

Characters in the Bible : Questions to get you thinking

Facts about the person

Read the passages and any other verses many times to find out about the person.

- Does their name have a meaning?
- When did the person live?
- What was their historical context?
- Where did the person live? Why and how did they get there?
- What do you know about the person's family circumstances?
- What was the person doing for a job?
- What was their position: in their family / in the society / in their job?
- Who were their main friends, enemies and contemporaries?
- What was their life like?
- What were the major events in their life?
- What was their main achievement or contribution to the nation or their family?

Understanding the person

Read the passages and any other verses again looking for patterns of behaviour.

- Write down a list of the person's strengths and a list of weaknesses, with examples.
- List the person's attitudes and how they were formed or changed towards
 - # God
 - # other people
 - # themselves
 - # circumstances
- How was the person influenced by others?
- How did the person influence others?
- Did the person make a significant mistake or have a significant success?
Why or why not?
- How did the person deal with their mistakes or successes?
- Write down anything you do not understand.

Application

- Is there anything in their life which is similar to yours?
- What main lessons have you learned from the person?
An example in their life to follow? A challenge to tackle? A warning to take on board?
An encouragement to savour? Something else?
- Which of these lessons is most important to you at this time? Why?