

LEADER NOTES FOR A QUESTION & ANSWER STUDY

LAKEFIELD MINISTRIES

This section is not required reading to complete this type of study. This section is for reference only. It is here to help study leaders and those who may not have a lot experience reading or studying the bible.

What is a Question and Answer Study?

A Question & Answer Study is a study that involves answering a specific question based on what The Bible says.

A Question & Answer (Q&A) Study is very similar to a Topical Study with the exception that it begins with a question. Instead of starting with a topic you would like to study, you start with a question. The question you ask will likely lead to a topic to be studied. Be sure to complete a Topical before doing a Q&A Study.

It helps to collaborate – team up!

Just like doing a Topical Study, working with someone else can be a big help in doing a Question & Answer Study. Work with your Master the Basics leader to list key verses, identify related passages, and work through questions and problem areas.

Proverbs 27:17 - *“As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”*

Ecclesiastes 4:9 - *“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will life up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.”*

Stick to the study disciplines you learned doing a Book Study and a Verse Analysis. Apply the principles of interpretation you learned in the mini-lessons. Base your study on “Chapter and Verse”, what God says, not what somebody says He says. His Word is authoritative.

Study with a friend. Work with your Master the Basics study leader, or work with a friend at church, a pastor, or Sunday School teacher. Or, feel free to give us a call at Lakefield Ministries. We are glad to help in any way we can.

Do not be Afraid to Ask

Do not be afraid to ask God questions. He encourages you to do ask and seems intent on answering.

Jeremiah 33:3 – “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

Luke 11:9 & 10 – “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

The Holy Spirit will Guide you to a Place of Understanding

Jesus is quoted in John 14:26, *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 – “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Steps in doing a Question and Answer Study

(Step 1) Write out Your Question

Ask any question you like. You may want to brainstorm a list of questions and keep them for future study.

(Step 2) List key words that relate to your question

You may have to list key words that relate to your question. Work with your study leader or perhaps a pastor, small group leader or Sunday School teacher at your church. If you do not attend a local church or know someone who can help you, give us a call at Lakefield Ministries. We would be glad to help.

(Step 3) List verses relating to the key words you listed

Use an online Bible search tool or a Bible Concordance.

We recommend the Blue Letter Bible online (www.blueletterbible.com)

The Blue Letter Bible is absolutely free.

- No advertising or marketing pop-ups
- Great online word search capabilities
- The most popular English translations are available
- You can create an account and set up preferences for Bible translation and display features
- Bible reference materials are available including concordances, Bible dictionaries, and written and audio commentaries.
- Apps available for smart phones, I pads, and Tablets

(Step 4) Read the verses noting key verses as you read. Read the surrounding verses for context as needed

Read the surrounding passages as well to gain some of the context of the verses. Key verses will become apparent.

(Step 5) Complete a Verse Analysis on key verses

Follow the steps for completing a Verse Analysis on the key verses you selected. Apply the discipline you learned. Be sure to expand the context as far forward and back of the verses you are studying to get the big picture.

Apply what you learned when you completed a Book Study. Know who wrote the passage, who they were writing to, and the circumstances surrounding the passage.

(Step 6) Summarize the Findings of your Verse Analyses

Consider this step when drafting your notes. Do not worry about the order. Get your thoughts on paper so you can see them. It may help to categorize your thoughts to help you organize them.

(Step 7) How does God seem to answer your question?

This can be tough but take your best shot. God may answer your question directly or through principle. He may not give you the answer you are looking for. He may surprise you.

Hebrews 4:12 – *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

(Step 8) List other questions and problems that have come up as a result of your study

As you have been reminded several times, questions are the key to learning, as long as you seek the answers. All too often, people ask great questions, but they never take the time to get answers.

God says in James 1:5, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*

He says in Proverbs 2:6, *“For the Lord gives wisdom, from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.”*

“Problems” may be what appear to be a conflict or inconsistency in what God is saying. It may be something that does not seem to make sense, seems to be inconsistent with the idea of a loving God, or something that ‘just doesn’t feel right’.

List the problems out with your questions. Use these to fuel future study. Remember the words of Jesus, *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”*

(Step 9) Summarize your study including what you learned and how it might apply to your life

- 1) Write out your question.**
- 2) Write out your answer**
- 3) Summarize what you learned. Try to organize your thoughts as if you were to make an informal presentation to a small group.**

A Final Tip

Do Not Worry

Do not worry about getting the right answer. Focus on getting the truth. What does God say? The answers may be encouraging. Some may seem tough. Sometimes, when answers seem tough or they do not make sense, it helps to give God the benefit of the doubt. If He is who He says He is, and if He is like what He says He is like, a loving God, He has your best interests at heart. Pray and ask Him for wisdom.

Remember, studying God's Word is an effort to get to know Him and understand what He has for you. Be encouraged. He is looking out for you.

Congratulations! You have finished Master the Basics!

If you have done the different types of Bible studies and completed the mini-lessons in order, you have finished the Master the Basics program. You should be well equipped to enjoy a lifetime of discovering God's Word.

Are You Ready to Disciple Someone Else?

You may be surprised how easy it is to live out Jesus' commandment to go and make disciples of all the nations. If you have completed the Master the Basics program, you can invite someone else to do the same thing.

If someone guided you through the Master the Basics process, you can invite others to do the same. You can invite them to work with the same study leader you did or you may feel comfortable guiding them through yourself.

God says you are fearfully and wonderfully made. He says that you were created to do good works that He prepared in advance for you to do. He says that if you study His Word, you will be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. He promises you that if you meditate on His Word day and night, and are careful to do everything in it, you will have success.

The greatest part of success is helping others succeed, too. Be salt and light in the world. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations.

Psalms 139:13 – 16; “For You formed my inward parts, You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

Ephesians 2:10; “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

2 Timothy 3:16 & 17; “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Joshua 1:8; “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Matthew 28:19; “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”