

How to Answer

Question 11: How do Certain Things Happen?

Here, we note methods and conditions recorded by the author.

1. Review your summary from Question 1 and your answers to Questions 2-10, looking for one or two instances of **action** that piques your interest.
2. Reexamine the verses where the author describes this action, looking for
 - Step-by-step descriptions of what took place (the **process**),
 - Phrases that begin with **by...**, **through...**, **with...**, **in...**, followed by **means** or **technique** (i.e., **by force**, **through prayer**, etc.), and/or
 - **Adverbs** that further define how the action was performed, like **quickly** or **sadly**.
3. Next, look for descriptions of **conditions** at the time of the action. **When...** and **if...** sometimes introduce these descriptions, so check your answers to Question 5 to see if any of the time frames you noticed are relevant.
4. Record significant findings in your study journal.

Hints & Hacks

- Be aware **action** in your passage may include **states of being**:
When I studied Ruth 1, I felt drawn to **Naomi's change in condition** described in verse 21: she *went away **full** and the Lord brought her back **empty***.
- Check for **pronouns used to refer to action** in your passage.
When I first studied Ephesians 2:8-9 (*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And **this** is not your own doing; **it** is the gift of God not a result of works, so that no one may boast*), I missed **this** and **it** in verse 8. They also refer to **the action of being saved**, so while I understood salvation is **by grace, through faith**, I missed that it's **not by my own doing**, but **by the gift of God**, and **not a result of works**.
- Answering this question well takes practice. Be patient and lean on the Holy Spirit as you look for the answers. He will show you what you need to see.