



SOLOMON'S QUEST™

CREATING STRATEGIC DISCIPLESHIP AND EVANGELISM

FACILITATOR TRAINING GUIDE

by Eli L. Bernard



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INTRODUCTION



This is the most effective and useful tool for impacting individuals with God's Word I have encountered in twenty-two years of teaching Bible Study. This is a process that works and only gets better with time.

Before Solomon's Quest, the only guidelines I had been given about Bible instruction were to "follow the leader's copy of the quarterly." I was not challenged to think for myself or put myself in the place of the learner...it was all about imparting information to the learner without any thoughtful consideration of the contents of the lesson by the learner or application of the lesson by the learner.

I cannot imagine approaching the preparation of a Bible lesson without using the tools of the Solomon's Quest teaching process.

Tobin Sexton President, Toby Sexton Tire Company, Logansville, Georgia



TOBY SEXTON TIRE CO.

When Tobin was first exposed to the Solomon's Quest process, it made perfect sense to him.... For the first time, the Bible became more relevant and more applicable than it ever had been before. And because he understood it better, he could practice its truths more completely.... I watched as the truths he was teaching weekly impacted him as well as his students.

My life is richer today because of who my husband has become. He is who he is because of his Bible study.

Lynn Sexton, Nana and CEO of The Sextons, Stone Mountain, Georgia

WHAT IS SOLOMON'S QUEST™?



1 Kings 3:16-28

¹⁶ Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷ One of them said, "Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. ¹⁸ The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

¹⁹ "During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. ²⁰ So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. ²¹ The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne."

²² The other woman said, "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours."

But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued before the king.

²³ The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.'"

²⁴ Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword for the king. ²⁵ He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."

²⁶ The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!"

But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

²⁷ Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."

²⁸ When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.



ften, as leaders, we explain, demonstrate, and convince while asking those we lead to accept, trust, apply, and verify what we have told them. In a closed, familiar environment, this seems to work for the most part, week in and week out.

That is not what Solomon did.

He did not proclaim his own wisdom or announce a decision, expecting or demanding his subjects to agree with him or trust him. In fact, his command does not seem to be the smart thing to do. Had this been his actual intention, and his soldiers had carried it out, he would have generated the kind of respectful fear that is common in dictatorships; human life without value except to the one in power.

But Solomon was playing chess while everyone else was playing checkers.

What he did was wise beyond his years. Solomon created the environment and opportunity for everyone in the court that day to see truth for themselves BEFORE he explained, demonstrated or proclaimed. He put them in a state of cognitive dissonance, which mentally demands resolution. He knew the response of the women would provide that resolution.

When he made his decree about whose child it was, everyone had already seen that truth for themselves. It had already been verified in their minds. It was not his decision that rose up in their hearts and minds as wise - it was the fact that his decree aligned with the truth they had already accepted. He let them decide what was true, and then agreed with them.

This "pre-knowledge" and alignment was awe inspiring (vs 28) for all of Israel.

Solomon's Quest™ is a method that does the same thing.

Facilitators can learn how to easily and repeatedly ask Great Questions and create circumstances where others will discover and decide about God's truth for themselves, and at the same time, gaining experience in the analysis and evaluation of truth beyond your Bible study/teaching moments. The Quest can truly be life changing.

Jesus did the same thing. Just consider his responses and teaching in a variety of situations. For example:

- John the Baptist - Matthew 11
- The Rich Man - Matthew 19
- Challenged in the Temple - Matthew 21
- Before Pilate - Matthew 27

The Quest can help you play chess with your disciple making and disciple shaping efforts.



WHAT SOLOMON'S QUEST™ IS NOT

Solomon's Quest™ is an experience planning **method** that is useful in making and shaping disciples by the transformation of a renewed mind (Romans 12:2).

It is useful for Bible Study facilitation, evangelism, mentoring, leadership development, and Strategic Planning.

This method is based on Biblical and cognitive learning models. Used in Bible Study, the Facilitation Method is a tool that can be learned in a day but grown and mastered over a lifetime. Leaning on two core elements - Loud Silence (page 19) and Great Questions (page 10) - the scripture will always be the **source** and **supply** for engaging and thought-provoking and life-changing Bible study.

This is not ...

... Curriculum or Literature

There is nothing to buy and no homework to assign. A facilitator best learns the method experientially. It empowers the facilitator to craft life-changing Bible experiences regardless of which literature, quarterly, DVD or book happens to be the basis for a particular study. This method can preclude the use of literature, but it does not demand it.

In fact, it can be helpful to the facilitator to follow the scope and sequence of a curriculum guide. However, that is all that you would use. The rest of the process is incompatible with the facilitator reading and absorbing hours of content to have meaningful information to deliver.

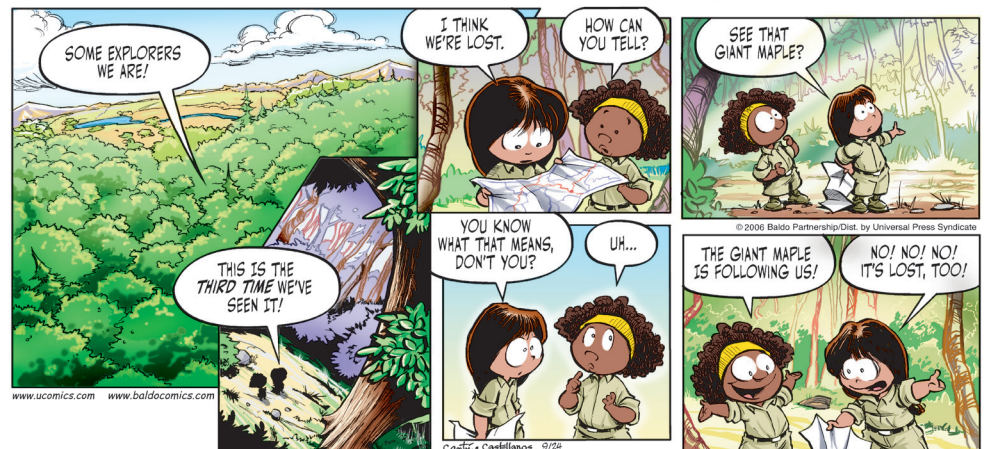
... Simple Q&A

It is common for Bible study leaders to know they should ask questions. It is common for those who write books - inspirational, devotional, or for study - to include questions for group study. However, all too often these questions are designed for simple Q&A - Who,

What, Where, When, How, Fill-in-the Blank, List - rather than a thought-provoking and conversational look at the manifold word of God.

Great Questions should be asked for the purpose of placing the minds and hearts of your group directly in the path of God's wisdom, that they may personally and directly discover more of who He is and His plan for their lives.

BALDO



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... Inductive Bible Study

Inductive Bible study is a method where observation leads to ever expanding conclusions that do not necessarily follow from the premise, content, or context of the passage or the full (manifold) messaging from Scripture (see Baldo, above). It is instead, a process where participants can unknowingly and incorrectly inflate the validity of their observations and feelings as facts or evidence of Biblical truth.

Solomon's Quest™ is a deductive Bible Study. Facilitators create opportunities for participants to discover for themselves, in Scripture, the meaning and interpretation of a verse or passage. It is a process of reasoning in which the conclusion follows Biblically from the premise and context of the passage.

This process guides the interpretation to align with Scripture, rather than the cultural observations and feelings of the participants.

It is much like Sherlock Holmes - having already deduced the truth - dropping clues for Dr. Watson so that Watson can deduce the truth for himself.

... Academic Bible Study

Traditionally, a "deep" Bible study is one that is academic, where the more Biblical information a person reads or hears, the deeper they feel they are going in Bible study. These are


contrasted by studies that are not considered "deep", as those may be more relational, topical, inductive or media driven.

Based on sound academic research, Solomon's Quest™, while not academically deep, is conceptually deep. Rather than delivering a volume of information in a lesson, a single concept is exposed to analysis and evaluation from a variety of passages and directions, specifically creating a learning experience that is more memorable and more easily synthesizes truth into the lives of the participants (see info graphic, p. 5).

The process takes advantage of the way God made us to learn so that key concepts embed deeply in our center; to affect life change in the core of one's being - to the depth of the soul.

The **Quest>ion** is not "is Solomon's Quest™ a better way to teach"? Rather, the **Quest>ion** is, "Is this a better way to affect life change?"

WHY SOLOMON'S QUEST™?

 Solomon's Quest™ is a method that empowers facilitators to provide engaging, conversational, thought-provoking, and life-changing Bible study experiences, regardless of which curriculum or resource may be the basis for the study.

For most people, changing (renewing) our minds to God's mind about anything requires that we talk about it, in the substance and context of God's word. This is a method that allows the power of God's word to more personally invade and engage in the life of the participant. In addition, it is a hands-on, immersive way to develop quality Bible study facilitators.

Benefits

Experiencing Life Change

God's Word is designed to go marrow-deep into our lives. This method allows for a wide range of participation and spiritual development: from those who don't know Christ to the spiritually mature. Participants are motivated to answer and/or hear what others have to say when the questions are GREAT: challenging, relevant, and thought-provoking.

Align With Mission/Values

If Small Groups - the largest ministry organization in almost every church - does not engage their people with Biblical reminders of the church's Mission and Values, entropy and mission creep will likely ensue. Solomon's Quest™ keeps one eye on the purpose and values of your church, and leans into passages that lend themselves to those areas.

Active Group Participation

Participants become active learners, rising to the challenge to think and discover - without the requirement of homework. This method resonates with the vast majority of cognitive learners. Biblical comprehension and synthesis is enhanced by the loud silence of active Bible reading, rich dialogue, and the surprise of discovery.

45 Minute Preparation

Rather than having to study for hours in order to deliver new information to increasingly learned students, the Solomon's Quest™ facilitator prepares to ask a sequence of Great Questions in order to facilitate discovery. With just a bit of experience, it is possible to develop great sessions in less than an hour.

Easier Leader Enlistment

In most groups there are those that can and should be moving toward leadership as well as some that may have previously led.

However, the time demand alone with literature is problematic enough to make it difficult to retain existing leaders and enlist new leaders. Experiencing this transferable method gives leaders the confidence that they have the time available to lead a group.

Growing Relationships

Because the conversation in group has depth and substance, drawing from a lifetime of thoughts and experiences (see *Ice Crushers*, p. 19), participants gain a knowledge and appreciation for one another far beyond their current life circumstances. This open conversation aids newer participants in gaining a sense of belonging, as they easily begin to learn about others in the group and are seen and heard as they safely share their own stories.

Values

Surprise/Discovery of Truth

Solomon's Quest™ values the strategic engagement with the truth of God's Word for believers and unbelievers. The guiding principle is that truth self-discovered embeds deeply in the heart of person (synthesis) while truth delivered as information usually escapes long term memory, and even, far too often, short-term and mid-term memory.

To that end, there is no homework, curriculum, pre-study or scripture memory that is part of a Quest study. Those activities steal the opportunity for surprise as participants engage purposefully with God's word in the conversational study.

Life-Changing Active Participation

A powerful way to help people grow is to allow them to talk about what they believe in conjunction with what Scripture says. Solomon's Quest™ is designed to create such opportunities. In addition, these rich and transparent conversations enhance and strengthen relationships in the group.

Thinking Biblically

Thinking Biblically is far more than knowing Scripture. It is the ability to analyze and evaluate scripture and life's circumstances based on the full and manifold wisdom of scripture, superseding emotion, preference, and opinion.

Quality Over Quantity

Each experience focuses on one Biblical concept, approaching it from a variety of directions during the course of the experience. Engaging with and discovering truth about this singular concept drives the truth deeper toward, and into, synthesis than contemporary and traditional group lessons.

NOTE: It is expected that Quest facilitators will have a comfortable level of Biblical literacy.

DIALING UP MATURE DISCIPLES



KNOWLEDGE
> Can Remember

Concrete Thinking

Children, students and adults, can memorize information and identify Bible facts. This indicates that knowledge exists, and they have the ability to remember.

COMPREHENSION
> Can Understand

Concrete Thinking

Children, students, and adults can repeat in their own words Biblical stories – David and Goliath or Jonah and the Whale, for example. This indicates that they know something, that they have the ability to remember, AND they understand at least some of what they are saying – this indicates they have the ability to comprehend.

APPLICATION
> Can Apply

Concrete > Abstract

Students and adults are able to “practice what you preach” – they do the things you suggest as applications to your teaching, this indicates that they can remember and understand, grasp some value from the suggestion, as well as do what they’re told (apply), all of which are thinking activities.

Note: Submissive Obedience without Comprehension is not Application.

ANALYSIS
> Can Analyze

Abstract Thinking

Students and adults can recognize concepts, even when different terms are used or disparate passages considered. They can categorize information, discern the impact of one passage as applied to another passage.

EVALUATION
> Can Evaluate

Abstract Thinking

What if your students and adults are able to argue a point with you, with Biblical references, (whether or not they are right, partly right, or completely wrong), judge for themselves if something is Biblically true, or decide for themselves what actions, supported by Scripture, they need to take.

SYNTHESIS
> Can Create

Abstract Thinking

Is God’s word so deeply valued and embedded in the very core of their being, that they are able to combine and organize Biblical concepts, ideas, people, resources, purpose, context, culture, and audience – and create a Biblical ministry or response to a need or challenge without having to read a book to find the recipe from how someone at some church three states away dealt with something similar?

Excerpt from <https://solomonsquest.blog/2022/10/31/thinking-biblically-dialing-up-mature-disciples/>

SOLOMON'S QUEST™ CORE IDEAS

The Source & Resource

A Different Kind of Deep

The Truth About Memory

Problematic Simplicity

The Abstract Brain

Strategic Outcomes

Strategic Alignment

THE SOURCE AND RESOURCE

One way to consider the Solomon's Quest™ method is that of getting out of God's way; to stop being a presenter of knowledge and instead, be a facilitator of wisdom. None of us can be funny enough, challenging enough, inspiring enough, convincing enough, or knowledgeable enough to compare to what happens when God Himself ...

... shows up

... in His Word

... for one who is seeking Him.

At Solomon's Quest™ we believe what God's Word says of Itself, and create opportunities for It to manifest Itself into the lives of others.

I AM the word of God – Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

I AM Useful – 2 Timothy 3:17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

I AM Penetrating – Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

I AM more Valuable than tradition – Mark 7:13

Thus, you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.

I AM the Transformer – Romans 12:2

(and certainly, more than meets the eye)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

My Wisdom is Manifold – Ephesians 3:10

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF DEEP



The Solomon's Quest™ Core Elements

A Different Kind of Deep

DiscipleShift

by Jim Putnam and Robert E. Coleman

Emotional and Spiritual Growth

Bloom's Taxonomy

bloomstaxonomy.net

Intellectual-Spiritual Growth

Our capacity to be challenged to know, comprehend, apply analyze, evaluate and synthesize truth.

The ultimate goal of Disciple Shaping should NOT be that the disciple

- Knows Scripture
- Comprehends Scripture or
- Applies God's word to their life

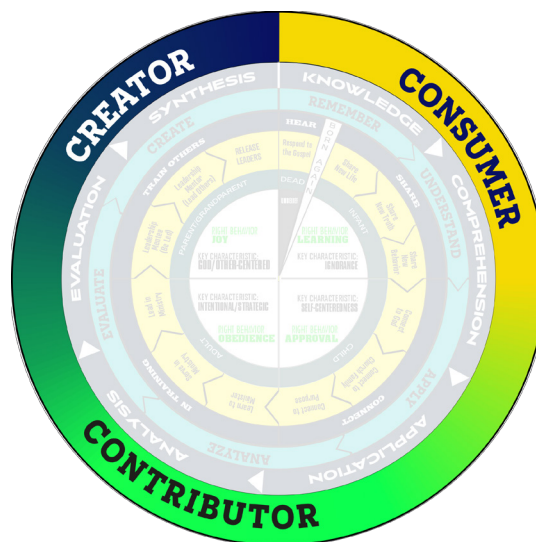
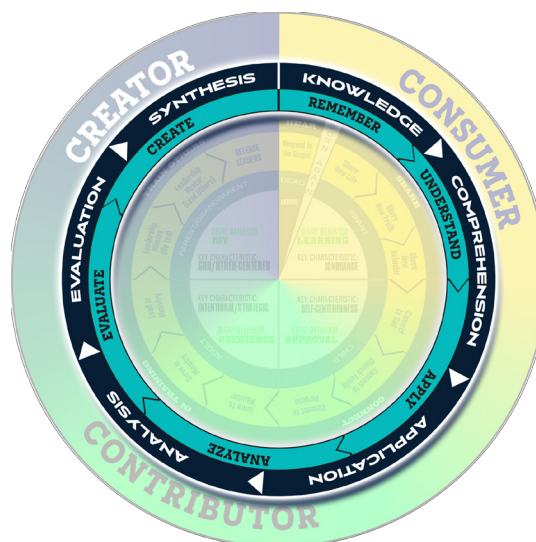
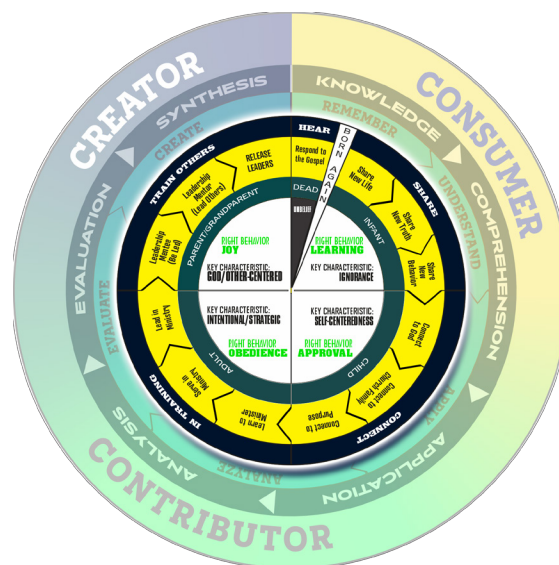
Rather, it should be that God's Word is synthesized into their life, empowering them to be the contributor and/or creator that God has designed... that they follow the Growth Path He has for them.

Disciples' Growth Path

Implications of Applied Strategy

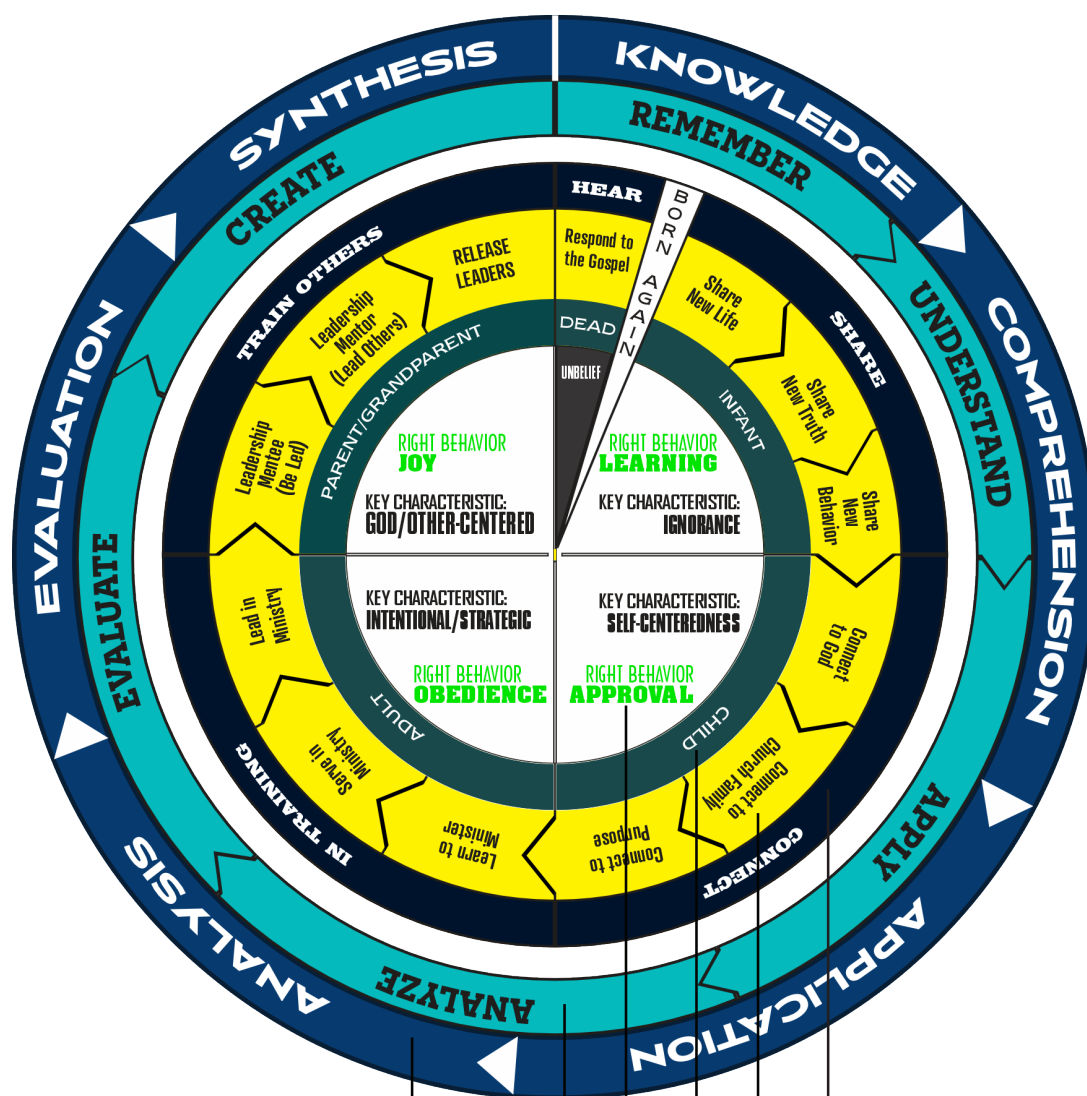
Understanding how God has created us to learn, remember, and be changed gives us the opportunity to impact the lives of others far past the time they leave our ministry.

It can change our minds about what we are trying to accomplish week in and week out.



The Solomon's Quest™ Model (Combined)

A Different Kind of Deep



LEARNING GAIN

BLOOM'S TAXONOMY*

*Learning Ability: bloomstaxonomy.net

SPIRITUAL NEED

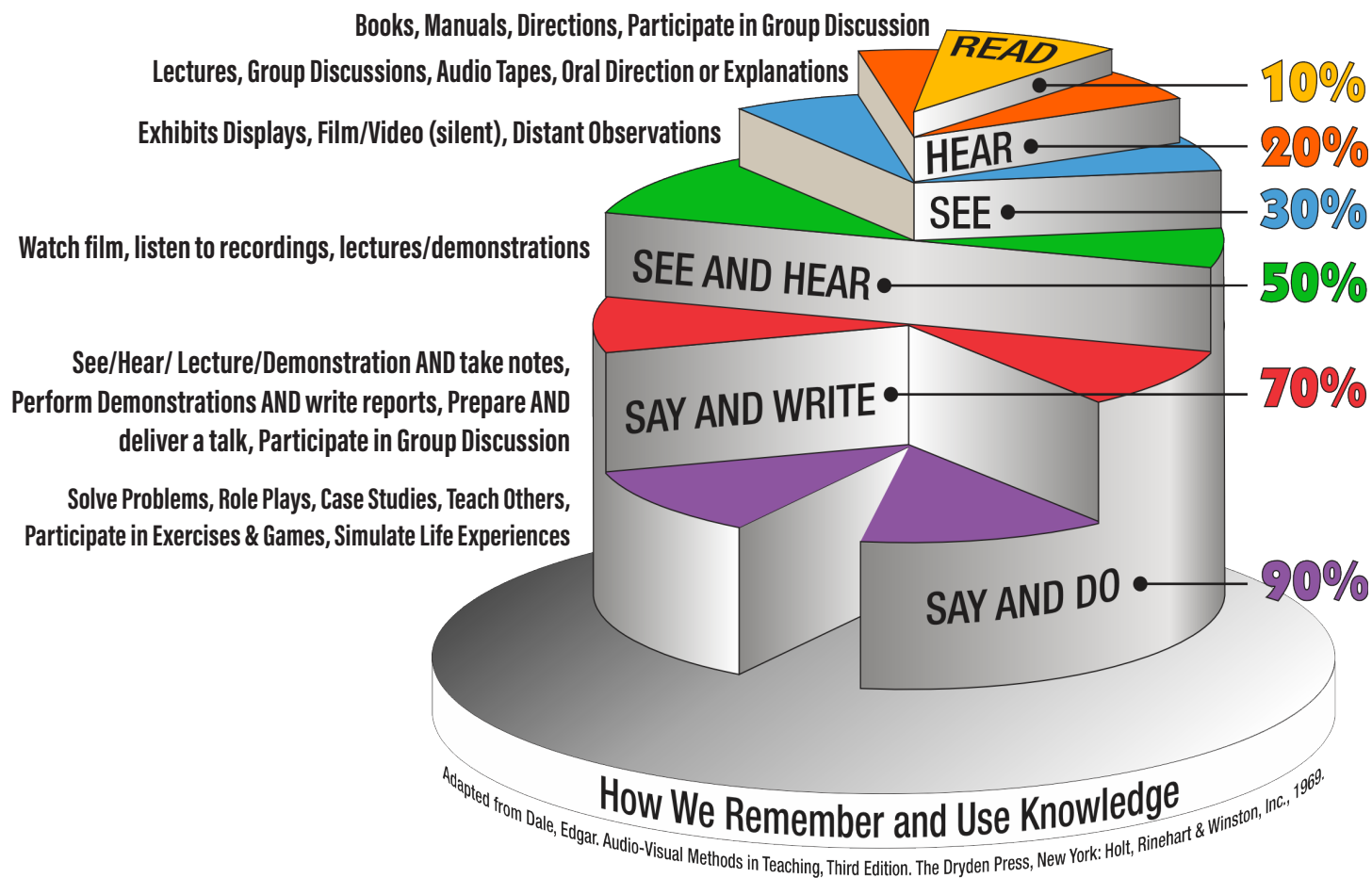
SPIRITUAL STEPS

SPIRITUAL AGE

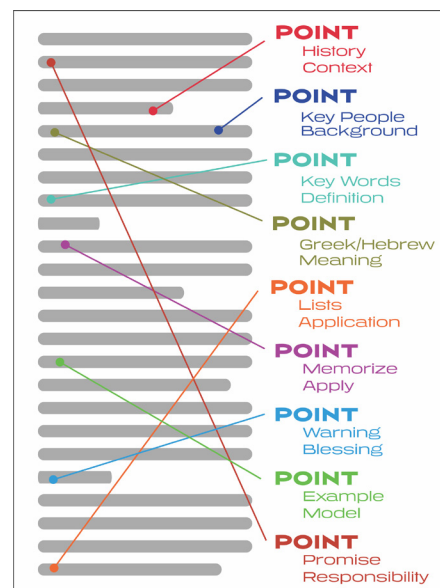
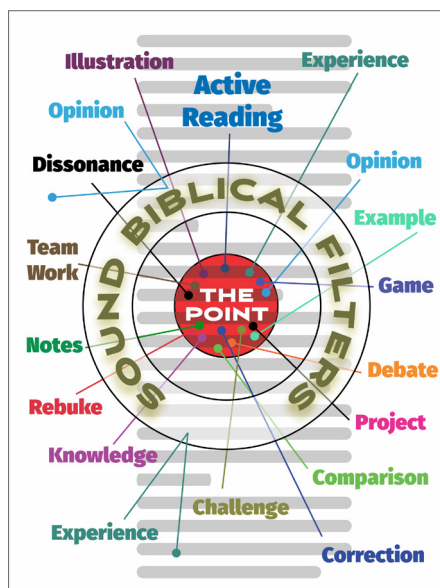
MOTIVATION / BEHAVIOR

From DiscipleShift by
Jim Putman and Robert E. Coleman

THE TRUTH ABOUT MEMORY



Targeting the Deep



PROBLEMATIC SIMPLICITY



A



B



C

A

8	7	4		5		6	1	
			2		7		4	8
3	2	6	8		4		9	
6		2	4	3		8		9
	8				9	2		6
9	3				8	1	5	4
1		8	3	4		5	2	
2		3		9			8	1
7		5			2	9	6	

B

	7	4	9	5	3	6	1	
5	1	9		6	7	3		8
3	2		8	1	4	7	9	5
6	5	2	4	3	1		7	9
4		1	5		9	2	3	
9	3	7	6	2	8	1	5	4
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2	6	3	7	9	5	4	8	1
	4	5		8	2	9	6	

C

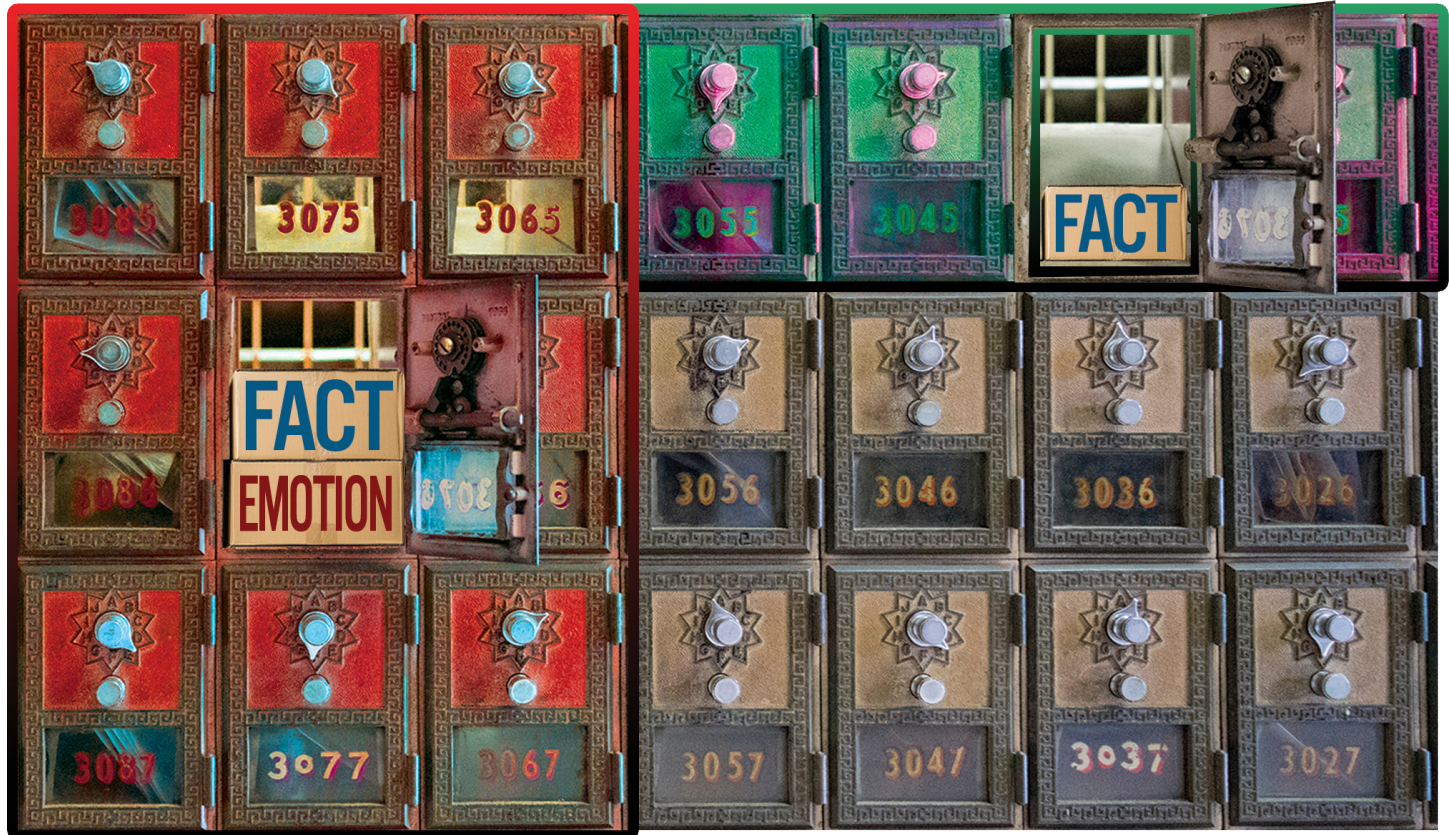
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3	2	6	8	1	4	7	9	5
6	5	2	4	3	1	8	7	9
4	8	1	5		9	2	3	6
9	3	7	6	2	8	1	5	4
1	9	8	3	4	6	5	2	7
2	6	3	7	9	5	4	8	1
	4	5	1	8	2	9	6	



THE ABSTRACT BRAIN

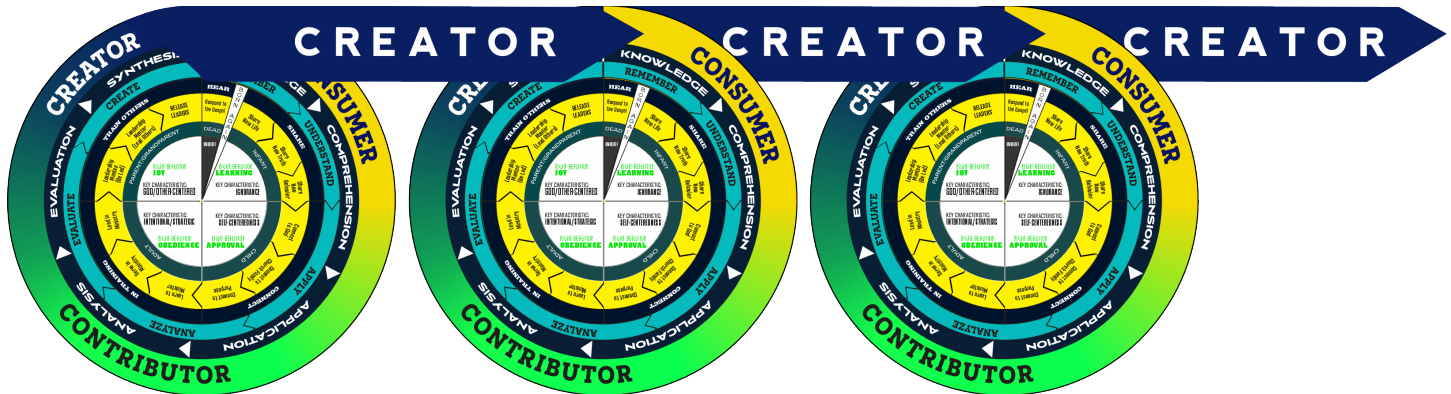
How the Brain Retains

Which is more important – learning or remembering?



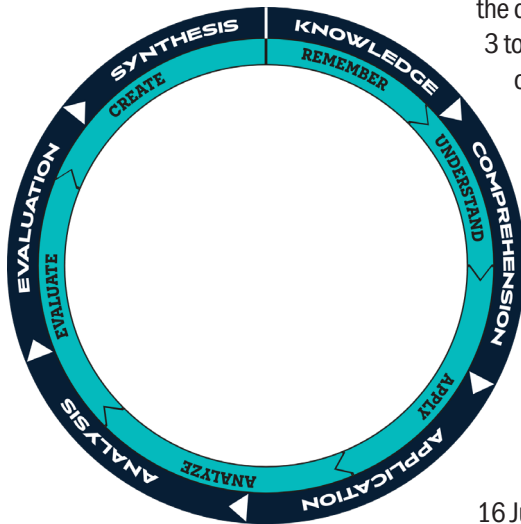
JOURNAL/NOTES/DRAWING

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES



PAGE 21 TAKEAWAYS
JOURNAL/NOTES/DRAWING

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT



Matthew 11:2-6

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Matthew 19:16-22

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments."

18 "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Luke 16:19-31

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

30 "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR GROUP: WHAT IS THEIR CAPABILITY? CIRCLE THE CATEGORIES TO THEY SPAN.

1. ☐ Knowledge

2. ☐

3. ☐

4. ☐ Comprehension

5. ☐

6. ☐

7. ☐ Application

8. ☐

9. ☐

10. ☐ Analysis

11. ☐

12. ☐

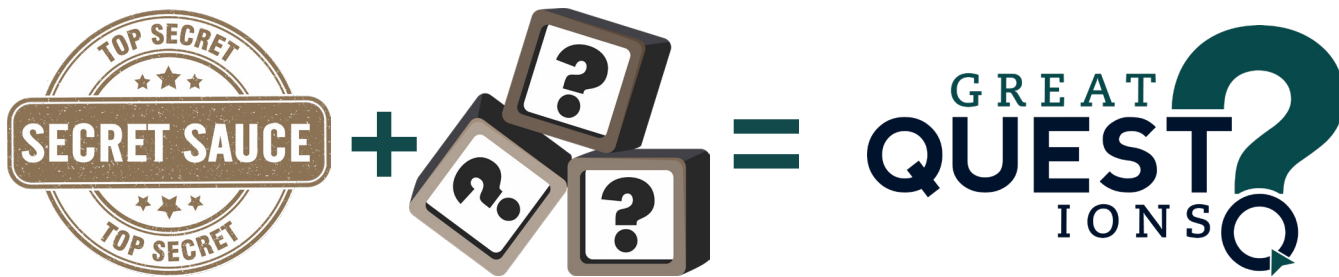
13. ☐ Evaluation

14. ☐

15. ☐

16. ☐ Synthesis

THE METHOD

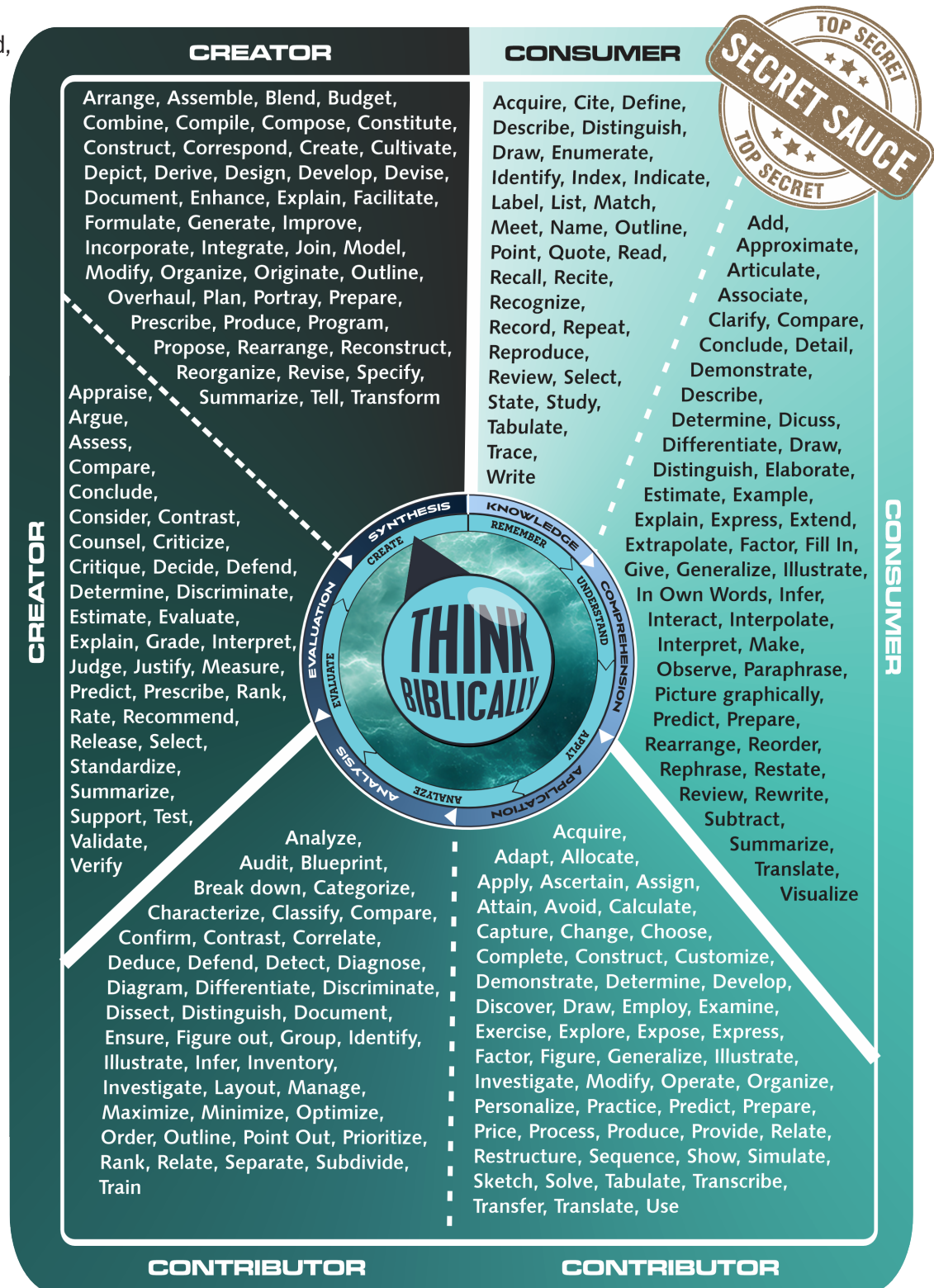


Synthesis


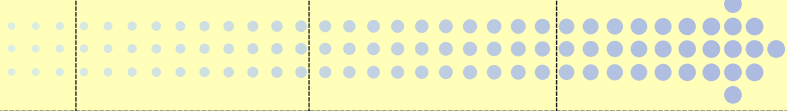
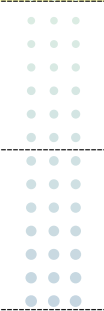

THE SECRET SAUCE

You know you have a Great question, when someone says, “That’s a great question!”

1. Monday: Pray and Read, asking God to show you what your group needs
2. Tuesday-Thursday: Revisit the passage, noting the concepts you find in Row A
3. Choose the concept that speaks best to the need.
4. Identify “The Point” of the session. (This can be adjusted/changed as you develop questions).
5. Choose other passages for Dissonance (most important), Support & Harmony
6. Write down 3-5 questions on Row B that relate to the Concept you’ve chosen.
7. Improve the questions by using the Secret Sauce and leveraging the other passages, evaluating for what the responses might be.
8. Sort the questions in order to facilitate the flow of the conversation.
9. Craft the Ice Crusher at the point your Concept and/or Questions inform the direction for the conversation.




SESSION MAP TEMPLATE


		SESSION MAP		Date:		Session Passage:	
		ICE CRUSHER					
VSS							
CONCEPT	A						
ANY QUESTION	B						
BETTER QUESTION	C						
GOOD QUESTION	D						
GREAT QUESTION	E						
GREAT QUESTION	F						
THE POINT							
		DISSONANCE		SUPPORT		HARMONY	

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SESSION MAP

		SESSION MAP		Date:		Session Passage:	
		ICE CRUSHER					
VSS							
CONCEPT	A						
ANY QUESTION	B						
BETTER QUESTION	C						
GOOD QUESTION	D						
GREAT QUESTION	E						
GREAT QUESTION	F						
THE POINT							
DISSONANCE			SUPPORT			HARMONY	

SESSION MAP

		SESSION MAP	Date:		Session Passage:	
		ICE CRUSHER				
VSS						
CONCEPT	A					
ANY QUESTION	B					
BETTER QUESTION	C					
GOOD QUESTION	D					
GREAT QUESTION	E					
GREAT QUESTION	F					
THE POINT						
DISSONANCE			SUPPORT		HARMONY	

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KEY STRATEGIES



Asking Great Questions is the foundation of the Solomon's Quest™ method. Therefore, synthesizing a strategy for asking great questions will be the best way and fastest way to easily create sessions where participants can discover God's truth for themselves.

Great questions are thought-provoking and life-changing. They are challenging to the level your group can be challenged. They result in conversation empowered by the enjoyment of the critical thinking processes of analysis, evaluation, and synthesis.



Ice Crushers

Ice breakers are very helpful at getting people to start talking. Especially in the early weeks of a new small group. People don't know each other very well. Commonalities and shared concerns are at a minimum.

But, what if you could get them talking about something that is parallel to, but otherwise unrelated to, the concepts in the session. Something that with their very thoughts - the things they share - create illustrations for the forthcoming dialogue. And BONUS, will often create a great transition into the session. You won't just break the ice... you'll crush it!

Ice Crusher Process

Evaluate your questions and concept and think back to a life experience that is conceptually similar, or something you can assume others have had, and craft a question to have participants talk about their similar life experience.

Their responses will come easily, allowing other group members to learn about one another. Bonus - the responses will related to the concept and scripture you will be discussing.



Threat Level

Ease into authenticity and transparency by managing the threat level of your questions.

Just walking into a room of strangers is threatening enough to some people to keep them away from your group. But once they are there, the way you ask, and the kind of questions you ask could result in anything from prolonged silence up to, and including, outright lying so as not to be embarrassed. In the latter case, this is often followed by never returning to the group.

Learn ways to get participants to engage without fear of embarrassment by managing the threat level of the questions you ask.



Loud Silence

A Great Question and moments of silence give space for participants to hear God speak truth for themselves.

Rarely, if ever, have someone read the entire passage aloud in the group. Instead, have everyone read it for themselves, silently. Ask **Great** questions for them to consider AS they read portions of the passage, rather than having someone read the entire passage before you ask questions.

It is in the silence that participants can actively read for comprehension without distraction, allowing God to speak loudly to them in His Word.

Loud Silence Solves these Issues & Increases Comprehension

- Speed/Tempo
- Translation
- Mispronunciation
- Fear/ Discomfort
- Focus
- Distractions



Cognitive Dissonance

A conflict of ideas that must be resolved. How can both be true when they appear to contradict?

This is a process whereby participants are led to express their belief, preference, understanding, and knowledge about a particular topic or concept, only to be challenged by their own discovery of Biblical content that could be corrective of a Biblical misunderstanding or, in extreme situations, in direct opposition to flawed doctrine.

FOUNDATIONAL QUESTIONS



Context:

Culture

Audience

Author

Chronology

Mandate:

Prescriptive vs Descriptive

Audience:

Singular (Me) vs Plural (We/Them)

Singular (You) vs Inclusive Plural (You)

Promises:

Universal vs Specific

My Church:

Mission, Vision, Values, Strategy

Comparative Analysis

Scripture Defining Scripture

Dissonance

Supportive:

Harmony:

FUNCTION & FLOW

**WORD
MORPH
EXAMPLE:**

DEER

DEEM

TEEM

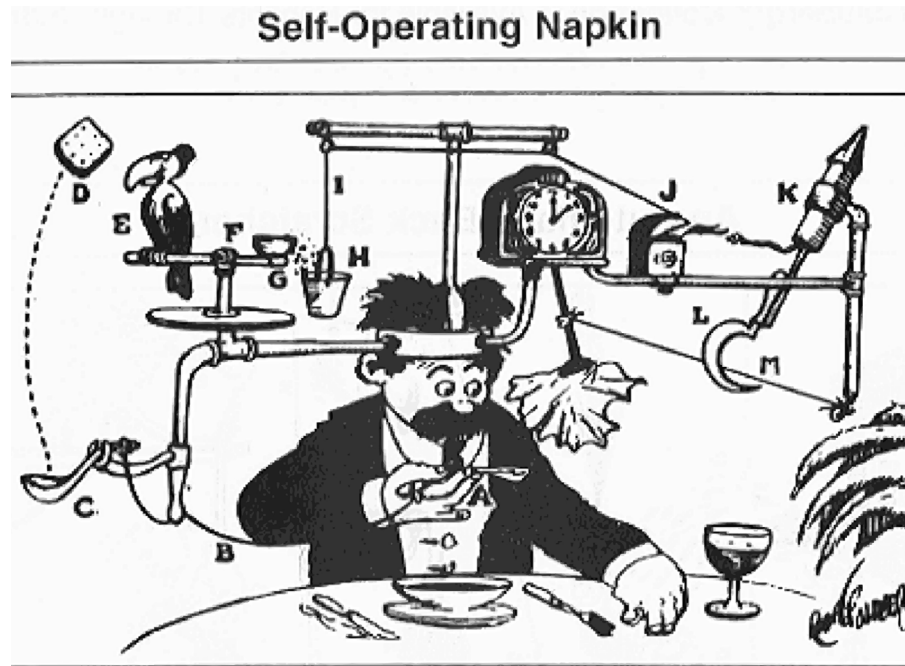
TERM

PERM

GAME

TELL

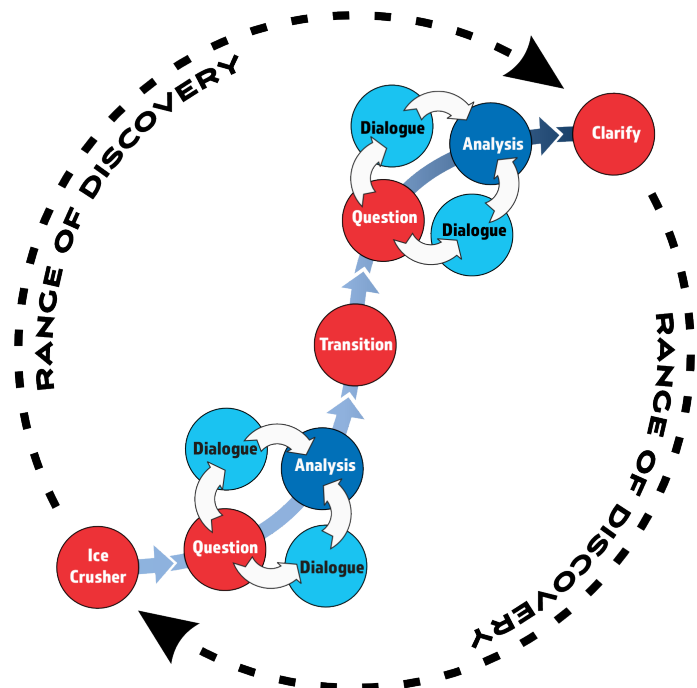
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Rube's Rules:

Range of Discovery



FUNCTION & FLOW PRACTICE

JOY TOGETHER

Sample Facilitated Questions from Philippians 1

CONCEPT: Our joy here is related to the kind of gospel partner we are.

1. Tell us about a business partner or project team member (no names) you've had in the past. What was it like and Why was it a good experience or a bad experience? (5-7 min.)
2. Read vss 3-7 and tell the group about someone in your life that evokes that same sort of feeling. (3-5 min.)
3. Read vss 4-11 and share what Paul believed would happen as God completed the good work in them. (2-3 min.)
4. What relationships do you see between vss 4-11 and vss 27-30?
5. Ask them to share what it is about your church that brings them joy.

NOTE: Paul wrote to the Galatians about 10 years before writing to the Philippians ...

6. ...Compare Paul's encounter in Galatians 2:11-14 with his letter to the Philippians in Phil 1:3-11 and 1:27-30 to inform on the implications of our being strong Gospel partners.
7. Read vss 12-18 and share the things you find that might motivate the end of this partnership. Repeat for vss 27-30 (5-10 min.)
8. Looking at vss 3-6 and vs 27-30, what might Paul say to the Church in the US if he were to write us a letter?
9. How does our list of the things that bring us joy compare to Paul's list in Philippians 1?
10. What aspects in Philippians does our church need to work on to be better Gospel partners?

Start HERE. Read each rationale below and decide which question(s) to the left may apply to each one. Questions may fit more than one.

THESE QUESTIONS ARE NOT IN SESSION ORDER!

☐

This question will generate higher thinking functions. Discerning the truth between two seemingly contradictory statements helps clarify both.

☐

This discussion will draw out their own thoughts on why partnerships either thrive or die. These will be relevant when they evaluate their own partnership style with the group/church.

☐

The responses to this question will tie directly to the Point (key concept) of the session. This discussion early on will allow group members to feel/discover what kind of partner they are for their group/church in the Gospel ministry.

☐

This information will be useful in having group members evaluate their own level of "partnership" development.

☐

This question should be improved or not used.

☐

This question might be a good ice crusher.

☐

A broad range of consideration can minimize the threat level when questions are asked about an individual's thoughts/feelings in the group. It gives them room to discover their own thoughts and feelings, but not have to reveal exactly how intensely they actually feel.

☐

Group members will see for themselves the reasons for Paul's exuberant greeting. Later in the session, they will compare Paul's feelings with their own and those of their fellow group/church members.

BONUS: Change the threat level of question 10 in both directions.

ENGAGING CURIOSITY

Make It Fit A 3x3 Sticky Note.

Make It Fit A 4x6 Sticky Note.

Make It Fit A 3x5 Sticky Note.

BEYOND THE SECRET SAUCE

Inductive VS Deductive Reasoning

Inductive



Deductive

Examples of Potential Inductive Issues

PROSPERITY

(Plural “You”)
Jeremiah 29:11
Matthew 26:11

THE ROMAN ROAD

What's Missing?

HEALING

Matt 9:18-26
John 5:1-15
Luke 5:17-26
Mark 3:1-5

SALVATION

Roman 10:-10
Luke 13:2-5 (vs 1-9)

BONUS: Transitive Reasoning

IMPLICATIONS ANALYSIS



A pared down experience with Joel Barker's Implications Wheel® process to discover the future from Biblical Decisions

(See Future Quest, page 19)

ASK What Might happen if.....

Create 5 Primary implications from What Might Happen if ... There must be at least one positive and one negative implication.

Create 5 Secondary Implications from each of the Primary Implications. Again, at least one positive and one negative.

Score each implication on two Scales:

- Likelihood:** 1- Not at all likely
10 - Highly Likely
- Desirability:** -5 - Highly Undesirable
+5-Highly Desirable
-50 - Catastrophic
+50 - Deal Maker!

Agreement is by consensus. Remember this is about what might happen - no actual decisions are being made. There is not "right" or "wrong" response.

Have the group evaluate the highest ranked items, both pro and con, against Biblical concepts and God's plan for your group, church, and ministry in general.

One Arc of the Wheel

What might happen if...

+ / -

Likely?
(1-10)

Desirable
(-5 to +5)

+ / -

Likely?
(1-10)

Desirable
(-5 to +5)

+ / -

Likely?
(1-10)

Desirable
(-5 to +5)

+ / -

Likely?
(1-10)

Desirable
(-5 to +5)

+ / -

Likely?
(1-10)

Desirable
(-5 to +5)

RESOURCES

Certifications



If you have completed a Basic Training workshop and would like to receive Certification, please reach out to us for details on how to complete the process. Certified Facilitators receive a certificate and badge that can be shared on social media to communicate the value of the training you have received and your certified status.

Certified Facilitators are qualified to assist in Basic Facilitator Trainings and receive compensation from Solomon's Quest™. In addition, they have access to communication channels with other Certified and Master Certified Facilitators for guidance, ideas, and networking.



If you are a Certified Facilitator, and would like to receive Master Facilitator Training & Certification, please reach out to us for details on qualifying for this certification.

Certified Master Facilitators receive a certificate and badge that can be shared on social media to communicate the value of the training you have received and your certified status.

In addition, Master Facilitators are empowered to lead trainings and receive compensation from Solomons Quest™. In addition, they have access to communication channels with other Certified and Master Certified Facilitators for guidance, ideas, and networking. Master Facilitators are encouraged to be available to new facilitators for guidance, ideas, and networking.

Reach out for an exploratory conversation at www.solomonsquest.org

Conversational Evangelism

“...this brother of yours ... was lost and is found.” Luke 15:32

While this saying is true, “It’s tough to be found if you don’t know you’re lost,” it puts the responsibility of being found on the one that is lost. These corollaries are also true.

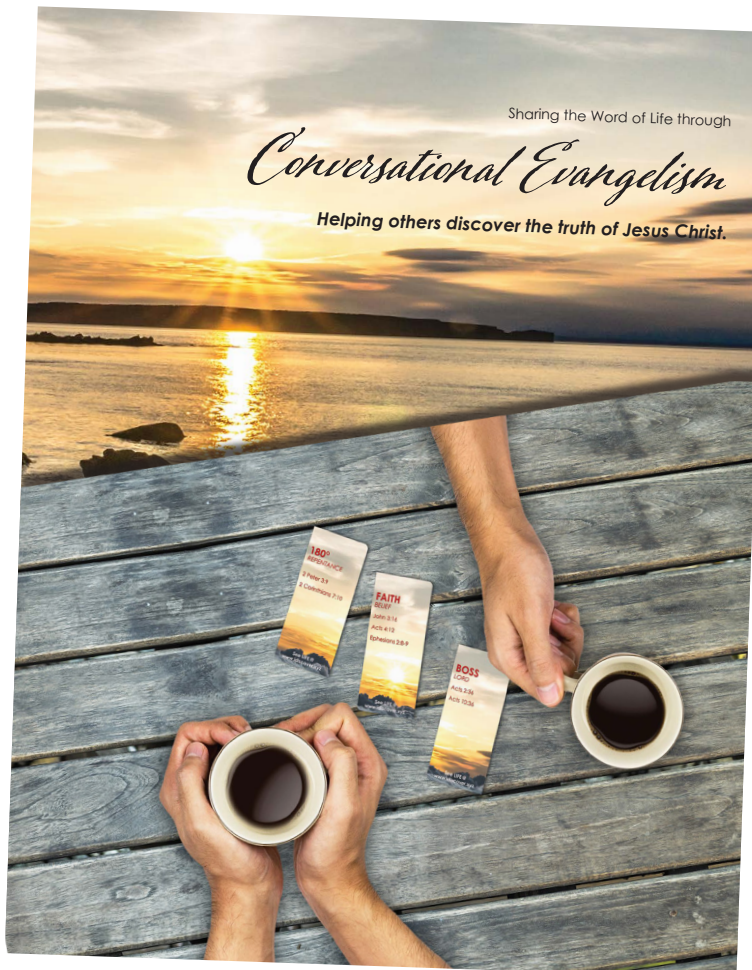
- It is tough to be found if you don’t want to be found.
- It is tough to be found if no one is looking.
- It is tough to be found if the finders don’t know how to look.

Solomon’s Quest™ has created a Conversational Evangelism tool/process to simplify and empower conversational evangelism; a process that can be used as relationships grow as well as in those encounters that are more akin to the woman at the well (John 4) or the Philip’s meeting with the Ethiopian (Acts 8).

Advantages of these cards:

- Using the cards will empower the process. Once learned, the cards are not necessary, as the process can be used with any three things; sugar packets, dice, coins...
- They create an environment for parallel posture when sharing the Gospel. Both parties can look at the cards, rather than each other, while the conversation unfolds. This is often more comfortable for the one with whom you are sharing.
- They eliminate the need to memorize scripture or an outline.
- They allow the one not yet found to discover... to self-diagnose their spiritual need - conversationally
- They teach and reinforce the process of communicating the Gospel each time they are used.
- They can be customized for your church’s need and/or event.

The Quest cards are not tracts. They are not intended to be read to the one not yet found. They are used as touch points to help the individual self-diagnose their need and their progress in the path to salvation.



Reach out for an exploratory conversation at www.solomonsquest.org

FutureQuest

Imagine if you could engage your congregation in a guided, productive dialogue that helps leadership anticipate and identify the future implications of a change, while at the same time takes advantage of the buy-in created by your members' experiences to effectively navigate and accomplish the change.

Joel Barker's **Implications Wheel®** is a strategic exploration tool that make that imagining come true. The highly interactive process quickly helps group participants discover multiple levels of mid- to long-term implications of ideas, changes, or decisions, helping leaders create an implementation strategy that leverages what the congregation has discovered and shared toward a successful change.

Your people becomes the scouts...

Scouting the Future

Nineteenth century pioneers in the American West successfully navigated uncertain terrain by using scouts to help them identify and prepare for the many risks and opportunities that were found "just over the horizon." The scouting process proved to have value because it incorporated the following critical attributes:

- **Speed:** Observations from quick looks
- **Scatter:** Multiple views from different perspectives
- **Sampling:** Observations, impressions and images qualified by experience.
- **Mapping:** Sufficient detail to give the "lay of the land."
- **Decision-enhancing information:** The ultimate decision on which way to proceed was made by the wagon master, not by the scouts.

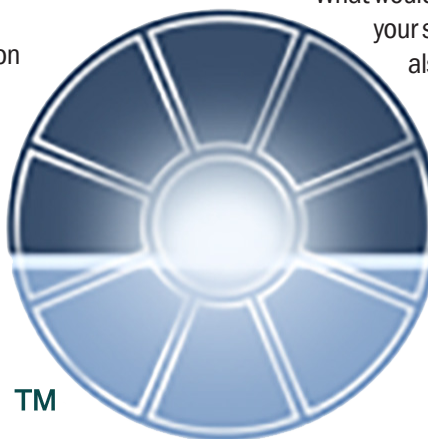
These attributes are equally relevant for today's decision makers, who are called upon to navigate the uncharted territory of the future. Understanding the consequences of decisions—and being able to identify them ahead of time—provides decision-makers with a powerful to navigate change while strengthening the health of the church.

Take the Wheel for a Spin

Consider the worth to your ministry if you, your staff, and your congregation could discover the multitude of very positive future implications of a major upcoming decision. Planting a Church? Building Expansion? Expanding your Church Staff? Changing the model for Small Group Ministry?

What would it be worth to your ministry if you, your staff, and your congregation could also discover the multitude of very negative future implications of this upcoming decision?

The **Implications Wheel®** can do just that, and provide you with a map showing where you need to plan for success and protect from unintended difficulties.



Contact us at www.solomonsquest.org to discover the possibilities for your FutureQuest!



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If you need some assistance in developing questions or ice crushers, you can schedule a call or zoom with me: solomonsquest.org/appointment.

Also, download digital versions of the Session Map from solomonsquest.org/documents



@solomonsquest

Eli Bernard is the son of an agnostic Jewish father and Lutheran mother. Though raised in a home that fluctuated between spiritual neutrality and antagonism toward Christianity, Christ invaded his life at 18 years of age while he was in Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, SC.

Eli Served six years with the 440th Army Band of the North Carolina National Guard while he attended North Carolina State University, earning a degree in Math Education, and then teaching Math and Computer Science for a year and half before God called Him to ministry.

After graduating from seminary, he served churches in Texas, Florida, Georgia, and Colorado as Student Minister, Education and Outreach Pastor, and Church Planter/Lead Pastor. He served on the Executive Staff of the Super Summer Youth Evangelism programs in Texas, Florida and Georgia. He is a certified Intentional Interim Pastor. He served for 5 years as an Equipping Specialist with a national mission agency and 10 years with Group Publishing as their

Common to all
of his ministry experience

Multimedia Experience
Manager.

is a passion for strategically making disciples (sharing the Gospel) and shaping disciples, with a view of replicating that passion in others to make and shape disciples. Eli's call is to connect people to people, people to Christ, and people to the call.

He and his wife, Lisa, have been married for more than 40 years. Their three children are married with, as of this writing, 9 grand- and foster-grandchildren.

Solomon's Quest™ is the culmination of 45 years of God's leading, research and study, experimentation, training, as well as having incredible mentors from ministry and business that invested in his life. The result is a transferable, leader-developing, life-changing strategy for small group Bible study and personal evangelism.



Eli Bernard, Founder/CEO, Solomon's Quest, Inc.

Solomon's Quest has transformed my teaching ministry. For more than 30 years, I've been considered a preacher, a prophet and evangelist. For the first time in my ministry, I have been called a Bible teacher.

- Pastor Matt Edwards, Weatherford, Texas

"This is the most effective and useful tool for impacting individuals with God's Word I have encountered in twenty-two years of teaching Bible Study. This is a process that works and only gets better with time.

-Tobin Sexton, Stone Mountain, GA

I have been teaching Bible study since 1985 and I was amazed at this fresh approach to the classroom - an approach where the newest convert can participate along with the seasoned veteran.

- John Moore, Duluth, Georgia

Nothing I have ever experienced has had the type of impact Solomon's Quest has had on my life and my relationship with God. Because of this life-changing experience, I have become the Quest group leader at my church and absolutely love being able to share The gospel this way and continue to grow with those in my group.

Chad Anderson, GySgt USMC, Retired
Indianapolis, Indiana