

The Art of Asking Questions

Questions need to challenge participants to integrate and apply the material to their own life experiences.

Kinds of Questions

1. **Fact:** These questions ask for short, specific answers to key points.
2. **Concrete:** These questions try to apply aspects of the material to the present faith experiences, life situations and actions of participants. Example: Have you every experienced anything like this in your life?
3. **Meaning:** These questions ask participants to probe the meaning of the material for their lives today. Example: What does this reading reveal about God in our lives today? How is this good news?
4. **Implications:** These questions seek to explore how this new meaning will challenge attitudes, values and opinions of participants. Example: How does this reading challenge your concept of or relationship with God, the Christian community and society?
5. **Response:** These questions call for an examination of attitudes and planning for future action. Example: What might you do differently because of this reading?
OR So what?

Guidelines for Asking Questions

- **Ask open-ended questions.** Avoid questions that can be answered with one word or a short phrase.
- **Ask honest questions.** Leading questions can reflect the intention of the questioner and put pressure on the respondent to answer in a certain way. Honest questions are free from imposing a pre-determined response.
- **Ask brief/clear questions.** Complex questions with many parts can confuse participants. Break up a complex question into several questions.
- **Keep questions focused.** Some questions may be too broad. Asking specific questions will better focus the discussion and invite a variety of responses.