

Formulating Questions For use with the Group

As a study leader, one of your most effective ways to involve others is the careful use of questions. According to Charles Ashby, there are three basic types of questions:

1. Discovery Questions—to gain information
2. Understanding Questions—to get the meaning and realize the implications
3. Application Questions—to make personal applications of Scripture to individual life

Examples*

1. Discovery Questions (What does it say?)

- “What are the main truths of this passage?”
- “What is the major teaching of this verse?”
- “How would you express this verse in your own words?”
- Describe the flow of events in this passage.
- “Which verse best summarizes this passage.”
- “Can you think of other passages which are similar to this?”

2. Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

- “What does this word mean?”
- “Why do you think he did that?”
- “Why did he say that?”
- “How does this relate to what he said earlier?”
- “What does this teach?”
- “What are the implications of that statement?”
- “How would this affect a person’s life?”
- “Is this always true?”
- “Who is speaking?”
- “What does this mean today?”
- “What is the underlying principle?”
- “What does this imply about our relationship to God?”
- “What insights into God’s character do we learn here?”
- “What response did God desire in this situation?”

3. Application Questions (How does it apply to me?)

- “What difficulties do you face in applying this to your life?”
- “What can be done to overcome those difficulties?”
- “How can we keep that from happening in our lives?”
- “What would keep a person from experiencing that in his life?”
- “What would you need to do to become more like Jesus in that respect?”
- “How could you apply that to your life?”
- “If you were to apply that to your life, what would it mean?”

*Based on material by Charles Ashby in *Resource Guide for BSU Studies*,
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