

How to Answer

Question 4: Where does the Action Happen?

Now we focus on locations mentioned, since they can provide key background information for our study.

1. Read the passage again, this time looking for **location** information like:
 - **Proper names** of cities, countries, regions (Bethlehem, Salt Sea)
 - Character's homes or other **places associated with people** (Herod's palace, Joseph's well).
 - **Non-specific physical locations** like *structures* (temple, wall), *geographical features* (wilderness, field), *situations* (in a crowd, in prison).
 - **Relative locations** (here, there).
 - **Personal or internal locations** (inward being, heart, God's presence).
2. On your Scripture-study sheet, triple-underline all the locations you find. Don't forget other ways of referring to the same location or synonyms for it;
OR
if you're not using a Scripture-study sheet, make a note of all the locations and what happens there.

Hints & Hacks

- Locations found in **historical** and **biographical** narratives **often have important meaning to the story**. If your overall writing type is one of these and you don't find location data in your study text, use a bound Bible or online app to skim previous verses for it.
- With **poetic** and **prophetic** writing, location can also be key to understanding the author's message. I mark locations in this type of text with a box (not triple-underline) to remind myself **this may be a symbolic reference**.
- Resist the urge to research location information at this point in the study. For now—especially if you're working on more than one question in the same session—it's **more efficient to stay focused on finding specific details** than to switch back and forth between fact-finding and research.