

Asking Better Questions

-Getting the most out of your adult Bible studies and small groups-

Questions, especially good questions, help people become active learners, moving from an experience where they passively listen to information, into a place where they actively think about HOW their past experiences have prepared them for God's truth, WHAT they see in the biblical text in front of them, WHY this truth is important to life, and HOW they can take steps to apply it now.

I. Big picture principles to guide you

- A. Be okay with covering less material
- B. Be okay with not asking all of your questions
- C. Ask open ended questions (WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, HOW)
- D. Silence is okay... to a point

II. Three levels of good questionsⁱ

A. Level 1 Questions

1. Why are these important?
 - Questions intended to get people thinking about a key topic of the lesson.
2. Focus is on REFLECTION and GENERAL OBSERVATION
 - WHEN questions
 - WHAT questions (initial or surface level thoughts/opinions)
3. Typically at the beginning or early phases of the lesson

B. Level 2 Questions

1. Why are these important?

- They help the person think deeper and more analytical about the meaning and implications of God's Word.

2. Focus is on ANALYZING and PROCESSING

- WHAT questions

- WHY questions

- HOW questions

3. Typically in the middle phases of the lesson

C. Level 3 Questions

1. Why are these important?

- These questions challenge the person to apply the learning to life. They are a catalyst to life change

2. Focus is on APPLICATION and TRANSFERENCE

- WHAT questions

- HOW questions

- WHO questions

III. Putting it into practice

A. Tips

1. One or two questions from each level is enough

2. Ask the Spirit for wisdom in knowing when to move on and when to ask follow-up questions (That's good. Would you unpack that a little more?)

3. Being question focused also means you need to get good at graciously keeping control of the group, and the "conversation hogs" within the group.

ⁱ Based upon Mac Lake, Unpublished session notes "Multiply Your Impact" coaching group, session 6, summer 2020.