



WHY IT MATTERS FOR

EVERYTHING

WE THINK, SAY, & DO

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**STUDY QUESTIONS**

# AWE STUDY QUESTIONS

## CHAPTER 1: HUMANITY

1. Which of the situations described in the beginning of the chapter hits most closely to home for you? Explain.
2. Share about something in God's creation that amazes you.
3. Discuss the statement "Where you look for awe will shape the direction of your life."
4. Explain why rejoicing in the awesomeness of God's creation cannot be the stopping place for one's heart.
5. How can someone have it all yet come up empty in the end?

## CHAPTER 2: WAR

1. Discuss the idea that each of our hearts is a battleground where a war rages for control of the awe of our hearts. What biblical story most clearly depicts this reality for you? How have you seen this dynamic in your own life?
2. Summarize awe wrongedness (AWN) in one or two sentences.
3. Consider the fact that we all struggle with awe wrongedness in spite of the fact that it is morally wrong and inescapably self-destructive. Talk about some reasons for this struggle.
4. What temptations concerning awe wrongedness do leaders need to be especially aware of?
5. Describe what the opposite of awe wrongedness looks like in general. What would it look like in a specific area of your life?

## CHAPTER 3: MINISTRY

1. Read Judges 2:8-12. Though the generation under Joshua's leadership accomplished a great deal, what critical task did they fail to prioritize? See also Psalm 145:1-7.
2. What are some specific things that we can remind ourselves and others of in the areas of sexuality, spending, control, and gluttony in order to avoid awe problems?
3. What heart changes need to take place in order for you to pray with a willingness to abandon your own plan for God's greater plan?
4. Discuss the importance of feeling small as we minister to those around us. Why can this be difficult in today's culture?
5. Explain why familiarity is such a danger in gospel ministry.

## CHAPTER 4: REPLACEMENT

1. Briefly describe the principle of replacement. What lies and beliefs are found at the heart of replacement? What replaces awe of God in our hearts?
2. Compare a life lived in horizontal awe to one lived in vertical awe. Describe how this contrast has played out at various times in your life.
3. Explain why our problem is not that we live in a world of awe-inspiring things.
4. Why are we powerless to free ourselves from the problem of awe replacement?
5. What role does humility play in being delivered from the human pattern of awe replacement and self-slavery? Share a time when you were humbly able to celebrate the good news of God's grace.

## CHAPTER 5: AMNESIA

1. Explain the statement "Every beautiful and amazing sight, sound, color, texture, taste, and touch of the created world has gloryscopic intention built into it."
2. Discuss which of the symptoms of blind amnesia you struggle with most frequently and why.
3. For what thing/pursuit have you judged the love of God or others by their willingness to deliver that thing/pursuit to you?
4. Do any of the listed symptoms of blind amnesia appear in your life? Explain.
5. Set aside time this week before the Savior for humble confession of your awe amnesia and failure to see and remember what the world points us to; then see what the Lord will do through his glorious grace.

## CHAPTER 6: TRANSGRESSION

1. Discuss how an awe problem produces a law problem.
2. What is shocking to you about the awe-replacement scene in the garden of Eden? In what ways are we similar to Eve?
3. What events ensue when people lose their awe of God?
4. Why is it important for our awe to be recharged? In what ways does gathered worship give people their awe back again? Share a time when you experienced a recharging of awe in your life.
5. What role do theology and rules play in having a heart filled with awe for God? What is their ultimate purpose?

## CHAPTER 7: COMPLAINT

1. Discuss the statement “Complaint is awelessness verbalized.” How did the people of Israel verbalize their awelessness in Deuteronomy 1? How did Moses verbalize his awe?
2. What shapes your perspective on your circumstances? Share a time when your functional theology differed from your formal theology.
3. Describe the deadly outcomes of falling into a pattern of questioning God’s goodness or doubting his promises.
4. How can we have hope and peace of mind in the face of our weaknesses and inabilities and in circumstances that are outside our control?
5. What will you do differently the next time you feel the urge to voice a complaint?

## CHAPTER 8: MATERIALISM

1. Discuss ways in which material things can “eat up our lives.”
2. Where do you tend to look for life?
3. Talk about whether it is possible for physical things to have an appropriate place in our lives—that is, can we keep the pleasures of the material world in their proper place?
4. What is the purpose of remembrance awe? Talk about the danger of stopping at remembrance awe without allowing it to stimulate worship awe.
5. Describe ways in which God’s grace encourages you even in your weakness.

## CHAPTER 9: GROWTH

1. Spend time this week considering the following: Would you describe your faith as being relegated to the “spiritual/religious” part of your life, or has it become the overarching lifestyle that gives sense and meaning to all you do? Is your Christianity more a formal religious habit or a radical new way of living? Share your thoughts.
2. Discuss the connection between sanctification and awe.
3. In what way is sin more than just doing the wrong things?
4. Since we cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit in ourselves, what hope do we have to change the motivational direction of our hearts?
5. Discuss the statement “Only when God is in his rightful place will others be in the appropriate place in my heart and life.” What does this idea have to do with the fruit of the Spirit?

## CHAPTER 10: WORLDVIEW

1. Talk about what you most need to be reminded of from Isaiah 40. What in this passage encourages you?
2. Think of a situation in your life in which you measured the size and nearness of God by assessing your circumstances. What is the problem with this approach, and how does Isaiah 40 form a corrective?
3. Which of the symptoms of two-drawer living are you most prone to exhibit? Explain.
4. Share something you have learned in this chapter or in previous chapters that will help remind you of God's presence and glory and of an accurate worldview.

## CHAPTER 11: CHURCH

1. Spend time this week memorizing and meditating on Colossians 3:1-2 and 12-17.
2. Talk about what the church would look like if all God's people were involved in his redemptive work all the time.
3. Explain what it means for us to be instruments of God's grace in the lives of others. What "higher purpose" does God have for our relationships?
4. Which of the five characteristics of a radical ministry lifestyle is most evident in your life? Which is least evident? Share what changes need to take place for these characteristics to describe your lifestyle.
5. What would it take for you to be always committed and ready to teach and admonish when God gives you the opportunity?

## CHAPTER 12: PARENTING

1. How would you describe your parenting strategy up to this point—piecemeal and reactive or guided by a big, overarching vision? Explain.
2. Of what use is the law in a child's life? What important task is the law unable to accomplish? Discuss how these facts should affect your parenting strategy.
3. What in everyday life blinds you to the awesome display of God's glory everywhere around you? Spend time this week in prayer that God would graciously open your eyes to his glory and capture your heart with his awe.
4. Share what changes need to take place as you exercise authority in the lives of your children—as you are reminded that you are the look on God's face, the tone of his voice, the touch of his hand, and his character and attitude.
5. What will you do this week to point your child to God's visible glory?

## CHAPTER 13: WORK

1. Explain why success, power, and possessions are dangerous places to look for life or find identity.
2. In what ways do you find yourself being tempted in each of these areas?
3. How can you in your work more effectively steward your God-given gifts, opportunities, time, and abilities in submission to God's will for the sake of his glory?
4. Describe success in terms of the statement "The most successful person is the person who knows his place."

## EPILOGUE

1. Discuss the statement "Your capacity for awe is a longing for another world." How does this idea explain our dissatisfactions?
2. Try to describe the satisfaction that will take place when we see God face-to-face.