Questions to ask about a passage during Bible Study

A good Bible study helps participants enter into Scripture, ask questions, and share their insights. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* beautifully reminds us:

> *In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, "but as what it really is, the word of God." "In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them."[#104]*

You don't need to have all the answers to join the conversation. Thoughtful, open-ended questions can help everyone listen more closely to the passage and to one another. Not every question below will apply to every passage. Choose those that help.

Look at the passage

1. What stands out for you in this passage?
2. Who is speaking or acting, and to whom?
3. What is happening before and after this passage?
4. What words, phrases, or ideas are repeated or emphasized?
5. What surprises you or seems unusual?
6. Do you notice a contrast, comparison, command, promise, warning, or cause and effect?

Enter the passage

7. If this is a story, where might you place yourself—as a participant, in the crowd, or a silent observer?
8. What might you have seen, heard, thought, or wondered?
9. How do you feel challenged or encouraged by what you have read?
10. Is there someone in the passage with whom you identify—or find difficult to understand?
11. What question would you ask another person in the passage?

Ask questions

12. What don't you understand?
13. What question would you like to ask the writer—or someone in the passage?
14. Why might the writer have included this particular detail, word, or statement?

Seek understanding

15. What does this passage reveal about God, Jesus, or God's relationship with us?
16. What does it reveal about human beings and our relationships with one another?
17. Do the Bible's cross-references lead to another passage that sheds light on this one?
18. Would the historical setting, culture, another translation, or a Catholic commentary help answer one of your questions?

One more question: What question has this Bible passage left you wanting to pursue? And, how can you and the group find out?

> *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. [Matthew 7:7]*