

Asking Good Questions Connecting Teens to God's Word (part 6)

I. Improving your Questions

A. It's better to avoid simple ' _____ ' questions.

B. Questions should be _____ and focused.

C. Ask the _____ a question first, and then call on specific students.

You might suggest, 'Let's hear from someone who hasn't answered yet.'

D. Give them _____ and even if there is silence for a few seconds, don't answer the question yourself. Instead, try rephrasing the question.

Have all the kids _____ their answers. Then you can ask individuals to share what they wrote.



II. Two main categories of questions in Bible study

A. Factual questions are also called, 'closed questions,' because they have a simple, right answer. For example: 'Name three names of Jesus.'

B. Open questions encourage students to think more deeply. For example: What does it mean when Jesus is called the bread of life?

III. Categories of factual questions

A. Asking for a _____: What does the word "gospel" mean?

B. Asking for a _____: Where do we find stories about Jesus? Which gospel gives the most complete account about the birth of Jesus?

C. Using the question words **Who, What, When,** _____.

Who were the Pharisees?

What did the Sadducees think about the resurrection from the dead?

When did the Jewish exile begin?

Where was Jesus' home after he left Nazareth?

D. Helping students _____ their information and knowledge into categories: for example, grouping the kings of the Southern Kingdom according to good and bad kings.

E. A review or _____ to remind everyone about what you have studied.

F. Ask students to _____ a Bible story, a lesson, or what you've been learning over time.

IV. Questions to Ponder (open)

An example of an open question would be, 'What does it mean to be poor in spirit?'

These questions bring a deeper understanding and clarity to Scripture and its application to life.

Here are a few types of questions to ponder:

A. _____: ask the students to consider a difficult situation, for example: 'Josh's parents don't want him to go to the church. What should he do?'

B. Predicting _____: have kids discuss what could happen in a given situation. For example: 'Amelia's father left the family when she was ten years old. She knows from the Bible that she should forgive her father, but she just can't. What could be the results of not forgiving him?'

C. **Compare and** _____: For example: Comparison of an idol to God, using Isaiah chapter 44. Another example might be from James: 'How is God's Word like a mirror?'

D. **'Devil's** _____': in this method, the teacher plays a role and asks questions from an unbeliever's perspective.

For example, why should I believe the Bible? Science has already proved that man evolved from lower life forms.

This may not be the best method to use with young people who are not so sure of their faith, but it can help kids who might take their faith for granted start to think.

It helps to _____ your questions ahead of time.

Any teacher can improve their lessons by improving their questions.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about the questions Jesus asked (see the notes). What is something you notice about His questions?

2. How willing are your students to answer questions? Are they very shy? Do one or two students dominate the discussion?

3. How can you improve your questions?

QUESTIONS OF JESUS (NIV)

In the four Gospels, Jesus asked more than a hundred different questions.

Luke 2:49: “Why were you searching for me?” “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” (His first recorded words)

John 1:38: “What do you want?”

John 2:4: “Dear woman, why do you involve me?”

John 3:10: “You are Israel’s teacher, and do you not understand these things?”

John 3:12: “I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?”

John 4:35: “Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’?”

Luke 5:22,23: “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?”

Matthew 9:4: “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?”

John 5:6: “Do you want to get well?”

John 5:44: “How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?”

John 5:47: “But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

Mark 2:25: “Have you never read what David did...?”

Matthew 12:5: “Haven’t you read in the Law...?”

Mark 3:4: “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?”

Matthew 12:11: “‘If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?’”

Matthew 5:13: “But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?”

Matthew 5:46, 47: “If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?”

Matthew 6:25: “Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”

Matthew 6:26: “Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Matthew 6:27: “Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Matthew 6:28: “And why do you worry about clothes?”

Matthew 7:3: “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

Matthew 7:9: “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?”

Matthew 7:16: “Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

Matthew 11:7-9: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes?”

Matthew 11:16: “To what can I compare this generation?”

Luke 7:42: “Now which of them will love him more?”

Luke 7:44: “Do you see this woman?”

Mark 3:23: “How can Satan drive out Satan?”

Matthew 12:27: “And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out?”

Matthew 12:29: “How can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?”

Matthew 12:34: “You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good?”

Matthew 12:48: “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”

This is an approximate list taken from the first part of Jesus’ ministry according to the book “Jesus the Master Teacher” by H.H. Horn.