

Level 1

Traction Group Discussion Questions: Growing in the Delight of the Lord

Instructions for Discussion Leader:

These discussion questions, in conjunction with the Traction adventure app (at: www.b4worldview.com/Traction/), can be a powerful tool for discipling other Christians. As you work through these questions with your group, please keep reminding yourself that the goal here is not to get the right answers or complete the questions. Instead, the goal is to help your group members discover any obstacles to their joyful and fruitful walk with the Lord, and then uncover the truths about Jesus Christ and His work to set them free.

Below are five sets of questions—one set for each week of your small group discussion meeting. Each question set is designed for about an hour of discussion. We recommend you plan to have five different one-hour sessions with your group.

The optimum group size for a discussion session is from 4 to 8 people (all of which should have previously completed the Traction adventure at: www.b4worldview.com/Traction/). NOTE: These questions are also suitable for one-on-one discipleship training if a group is not available.

We recommend you begin your discussion session with prayer asking the Lord to guide your thoughts and discussion to see the Lord Jesus Christ exalted.

IMPORTANT: These questions are designed to generate discussion, which is to say, they are more for getting people to think about personal application than having a “correct” answer.

Ask each question in order. At least at first, try not to “help” your group members with a “right” answer. If they give answers that you think are not quite right, it is better to ask them questions about the expected effect (on their walk with the Lord) of their answer rather than correct them by giving them the “right” answer. Remember: If it is “your” answer, they likely will not own it; but if you give them time to figure out the answer, they likely will own it long term—and it will more likely actually change their life. It is not usually easy, but it is more transformative if you can lead them to discover the right answer for themselves. If you just tell them, they are more likely to eventually dismiss your answer as a solution for their life. (Did you ever notice in the gospels how often Jesus asked questions instead of giving an answer when He was asked a question? See if you can follow His example in your discipling.)

Questions for Week 1 of your Small Group Discussion

How to Start the Discussion:

1. Start by thanking all those who are there for being a part of this discussion group.
2. Then please lead the group in prayer, asking the Lord to guide your conversations and give you all understanding and wisdom about how to apply these insights as you walk through life with the Lord.
3. Please make sure all participants have access to the Trophy Insights listed in this online document: www.b4worldview.com/Traction/TrophyInsights.pdf (NOTE: You can either have them download this on their mobile devices, or you could provide hardcopy printouts of this document.)
4. Then remind them all that the purpose of this discussion time is to hear from different members of the group. You need to hear how they understand and think they might apply the insights that were presented in the Traction app.
5. **Please emphasize that we are NOT trying to find the right “Sunday School” answers to these questions**, but the emphasis of this exercise is to encourage each other with the various perspectives and insights the Lord gives to each of us about what these mean and what to do with them.
6. **IMPORTANT FOR DISCUSSION LEADER: Do NOT be afraid of long silences** when you ask questions. People need time to think. Let them think during the long silences. Someone in the group will eventually answer the question, then that will usually also get others to offer their thoughts. Many of the benefits of this discussion group are achieved internally during the long silences—so don’t rob your group of these benefits!
7. Even though this “Week 1” discussion guide is set up for a one-hour discussion, you may want to consider extending this beyond one hour or dividing it into more than one session if the group gets very engaged and seems to want to talk more about a particular topic or question.

Then please read and discuss the following topics with the associated group discussion questions. Each topic is intended to take about 15-20 minutes of group discussion. This means you need to give plenty of time for everyone who has something to say about each question to do so:

Topic #1 (this activity should take about 20-25 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the first Trophy Insight: “In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the first Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Think→ Feel→Act

What you actually trust determines what will feel right to you, which in turn will strongly influence what you do. So, if you find yourself not doing what you think God wants, then perhaps that means you really don’t trust God to have your best interests at heart in that matter.”

2. Now read Proverbs 23:7. Ask the group if several people could answer this question (you might not want to call on anyone specifically as some people may not

feel comfortable with that): "What does this verse, Proverbs 23:7, mean in your own words? Might this mean the same thing as this first Trophy Insight?"

3. Discuss each of the following questions, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about each question before going on to the next question. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)
 - a. Can you think of an example when a person's actions reveal what they really trust?
 - b. Do you think it is true that what you do tends to reveal what you really trust to be best for you?
 - c. Without being verbally specific, can you think of a time when you have done something that you know is not best for you, but you did it anyway? If so, why do you think you did it?
 - d. What does Romans 7:15-24 have to say about this?
 - e. When you suspect this is happening, would it be helpful to stop and have a conversation with God about this?

Week 1, Topic #2: (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the second Trophy Insight: "In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the second Trophy Insight you collected was this:

What makes me good?

Goodness is inherited from the character of the good God who created good things to reflect His good character. As a Christian, you are good because Jesus is good and God has placed you in Christ; people ARE NOT good because of the good things they do."

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to our second Trophy Insight?"
 - a. Genesis 1: 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25
 - b. Matthew 19:16-17
 - c. Galatians 2:20
 - d. For group discussion: "What's wrong with thinking that you are good when you do good things?" (Why is it dangerous to think you are good because you do good things?)

Week 1, Topic #3: this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the third Trophy Insight: "In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the third Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Value of Christian Fellowship

In the Traction adventure, did you notice how much help and encouragement came from your climbing-team-members (Maggie, Rashad, Jen and Tyler) as they shared their Scripturally based insights with you? That is an important part of what real Christian fellowship looks like."

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to our third Trophy Insight?"
 - a. Romans 15:2
 - b. Philippians 2:4
 - c. 1 Thessalonians 5:11
3. Could you see having more conversations to encourage your Christian friends like the ones Maggie, Rashad, Jen and Tyler have had with you? How could you do that more? What would that look like?

Questions for Week 2 of your Small Group Discussion

How to Start the Discussion:

1. Start by thanking all those who are there for being a part of this discussion group.
2. Then please lead the group in prayer, asking the Lord to guide your conversations and give you all understanding and wisdom about how to apply these insights as you walk through life with the Lord.
3. Please make sure all participants have access to the Trophy Insights listed in this online document: www.b4worldview.com/Traction/TrophyInsights.pdf (NOTE: You can either have them download this on their mobile devices, or you could provide hardcopy printouts of this document.)
4. Then remind them all that the purpose of this discussion time is to hear from different members of the group. You need to hear how they understand and think they might apply the insights that were presented in the Traction app.
5. **Please emphasize that we are NOT trying to find the right “Sunday School” answers to these questions**, but the emphasis of this exercise is to encourage each other with the various perspectives and insights the Lord gives to each of us about what these mean and what to do with them.
6. **IMPORTANT FOR DISCUSSION LEADER: Do NOT be afraid of long silences** when you ask questions. People need time to think. Let them think during the long silences. Someone in the group will eventually answer the question, then that will usually also get others to offer their thoughts. Many of the benefits of this discussion group are achieved internally during the long silences—so don’t rob your group of these benefits!
7. Even though this “Week 2” discussion guide is set up for a one-hour discussion, you may want to consider extending this beyond one hour or dividing it into more than one session if the group gets very engaged and seems to want to talk more about a particular topic or question.

Then please read and discuss the following topics with the associated group discussion questions. Each topic is intended to take about 15-20 minutes of group discussion. This means you need to give plenty of time for everyone who has something to say about each question to do so:

Topic #1 (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the fourth Trophy Insight: “In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the fourth Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Righteousness is

Righteousness is being right in God’s sight. Being right with God never comes from doing good things. If you are righteous in God’s sight, then that means God does not condemn you for things you do or fail to do.”

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"

- a. Romans 8:1
- b. Matthew 13:49
- c. Matthew 25:37-46
- d. Luke 18:9-14

3. Discuss the following question, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about the question. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)

"Why do you think we sinful humans have such a strong tendency to assume God's view of us is dependent on our behaviors?" (A hint for use by the moderator if desired: The answer is in the implications of Genesis 3:1-7.)

Week 2, Topic #2: (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the fifth Trophy Insight: "In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the fifth Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Jesus is Enough

Jesus's sacrifice on the cross really is enough. And there's nothing else we need to do to be completely right with God. To be pleasing to God, one does not need anything more than what Jesus has already accomplished on their behalf. Jesus has provided EVERYTHING you will ever need to be perfect in God's sight."

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"

- a. Hebrews 7:18-19
- b. Galatians 3:1-5
- c. Galatians 5:4
- d. Colossians 2:14

3. Discuss each of the following questions, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about each question before going on to the next question. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)

- a. In what ways do you think you think you can improve on the finished work of Jesus Christ?
- b. In what ways do some people's thoughts and actions suggest they think they can improve on the finished work of Jesus Christ?

Week 2, Topic #3: (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the sixth Trophy Insight: "In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the sixth Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Can't Pay Twice

You cannot pay for the same debt (sin) twice because once the debt is paid (once the guilt of the sin has been appeased), there is no more debt to pay for."

2. Now read Colossians 2:14 and ask the group if several people could answer this question about this verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"
3. Discuss each of the following questions, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about each question before going on to the next question. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)
 - a. If Jesus has completely paid the price for all your sin, what else is there for you to do?
 - b. In what ways do some people's thoughts and actions suggest they think there is more that they can do to help pay the price for their sins?
 - c. Why do you think the IRS considers it illegal to pay twice for the same bill? (In other words, why is this an indication of fraudulent behavior?) What has this got to do with this Trophy Insight about not paying twice for our sins?

Questions for Week 3 of your Small Group Discussion

How to Start the Discussion:

1. Start by thanking all those who are there for being a part of this discussion group.
2. Then please lead the group in prayer, asking the Lord to guide your conversations and give you all understanding and wisdom about how to apply these insights as you walk through life with the Lord.
3. Please make sure all participants have access to the Trophy Insights listed in this online document: www.b4worldview.com/Traction/TrophyInsights.pdf (NOTE: You can either have them download this on their mobile devices, or you could provide hardcopy printouts of this document.)
4. Then remind them all that the purpose of this discussion time is to hear from different members of the group. You need to hear how they understand and think they might apply the insights that were presented in the Traction app.
5. **Please emphasize that we are NOT trying to find the right “Sunday School” answers to these questions**, but the emphasis of this exercise is to encourage each other with the various perspectives and insights the Lord gives to each of us about what these mean and what to do with them.
6. **IMPORTANT FOR DISCUSSION LEADER: Do NOT be afraid of long silences** when you ask questions. People need time to think. Let them think during the long silences. Someone in the group will eventually answer the question, then that will usually also get others to offer their thoughts. Many of the benefits of this discussion group are achieved internally during the long silences—so don’t rob your group of these benefits!
7. Even though this “Week 3” discussion guide is set up for a one-hour discussion, you may want to consider extending this beyond one hour or dividing it into more than one session if the group gets very engaged and seems to want to talk more about a particular topic or question.

Then please read and discuss the following topics with the associated group discussion questions. Each topic is intended to take about 15-20 minutes of group discussion. This means you need to give plenty of time for everyone who has something to say about each question to do so:

Topic #1 (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the seventh Trophy Insight: “In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the seventh Trophy Insight you collected was this:

The Great Exchange

Because Jesus exchanged His righteousness for your sin, God now sees you covered with the righteousness of Christ. You have all the favor in His sight that Jesus Christ deserves, which is not diminished by the things you do.”

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - b. Galatians 2:20
3. Discuss the following questions, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about the questions. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)
 - a. "In your own words, what do each of the above two verses mean?"
 - b. "Are you as righteous as Jesus Christ?"

Week 3, Topic #2: (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the eighth Trophy Insight: "In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the eighth Trophy Insight you collected was this:

God's Not Angry with Me

Even when you do bad things, God is not angry with you. One of the things Jesus did for you is to remove God's wrath that you would otherwise deserve."

2. Now read Romans 5:9 and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"
3. Discuss each of the following questions, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about each question before going on to the next question. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)
 - a. "When you feel like God is angry with you, are your feelings telling you the truth?"
 - b. Can you think of other times your feelings will lie to you and lead you astray?

Week 3, Topic #3: (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the ninth Trophy Insight: "In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the ninth Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Purpose of Good Works

God has created Good works for us to walk in them. These Good Works are God's love gifts to us. They help us more joyfully walk with Jesus on this earth as we live out our new identity in Him. They are NOT for the purpose of making us "more good." God creates good works for us to do so we can experientially share in the joy of His goodness.

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question about these verses: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"
 - a. Ephesians 2:10 (also read Eph 2:8-9 to put this verse into context)
 - b. Galatians 2:20
3. Discuss the following question(s), waiting until several people have given their thoughts. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)
 - a. Our sinful (fallen) nature tends to make us think we are doing God a favor when we do good works. Have you ever thought that maybe it is the exact reverse? In other words, is God doing you a favor by letting you walk in the good works He has created for you to do?

Questions for Week 4 of your Small Group Discussion

How to Start the Discussion:

1. Start by thanking all those who are there for being a part of this discussion group.
2. Then please lead the group in prayer, asking the Lord to guide your conversations and give you all understanding and wisdom about how to apply these insights as you walk through life with the Lord.
3. Please make sure all participants have access to the Trophy Insights listed in this online document: www.b4worldview.com/Traction/TrophyInsights.pdf (NOTE: You can either have them download this on their mobile devices, or you could provide hardcopy printouts of this document.)
4. Then remind them all that the purpose of this discussion time is to hear from different members of the group. You need to hear how they understand and think they might apply the insights that were presented in the Traction app.
5. **Please emphasize that we are NOT trying to find the right “Sunday School” answers to these questions**, but the emphasis of this exercise is to encourage each other with the various perspectives and insights the Lord gives to each of us about what these mean and what to do with them.
6. **IMPORTANT FOR DISCUSSION LEADER: Do NOT be afraid of long silences** when you ask questions. People need time to think. Let them think during the long silences. Someone in the group will eventually answer the question, then that will usually also get others to offer their thoughts. Many of the benefits of this discussion group are achieved internally during the long silences—so don’t rob your group of these benefits!
7. Even though this “Week 4” discussion guide is set up for a one-hour discussion, you may want to consider extending this beyond one hour or dividing it into more than one session if the group gets very engaged and seems to want to talk more about a particular topic or question.

Then please read and discuss the following topics with the associated group discussion questions. Each topic is intended to take about 15-20 minutes of group discussion. This means you need to give plenty of time for everyone who has something to say about each question to do so:

Topic #1 (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the tenth Trophy Insight: “In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the tenth Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Not License for Evil

The grace and mercy of God is not license for us to do evil, but it provides us with the freedom to live according to our new identity in Jesus Christ as a child of God. If you are a Christian, then God sees you as perfectly righteous even when you do bad things. However, your bad deeds DO obstruct the vibrancy of your fellowship with God. When that happens, God tells us that He wants us to be honest with Him about when we break fellowship with Him. Then He will clear out all the obstructions and restore our dependence on Him.”

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"
 - a. 1 John 1:9-10
 - b. Galatians 2:20
 - c. Romans 6:1-5, 12-14
3. Discuss the following question, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about the question. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)
 - a. What is your identity?
 - b. According to Gal 2:20, what is your identity?
 - c. If you really see that your identity is who you are in Jesus Christ, will you want to act contrary to your identity?

Week 4, Topic #2: (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the eleventh Trophy Insight: "In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the eleventh Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Polluted Works

God says that we are not able to be righteous, even when we are doing the very best we can do. Any attempt on our part to improve our righteous standing in God's sight is a rejection of the completeness of Jesus's work for us, and therefore, an insult to God. It is a false perception, due to the fault of our human nature, to think that God's approval of us is due to whether or not we do good or bad things."

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"
 - a. Isaiah 64:6
 - b. Romans 3:10-20
3. Discuss each of the following questions, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about each question before going on to the next question. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their

thoughts before speaking.)

- a. If you were looking for food and already had a tasty piece of fruit, would you trade it away for a dirty mud clod?
- b. What does the above question have to do with this Trophy Insight?

Week 4, Topic #3: (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the twelfth Trophy Insight: "In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the twelfth Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Source vs. Outcome

What's our primary focus: Source or Outcomes? The default of our fallen nature is to focus on outcomes we think we have caused (whether they are good or bad). Focusing our life on outcomes feels reasonable to our fallen nature—but it also results in lots of feelings of guilt when we fall short."

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question about these verses: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"
 - a. Genesis chapters 1 and 2 and 3:1-7 (This is a long reading. You may want to stop several times and ask some very simple question just help people stay focused as these verses are read.)
 - b. Matthew 6:33
3. Discuss each of the following questions, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about each question before going on to the next question. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)
 - a. What would our lives look like if we stopped obsessing about our outcomes and focused on the source behind all things?
 - b. What would be different if we quit looking at our efforts and outcomes and focused instead on God's goodness and what He was providing in any situation?

Questions for Week 5 of your Small Group Discussion

How to Start the Discussion:

1. Start by thanking all those who are there for being a part of this discussion group.
2. Then please lead the group in prayer, asking the Lord to guide your conversations and give you all understanding and wisdom about how to apply these insights as you walk through life with the Lord.
3. Please make sure all participants have access to the Trophy Insights listed in this online document: www.b4worldview.com/Traction/TrophyInsights.pdf (NOTE: You can either have them download this on their mobile devices, or you could provide hardcopy printouts of this document.)
4. Then remind them all that the purpose of this discussion time is to hear from different members of the group. You need to hear how they understand and think they might apply the insights that were presented in the Traction app.
5. **Please emphasize that we are NOT trying to find the right “Sunday School” answers to these questions**, but the emphasis of this exercise is to encourage each other with the various perspectives and insights the Lord gives to each of us about what these mean and what to do with them.
6. **IMPORTANT FOR DISCUSSION LEADER: Do NOT be afraid of long silences** when you ask questions. People need time to think. Let them think during the long silences. Someone in the group will eventually answer the question, then that will usually also get others to offer their thoughts. Many of the benefits of this discussion group are achieved internally during the long silences—so don’t rob your group of these benefits!
7. Even though this “Week 5” discussion guide is set up for a one-hour discussion, you may want to consider extending this beyond one hour or dividing it into more than one session if the group gets very engaged and seems to want to talk more about a particular topic or question.

Then please read and discuss the following topics with the associated group discussion questions. Each topic is intended to take about 15-20 minutes of group discussion. This means you need to give plenty of time for everyone who has something to say about each question to do so:

Topic #1 (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the thirteenth Trophy Insight: “In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the thirteenth Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Fallen Nature

The mind of Christ vs. our Fallen Nature. It’s all about us choosing what we think is best instead of trusting God for what He says is best. It is never right to substitute what we think is best for what God says is best—no matter how noble we think we are being. We are not being noble, we are being rebellious by rejecting what God chooses to provide. God’s provisions come through the wisdom of His Word. Wanting what we think is best instead of what God says is best is what the Bible calls ‘sin’.”

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"

- a. Genesis 3:1-7 (Yes, this was discussed in last week's session, but there may be more to say about this after having thought about it for the last week.)
- b. Judges 21:25
- c. Matthew 7:21-23

3. Discuss the following question, waiting until several people have given their thoughts about the question. (Do not be afraid of letting there be some periods of silence as people need time to collect their thoughts before speaking.)

"Would I prefer to trust my own judgment and get the credit for my own best efforts, or would I prefer to trust God and His provisions and let Him have all the credit for what happens in my life?"

Week 5, Topic #2: (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. Begin the discussion by reading the fourteenth Trophy Insight: "In the Traction adventure that you have completed, the fourteenth Trophy Insight you collected was this:

Spiritual Realities

In our natural (fallen) state, we can only really believe in the physical realities, and we de-emphasize (or completely ignore) the spiritual realities. But the truth is the spiritual realities of God are more permanent and substantial than physical things which are temporary in this fallen world."

2. Now read the following verses and ask the group if several people could answer this question as you read each verse: "What does this verse mean in your own words? And how does it relate to the above Trophy Insight?"

- a. Matthew 6:10
- b. Matthew 6:19-21
- c. Galatians 2:20

3. Discuss this question:

- a. "How much sense does it make to value physical things that will never last more than spiritual things that will never disappoint or perish?"

Week 5, Topic #3: (this activity should take about 15-20 minutes):

1. This is the last discussion topic. It consists of only one question. Here is the question for group discussion:

“Take a look at all 14 Trophy Insights. Which one or two most stood out for you and why?”