

INTRODUCTION 4

BIBLE STUDY AND USE OF QUESTIONS

PART 1 THE FIVE STEPS METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY

PART 2 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL MEDITATION OR GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Study the book of Revelation in a small group.

A great advantage for fellowship is to have a meal together before the study.

Take turns to prepare the meal.

Sit around a table (easier to make notes) or in a circle.

Each group member should have a Bible, preferably the same version.

Make use of the five steps method of Bible Study. It involves every member in the group, gives them an opportunity to ask their own questions and to make the study practical.

Study one chapter a time.

After the study, the group members may want to read the introduction and explanation of each chapter.

PART 1 THE FIVE STEPS METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY

STEP 1 Read

The group leader says: “Let us take turns to read one Bible verse from the passage until we have read the whole passage.”

Each group member in turn reads one Bible verse.

STEP 2 Discover

*The group leader asks: “Which truth in this passage touches your mind or heart?” “Why?”
or “Which truth in this passage is important for you?” “Why?”*

Each group member takes a few minutes to write one truth from the passage down.

Each group member in turn shares one truth from the passage.

When everyone has had a turn, people may share and discuss more of their discoveries.

STEP 3 Question

The group leader asks: “Which question from this passage would you like to ask the group?”

Each group member takes a few minutes to formulate an open question from the passage.

Open questions are specific and begin with a question word: ‘Who’, ‘What’, ‘Where’, ‘When’, ‘Where to’, ‘Why’, and ‘How’.

The group leader makes a list of the questions.

The group leader leads the discussion of as many of the questions as possible.

STEP 4 Apply

The group leader asks: “Which truths in this passage would be possible to apply today?”

A possible application is a truth from the passage which may be applied in your personal life or society today.

Each group member records one or more possible applications from the passage.

The group leader leads the discussion about the possible applications.

The group leader gives the group a minute to think about a personal application

Each group member chooses one of the possible applications as a personal application.

A personal application is a personal matter between the person and God. But he may share it with the group if he wants to.

STEP 5 Pray

The group leader asks: “What is your response to what God said to you through this Bible study?”

(Each group member may write down a very short prayer as his response.)

Each group member in turn prays a very short prayer (one or two sentences) about what he has learned from this Bible study.

PART 2 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL MEDITATION OR GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Besides the questions raised by the members of the group in the five steps method of Bible study above, the group leader may want to add a few questions for discussion from the list below.

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 1

- How do you imagine the book of Revelation came into being (1:1-2)?
- What are the implications when the book's contents will take place *soon*? (1:1; cf. 22:6)
- What does it mean that Jesus made the revelation known by means of *signs* (symbols and numbers)? (1:1)
- How do you view the fact that Jesus Christ is the ruler of all the kings on earth? (1:5)
- Which characteristics of Jesus Christ are mentioned and how do they take shape in our day (1:5-6)?
- In what way are believers in Christ *a kingdom and priests* in his present world? (1:6)
- How do we express our expectation that Jesus is coming (1:7)?
- Why did John fall at Christ's feet as though dead and how did he recover (1:17-18)?
- What comfort does it give you that Jesus holds the key of death and Hades? (1:18)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 2

EPHESUS

- What are the characteristics of false apostles? (2:2)
- How are we responsible for the state of our congregation? (2:2-3)
- What characterised the first love of Christians in the early Church? (2:4)
- What characterises your first love? (2:4)
- What happens when Jesus removes our lampstand from its place? (2:5)

SMYRNA

- What does it mean that Jesus Christ is the First and the Last? (2:8)
- How can Christians be rich in spite of their suffering, afflictions and poverty? (2:9)
- What will help us to continue as believers when our neighbours oppose our meetings and activities? (2:10)
- How does a Christian become one who overcomes? (2:11)

PERGAMUM

- What is expected of us when a key figure in our congregation suddenly dies or is murdered? (2:13)
- What does it mean that Jesus Christ will soon come to us if we do not repent? (2:16)
- What do you think is the new name known only to you? (2:17)

THYATIRA

- What teachings in your congregation promote half-heartedness instead of dedication? (2:20)
- How should we deal with forms of sexual immorality that is tacitly (with quiet consent) tolerated in the Church today? (2:20)
- What does it mean to learn Satan's so-called deep secrets? (2:24)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 3

SARDES

- How do you picture a Christian congregation that seems to be spiritually alive, but in reality is dying? (3:1)
- How can you strengthen what threatens to die in your congregation? (3:2)
- Why can or cannot a name be blotted out of the book of life? (3:5)

PHILADELPHIA

- What is meant by an open or closed door? (3:7)
- What is your responsibility when Jesus Christ opens or closes a door in your life? (3:7)
- How do you live with the fact that Jesus Christ closes and opens all the doors in your life? (3:8)
- How do you view your enemies when Jesus can make them acknowledge that He loves you? (3:9)

LAODICEA

How would you characterise a cold, lukewarm and hot Christian? (3:15-16)
How can we practically change a lukewarm congregation into a fiery one? (3:15-16)
What are the real riches in life? (3:17-18)
How does Jesus rebuke and discipline Christians? (3:19)
What does it mean that Jesus will eat with me and I will eat with him? (3:20)
How do you picture your reigning with Christ? (3:21-22)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 4

What does it mean that John was in the Spirit and saw a door standing open in heaven? (4:1-2)
How do you feel about the fact that God sees absolutely everything in your life? (4:8)
Which Christian songs reflect the reaction of the four living creatures? (4:8)
How does the fact that God was, is, and is to come affect your daily life? (4:8)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 5

What does the scroll sealed with seven seals represent? (5:1)
Why is no one besides the Lamb worthy to break the seals of the scroll? (5:2-5)
What does it mean that Jesus Christ purchased people from every nation for God with his blood? (5:9)
Describe how you imagine every creature in the universe singing the praise of God and the Lamb. (5:13)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 6

With which newspaper news could you illustrate the breaking of the seals?
What points to the conquest of Jesus Christ when calamities and disasters strike us? (6:1-2)
How does Jesus conquer the hearts of people today? (6:1-2)
Why do non-Christians persecute and kill Christians in some places? (6:3-4)
How does the book of Revelation shape your view about wars? (6:4,8)
Why must Christians suffer in war, famine, sicknesses and accidents together with the non-Christians?
(6:7-8)
How can Christians grow stronger through suffering?

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 7

What does the expression: “praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honour, power and strength *be to our God*” imply?
(7:12)
What do you know about angels getting involved in human affairs? (7:1)
What is the meaning of being sealed on the foreheads? (7:2-4)
Of what is the twelve tribes of Israel a symbol in this context? (7:5-8)
What is the great tribulation these people come out of? (7:14)
What does it mean that God will wipe away every tear? (7:17)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 8

How do you imagine the silence in heaven and what does it represent? (8:1)
What kinds of prayers are offered with the incense in heaven? (8:3-5)
What does the incense that is mixed with the prayers of the saints represent? (8:3-5)
Why are prayers pictured as sacrifices? (8:3-5)
Which of your prayers do you think would be included?
Which calamities and disasters are happening in our days? (8:7-11)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 9

Who ultimately controls hell and its demons? (9:1)

Why are only people without the seal of God harmed by the torture of demons? Give examples of such torture. (9:4)
Why do some people seek death, but do not find it? (9:6)
What do the horses, riders and the plagues of fire, smoke and sulphur represent? (9:18)
Why does the Bible speak of the very hour and day and month and year when the horses and their riders attack? (9:15)
How should Christians react when destructive wars strikes them?
What are examples of modern idols, magical arts, sexual immorality and thefts from which people refuse to repent? (9:20-21)
What do you think are God's emotions in verse 20 and 21?

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 10

Why do you think Jesus commanded John to seal up what the seven thunders said? (10:4)
What is the mystery of God that will be accomplished at the sounding of the seventh trumpet? (11:7)
What does the eating of the scroll in Ezekiel 2:9 to 3:3 and Revelation 10:9-11 mean?
What kind of hope emerges from chapter 10?

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 11

What does measuring the temple and its worshippers symbolise? (11:1)
How do you (a Christian) feel knowing that you have been measured? (11:1)
What does the trampling of the outer court of the temple and the city of Jerusalem symbolise? (11:2)
How should Christians in the temple relate to the nominal Christians in the outer court of the temple? (11:2)
What kind of authority does God give to us Christians today? (11:5-6)
Why is Jerusalem figuratively called Sodom and Egypt? (11:8)
What is the difference between the kingdom in Revelation 12:10 and the kingdom in Revelation 11:15?
In what way do people today destroy the earth? (11:18)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 12

Who do the woman, the dragon and the male child represent? (12:1-5)
What are Biblical examples of the dragon trying to prevent the birth of the expected baby? (12:4)
In which phase of the struggle between Christ and Satan do you think we live today? (12:6,13-17)
How must we understand the statement that Satan is leading the whole world astray? (12:9)
When do you experience Satan as an accuser? (12:10)
How do you as a Christian gain the victory over Satan and his demons? (12:11, cf. verse 17)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 13

What does it mean that the dragon is standing on the shore of the sea and the beast is coming out of the sea? (13:1)
How do people worship the beast today and how do you worship the Lamb? (13:4)
What does it mean when the Bible says that the beasts were first "given" power to perform signs (miracles) and then to make war against the saints and conquer them? (13:14-15,7)
Which examples do you know of people who faithfully and patiently endure such persecution? (13:10)
Why is the false prophet pictured as coming out of the earth? (13:11)
What is the mark of the beast? (13:16-18)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 14

What does it mean to you to have the name of God the Father and Jesus Christ written on your forehead? (14:1)
What does it mean that they have not defiled themselves with woman, but have kept themselves pure? (14:4)
How do you practically follow the Lamb today everywhere he goes? (14:4)
Why is the announcement of the final judgement 'the eternal good news'? (14:6-7)
How do the nations drink the wine of Babylon's maddening adulteries? (14:8)

How can you avoid being drawn into those maddening adulteries? (14:8)
How do you picture the continuing restlessness of the worshippers of the beast? (14:11)
Why are Christians called to patient endurance? (14:12)
In what way will Christians who die rest from their labour? (14:13)
Which deeds will follow you to heaven when you die? (14:13)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 15

What is the dominant emotion in chapter 15?
At what is God's wrath directed? (15:1)
How can you be victorious over the beast, his image and his number? (15:2)
Which modern song could we sing that reflects this victory?
How can the outpouring of the bowls of God's wrath be called God's "righteous acts"? (15:3-4)
Why do the Old and the New Testament describe heaven in terms of a temple? (15:5-8)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 16

Why does the crowd in chapter 15 praise God for his judgement, while the crowd in chapter 16 curses God? (16:9-11)
How do we react to calamities in our time, like earthquakes, tsunamis, hunger, wars, genocide, cancer, unemployment or a financial crisis?
How can the judgements contained in God's bowls of wrath be true and just? (16:5-7)
Why do people who are scorched by the fire of the sun and tortured by the pain of sores refuse to repent of what they have done? (16:8-11, cf. verse 21)
How do you view the spirits of demons that perform miracles and induce nations to war? (16:12-14)
What does Jesus mean when he says, "It is done!" (16:17)
How do you picture the collapse of all the cities in the world at the same time? (16:19)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 17

Who do the great prostitute and the scarlet beast represent? (17:3-6)
How do people today get intoxicated by the wine of the prostitute's adulteries? (17:2,4)
Which temptations and anti-Christian influences do you recognize today? (17:2,4)
Who determines when the woman sits on the beast? (17:3)
How do anti-Christian politics and anti-Christian culture influence one another? (17:3)
Why is John astonished (dismayed)? (17:6)
Why is it said of the beast that "he was and is not and is on the point of coming up out of the Abyss"? (17:8)
What do the seven heads and the ten horns of the beast represent? (17:9-14)
How does the great prostitute come to her end? (17:15-18)
How must we understand the words: "God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose"? (17:17)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 18

What does Babylon the Great symbolise? (17:18; 18:1)
How does Babylon's glamour differ from her misery? (18:2)
How do we Christians recognise Babylon? (18:4)
In what sense should we Christians come out of Babylon? (18:4)
What does it mean that God pays Babylon back double for what she has done? (18:6-7)
Where in today's world do we see this same kind of unrepentant and self-exalting attitude? (18:7)
In what sense does Babylon sell the bodies and souls of men? (18:13)
What do you know about modern practices of slavery? (18:13)
Why are the saints (Christians), the apostles and prophets urged to rejoice when the world collapses? (18:20)
Why will the things described in Revelation 18:22-23 never again be found in Babylon?

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 19

- Why does the great multitude say that God's judgements are true and just? (19:1-2)
- When does God begin to reign? (19:6) (cf. Psalm 145:13; 146:10)
- What does the wedding of the Lamb symbolise? (19:7)
- What does the wedding clothes of the bride symbolise? (19:8)
- Who are called (not: invited) to the wedding supper of the Lamb? (19:9)
- What is meant by the words: "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"? (19:10)
- How will Jesus rule the nations with an iron sceptre? (19:15)
- What does it mean that the victory over the beast and his allies is announced before it happens? (19:17-18)
- To what extent is the final battle in Revelation 19:17-18 and 20:8 described in terms of Ezekiel 39:2-6,17-20?
- To what are all unbelievers in the world basically misled? (19:20)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 20

- How would you view this world when you knew that Satan was bound? (20:1-3)
- Why is Satan bound? (20:1-3)
- What does the number 1000 years represent? (20:2)
- What is meant by the first resurrection and the implied second resurrection? (20:5)
- What is meant by the implied first death and the second death? (20:6)
- How do you picture the final battle? (20:7-10)
- What happens between the final battle and the renewal of all things? (20:11-15)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 21

- What does it mean that there will no longer be any sea? (21:1)
- Why does John say that he sees the New Jerusalem coming down (present tense) out of heaven? (22:2)
- Why is the covenant expressed in terms of nations (plural) instead of only Israel? (21:3)
- What is Jesus making new in your life at the present time? (21:5)
- How do Christians know that they are overcoming? (21:7)
- What has been your last victory? (21:7)
- Why is unbelief as bad as idolatry and murder? (21:8)
- What are other symbols for the Church besides the bride of the Lamb and the New Jerusalem? (21:9-10)
- Why is the New Jerusalem described in terms of the twelve tribes in the Old Testament and the twelve apostles in the New Testament? (22:12,14)
- Why are Christians called 'a temple' in Ephesians 2:21-22 and God and Christ are called 'a temple' in Revelation 22:22?
- What splendour, glory and honour will the nations bring into the New Jerusalem? (21:24,26)

QUESTIONS for REVELATION 22

- How must we understand the leaves of the tree of life that are for the healing of the nations? (22:2)
- What is the present curse on earth? (22:3)
- How will we be able to see the face of God? (22:4)
- What do we do when we reign with Christ on the new earth? (22:5)
- What does it mean that the Lord is the God of the spirits of the prophets? (22:6)
- What does it mean that both the first and the last chapter say: "The things must soon take place" (1:1 and 22:6) and "the time is near" (1:3 and 22:10)?
- What does it mean that the words of the prophecy of this book must not be sealed? (22:10)
- What does it mean that the people who do wrong continue to do wrong and the people who do right continue to do right? (22:11)
- Why is it so important that we do not add or subtract anything from the Bible? (22:18-19)