

How to Answer

Question 3: Who's Mentioned Most?

Qs 3-5 focus on the passage's setting: starting with who appears most in the text.

1. Read through the passage and your summary, focusing on the **main characters** mentioned or implied.
2. As you read, mark references to each main character in a distinct way on your Scripture-study sheet. Assign an icon or initial to the first character mentioned, and mark each subsequent reference to that character (pronouns, other nouns denoting him/her, etc.) the same way.

OR

Write a short profile of each main character in your notes, recording exactly what you observed in the passage by focusing on the character (for example, who they are, what they did, etc.). Be careful not to draw conclusions or record your opinions here: just the facts found in the text itself.

Hints & Hacks

- Always mark or profile **God, Jesus**, and the **Holy Spirit** and their synonyms and pronouns.
- Your answer to Question 2 (writing type) can help determine whether a character is important enough to mark or profile:

Instruction—look for who's providing the instruction. In topical discussions, this is likely the passage's author, while it's often a character in narratives. Also, be sure to identify the audience for the instruction if it's provided.

Law—look for people to whom the law applies, anyone identified as exempted from the law, and anyone who enforces the law.

Letter (Epistle)—identify the author, his audience, and anyone else mentioned repeatedly in the letter.

Narrative—look for characters who are crucial to retelling the story.

Poetry—sometimes Bible poets refer to concepts, locations, or other things using personal pronouns or other personal descriptions. *Don't mark or profile these as characters.* We'll examine them later as we work through other questions.

Prophecy—note the prophet, and the people to whom and/or about whom the prophecy was made.

- It's common for authors to use the same pronouns (**he/she/they**) to refer to different characters, so read the verses containing them carefully to make sure you know who's who.
- If you encounter pronouns that are not otherwise identified by name or other characterization, pencil a ? over them on your Scripture-study sheet. As you answer Questions 12-15, you may be able to connect these with a character or characters.