

# Scripture as Question: A Method of Reflection

*Fr. Matthew Hawkins*

**Core Principle:** "The Bible is not the answer to our questions; it is the question to our answers."

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## For Personal Lectio

### 1. HEAR: Listen on Its Own Terms

**Read the passage slowly 2-3 times.** Resist immediately hunting for application.

**Ask:**

- What is being said here? What is the author actually doing?
- What question was this passage answering in its original context?

**Note:** Write down one observation about what the text is actually addressing.

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### 2. NAME: Identify the Question the Text Brings

**After a second reading, write the question the passage poses to you.**

**Ask:**

- If this were fully true in my life, what would have to change?
- Which of my current answers does this disturb?
- What does this reveal about God? About me? About us?

**The Question:**

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### **3. INTERROGATE: Let the Question Search Your Answers**

**Hold up concrete "answers" you currently live by to that question.**

**Ask:**

- What "answer" (habit, decision, priority, reaction) am I currently living with on this theme?
- Where do I feel resistance, excuse-making, or quick harmonization?
- What wound, injustice, or hope is this making me see that I normally ignore?

**My "Answer" Being Questioned:**

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**Where I Feel Resistance:**

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### **4. EXPERIMENT: One Obedient Practice**

**Instead of resolving everything conceptually, commit to one concrete response.**

**Ask:**

- What one small practice will keep me under this question this week?
- What conversation, habit, prayer, or action will I test?

**This Week I Will:**

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## **For Our Parish**

### **LAYER 1: Text Questions (Authorial & Theological Context)**

**What question does the passage address within our community.**

- What problem is driving this text?
- What is God correcting or revealing here?
- What is surprising or unsettling in this passage?

**Guiding Question for the Group:**

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### **LAYER 2: Community Answers (Our Existing Defaults)**

**Name the "answers" our people already carry on this theme.**

- How do we usually answer this question in our parish / culture / families?
- What do we take for granted about this issue?
- What voices or experiences are missing from our usual answer?

**Our Community's Default Answer:**

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### **LAYER 3: Conversion Questions (Toward Practice)**

- What one pattern in our community does this challenge?
- What would be different this week if we let this question stand?
- What concrete practice keeps us exposed to this question rather than resolving it prematurely?

**Space for silence, paired sharing, and concrete commitments.**

**This Week's Practice:**

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