

Quick-Glance Guide

As you enter the Talk phase of Read-Talk-Pray, your main role as facilitator of a Bible Cluster is to ask questions.

Three Big Questions

1. What strikes you?

You're asking for their initial reactions. Are there any surprises, any "aha" moments? Are there interesting ideas, words or characters?

2. What does the passage say?

Here you're going for the basic meaning. What's the point? If it's a story, what's the moral? Another way to phrase this question is "What is God saying?"

3. How does the passage impact you?

So what? How do these ideas get into your life? How will a group member's thoughts or behavior change after encountering God in this passage?

Of course, those aren't the only questions you'll ask.

In the course of conversation, you'll offer a number of . . .

Thinking questions

"What do you think this means?"

Feeling questions

"How do you feel about what we just read?"

Clarifying questions

"So what do you mean by that? Do you mean this?"

Bible Clusters

Three Best Practices

1. Keep your eye on the text.

Conversations meander, but it's your job to make sure the discussion stays focused on the text.

2. Listen actively by repeating, reflecting, and rephrasing.

Repeating clarifies what people said.

Reflecting advances the thought.

Rephrasing makes sure everyone else understands.

3. Keep the boat between the buoys.

Even when you stay focused on Scripture, it's possible to drift into unhelpful theological debates. Any good conversation needs a little leeway, but you are "steering" this discussion, and you want to keep it headed in the right direction.