating to God?
 - a. Look for things to praise and thank God for.
 - b. Look for sin to confess and repent.
 - c. Look for promises and truths to believe.
4. What do we learn about relating to others?
 - a. Look for how we should interact with and treat others.
 - b. Look for ways to pursue reconciliation with others.
 - c. Look for specific ways to love, serve, and care for others.

APPLYING THE BIBLE

1. What does God want me to understand?
2. What does God want me to believe?
3. What does God want me to desire?
4. What does God want me to do?