

Life in the Word
Class 5
“Four Questions & Swedish Methods”

John Piper (*The Journal of Biblical Counseling*): “I have a burden for my people right now, just like I do for myself, that we get beyond propositions and Bible verses to Christ. I do not mean ‘get around’ Bible verses, but ‘through’ Bible verses to Christ, to the person, the living person, to know Him, cherish Him, treasure Him, enjoy Him, trust Him, be at home with Him.”

John Piper (*ESV Study Bible*, “Reading the Bible in Prayer and Communion with God”): “When we seek to enjoy communion with the Lord...we read the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, God’s words and God’s deeds reveal God himself for our knowledge and our enjoyment. Of course, it is possible to read the Bible without enjoying communion with God. We must seek to understand the Bible’s meaning, and we must pause to contemplate what we understand and, by the Spirit, to feel and express the appropriate response of the heart... Keep communion as your aim, and remember the words of Scripture are there for us to know God’s heart, to commune with the Living Christ, and to respond appropriately to his beauty and to his voice.”

John 13:1-14 - “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, ‘Lord, do you wash my feet?’ ⁷ Jesus answered him, ‘What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.’ ⁸ Peter said to him, ‘You shall never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.’ ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!’ ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, ‘The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.’ ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’ ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, ‘Do you understand what I have done to you?’ ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.’”

Romans 5:1-5 - “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

4 Questions Method (Soma/Saturate)

- 1. Who is God?** You're thinking about the person of God
 - What does the text say about the character and nature of God?
 - The Bible is ultimately God's story, reveals God to us - Father, Son, and Spirit
 - Look for the person, the attributes, or characteristics of the Father, Son, and/or Spirit – God's holiness, eternity, compassion, grace, love, forgiveness, wrath, kindness, etc.
- 2. What has God done (especially in and through Christ)?** Now you're thinking gospel
 - Focusing on the work of God, *especially* His work in and through Christ
 - Look for the work of Christ in the text, how this text is fulfilled by Christ?
- 3. Who are we (or who am I) in light of what God has done?** Now you're thinking identity
 - What does the text say about who you are now because of what God has done in and through Christ?
 - What is your new identity in Christ?
- 4. How do we get to live?** Now you're thinking application
 - In light of everything I've learned here, how does this change the way we live?
 - How should you respond? What should you do?
 - How can you now "be who you are?"

Swedish Method (adapted from David Helm and Ada Lum)

- 1. What Shines from the Passage for You?** Picture a light bulb
 - Every time we read, the Holy Spirit will highlight different things
 - What kind of shines from the passage for you now?
- 2. Do these verses raise any questions?** Picture a question mark
 - Are there things that confuse you, things you don't understand or make you stumble in some way (a word, a verse, an idea)?
 - Try to answer that question before you look at notes
- 3. Where do we see Jesus in the text?** Picture a cross
 - How does the text point to Christ, how is it fulfilled by Christ, where's the *gospel*?
- 4. What is the Spirit leading you to do?** Picture an arrow
 - This is your *application*
 - Based on everything you've seen, how should you respond?
- 5. With whom could you share this?** Picture a talking bubble
 - Think of someone who might benefit from what you've seen in the Bible
- 6. Why are these verses in the Bible?** Picture a Bible
 - Try to summarize God's purpose in putting these words in His book
 - What might the Bible lose if this was left out?
 - What brokenness in us requires this text (fallen condition focus)?