

THE POWER OF A QUESTION

Jesus was a master of asking questions. Can you think of some questions Jesus asked? The Gospels record 173 questions that Jesus asked. Why do you think Jesus asked questions?

Questions cause us to do two things – think for oneself, then respond. This is what we want to do in our Growth Groups. Our groups should have dynamic discussions where group members are engaging with

- God's Word,
- each other, and
- oneself – in his/her mind, emotion, and will.

Good questions create relational connection, lead to interactive discussion, encourage personal reflection, and promote specific application.

TYPES OF QUESTIONS

Get-To-Know-You Questions

What is your name? (Jn 1:38). Groups should promote relational connection with each other. Here are some ideas:

- Start each group by sharing highs & lows Encourage “10-minute” testimonies; have one person
- share his/her faith story each week
- Ask open-ended questions to get the discussion started

Study Questions

Do you not understand what I say? (Jn 8:43). When studying God's Word ask questions to promote:

- Observation: what's the text say?
- Interpretation: what does the text mean?
- Application: how will you apply this truth?
- Our discussions should be anchored in the truth of God's Word not personal opinions.

Re-directing Questions

But who do you say that I am? (Mt 16:15). It's easy to talk about other people in the third person, especially pointing out how others are wrong. A healthy Group Leader redirects questions seamlessly:

- Suzy, what do you think?
- I hear how you think your spouse is wrong, but what about you? What role have you played in the conflict?
- Can you explain that further? What exactly do you mean?

Application Questions

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I command? (Lk 6:46). We need to move from information to application.

- What are you doing to do with what you know?
- What is a specific takeaway for you?
- How will you live this out in your everyday life this week?

Heart-targeting Questions

Why are you anxious? (Mt 6:27). *Why do you doubt?* (Lk 8:25). *Do you want to be healed?* (Jn 5:6). *Do you want to leave me, too?* (Jn 6:67). *Do you love me?* (Jn 21:16). Jesus moved from external behavior to internal motive. Real change comes when people begin to get to the heart of the issue –

- What do you think is the root cause to your temper?
- What causes you fear?
- What's going in your heart that causes you to turn to pornography?

The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out. – Pr 20:5

PRO TIPS

- Don't just follow the questions like a script nor expect each person to answer each question.
- Read the room to encourage everyone to be involved.
- Don't let one person dominate the discussion or derail the direction.
- Prepare 4-6 questions but ask lots of follow up questions – “Can you explain that further?”, “Can you be more specific”, “What do you think?”
- Ask open-ended questions more than leading questions (one right answer) or yes/no questions.
- Don't answer your own questions. Be okay with pauses to allow group members to think.
- Keep track of time. Learn to say, “For the sake of time, let's move on”