

## Question-Able™ Discipleship Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What is Question-Able™ Discipleship?

Question-Able Discipleship is an approach to equipping and supporting people of faith as they engage their spiritual journeys to become mature followers of Jesus Christ. What makes the approach distinctive is the material is rooted in the understanding that those journeys are marked by asking questions, not pretending there aren't any. And the quality of the answers one finds, is directly related to the quality of the questions, themselves.

It stands to reason, then, that asking questions about faith issues is an important spiritual discipline. So, those engaged with Question-Able™ discipleship learn and practice:

- 1) How to formulate good, substantive questions,
- 2) How to find answers to those questions, and
- 3) How to evaluate the answers you find.

For their faith journeys, disciples need a toolbox with which they can build up their faith, not a rigid set of statements that can weigh them down like bricks as they seek to understand and obey Christ.

### What is the purpose of Question-Able™ Discipleship?

The aim of all Question-Able™ materials is to support the fulfillment of the description the Apostle Paul provides in his letter to the Ephesians (4:11-16):

<sup>11</sup> The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about and by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

### What is the connection between being a Christian and being a disciple?

Jesus has never called us to be Christians. But He constantly invites us to be His disciples. One can be reduced to a passive acceptance of a set of religious statements. The other is a lived reality that requires a robust, proactive engagement with Him and the world into which He came.

### What is a disciple supposed to look like?

Often discipleship is seen as simply learning and knowing the right things. It is about who you are and whose you are. A disciple as is a person who has chosen to follow Christ and whose commitment to Him can be recognized by demonstrable evidence of four essential characteristics:

- 1) **Listening** – Disciples are first of all listeners. Our programs emphasize how to hear and pay attention to God and each other. (*Deuteronomy 6, "Hear, O Israel..."*)
- 2) **Reflection** – Taking what is learned beyond its face value. Integrating a piece of knowledge into understanding a larger whole. Articulating the implications of our understanding in relation to our life choices. (*Psalms, Wisdom Literature*)

- 3) **Engagement** – Learning is not a passive activity. It requires intentionality on the part of the student and establishes the expectation that what is learned will be put to use. (*The Great Commission*)
- 4) **Generosity** – Knowledge and skills are intended to be shared. Mature learners evidence an attitude of openness and giving.

### Is Question-Able™ Discipleship a curriculum?

Question-Able™ Discipleship materials focus on a specific approach to developing disciples, but provides curriculum materials and training to assist people and organizations in its methodology. The Network for Theological Education does publish original teaching material for Question-Able teaching, but we also develop materials that support books and studies produced by others. Any book may be used and the material adapted to the Question-Able teaching approach.

### How is the Question-Able™ approach different?

As its name implies, the materials are question-based to encourage disciple engagement with the materials, themselves, the rich legacy of Christian thought, and each other. We also focus on providing facilitators and users choices rather than a one-size-fits-all lesson plans. The chart below illustrates the difference between Question-Able discipleship and other commonly used approaches.

	Common Approaches	Question-Able Discipleship
1	“Sage on stage” where one teacher presents a lecture.	Use of <b>facilitators</b> rather than traditional teachers. Facilitators choose from a variety of support materials, depending on their gifts and needs.
2	Material is presented in a linear, dogmatic fashion, focused on delivering content as opposed developing a skill set.	The focus of the Question-Able discipleship materials is not on content delivery, but on engagement and practical application.
3	Lesson plans are often narrowly constructed, making it hard to effectively adapt to varied contexts, learning styles, and tempos.	While learning goals are suggested, the materials are easily adapted to goals established by the facilitator and their group.
4	Lessons are often written at the level of what is thought to be the lowest common denominator of students. This often makes the material unengaging for adults.	Study and support materials are available in a variety of formats (podcasts, videos, PDFs, etc.) and are all available online.  Question-Able support materials include podcasts and videos provided by respected scholars
5	In an effort to provide more engaging materials, groups often use popular books. Publishers include study questions, but these are usually poorly constructed and not very thought provoking.	Training in using the methodology and materials is provided online, face-to-face and in written form. The choice is yours.  Additionally, NTE provides assistance to any group wishing to adapt pre-existing materials for use with the Question-Able approach.

**Where do I find more information?**

For further information on Question-Able™ Discipleship materials, contact **The Network for Theological Education, Inc.** at [info@TheNetworkTE.org](mailto:info@TheNetworkTE.org) or via phone at (804) 824-1317. Someone from NTE will contact you to assist.