

Discussion Questions for *A Mind For God* by James Emery White

1. In the introduction, the author says, “We were made in God’s image, and one of the most precious and noble dynamics within that image in the ability to think.” Yet, as a former student of C.S. Lewis’s claimed, “there is no longer a Christian mind.” If the ability to think is one of the most precious dynamics of being made in the image of God, why does there no longer seem to be a Christian mind?
2. What does it mean, according to this book, to have a Christian mind?
3. In chapter 2, White asks provocatively, “...do Christians have anything to offer the world that it does not already have?” What is the importance of the mind in shaping the answers to his question?
4. The author states that when it comes to reading the Bible, “What is required is studious reading: an open Bible, a dictionary and concordance nearby, and time to reflect on what the psalmist described as a ‘lamp to my feet and a light for my path’ (Psalm 119:105).” Is this how you approach your own time reading the Bible?
5. White explains that, “The understanding inherent within education is that there are certain facts that should be known, books that should be read, lives that should be studied, events that should be remembered, and ideas that should be understood.” Why should these these things be remembered, understood, or read?
6. The author challenges us, as he does his students, by saying, “the Bible gives us all we *must* know, but not all that there *is* to know.” What does this mean for the importance of things like reflection and thinking?
7. White points out that, “A rule for learning is a matter of choice. The opportunities themselves are endless.” What choices can you make in your life to create rules for learning?
8. The author wisely warns us about the dangers of reducing the development of our minds to mere academics. “Those who study the history of Christianity as merely an *intellectual* history miss the point.” What, then, is the point?
9. How does developing a mind for God tie in to the Great Commission?
10. White suggests that the reason C.S. Lewis is held in such high regard is his *mind*. “Lewis is a hero because he was a Christian intellect who stepped forward to engage the world.” How can you step forward and engage the world with your own intellect?

11. “As a monk in Normandy wrote in 1170: ‘A monastery without a library [*sine armario*] is like a castle without an armory [*sine armamentario*]. Our library is our armory.’” Why would the monk look to a library as serving the same purpose as an armory?
12. What do the reading lists of “the Great Books” invite us to enter into?
13. What would the author say is involved in Christian reflection?
14. In the introduction, White quotes Winston Churchill in an address to Harvard University in 1943 as saying, “The empires of the future will be empires of the mind.” If that became true, what significance does it hold for the development of the Christian mind?
15. What are some ways a Christian mind might engage the cultural mindsets explored in chapter 2, such as moral relativism, autonomous individualism, and reductive naturalism?