



QUESTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDY



In a small group Bible study, we want to help members discover what the text is saying, make sound interpretation of the text, and apply the principles in the passage to their daily lives. We can do this by using three different types of questions.

The following questions are based on 2 Samuel 12:1-15; it will be helpful to read it now.

Observation Questions

Observation questions should help us identify *what does the text say?*

We want our observation questions to be based on the significant facts of the passage. Open* observation questions can be challenging to write, but the effort often produces fruitful discussions and insights.

Many study guides ask, "Who are the people in the passage?" While this information is valuable, it does not encourage discussion or further stimulate the thinking about the people among your group members.

To make the question more open, ask, "How are the different people described in this passage?" This question not only identifies the people it also provides some helpful information about those in the story. It takes the group a little deeper.

Other open observation questions:

- What are some action verbs used in verses 7-12?
- What details in the story stand out to you?

Interpretation Questions

Interpretive questions answer the question *what does the text mean?* To accurately understand the principles in the passage, we need to keep in mind what the author was saying to his original audience. Interpretation questions often ask *why*.

Open interpretation questions:

- Why do you think Nathan tells David a story rather than directly confronts his sin?
- What insights does David learn about himself through the story Nathan tells him?
- Why do you think it takes the story to convict David of his sin?

Application Questions

Application questions focus on *how we can apply the principles of the passage to our lives*. Prayerfully consider how to apply them.

Open interpretation questions:

- Where do you need to repent of sin?
- What step(s) do you need to take this week to respond to what God has shown you?
- When and how can we come alongside others when we are in sin?

*See additional resource *Writing Open Questions*

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