

good questions to spark further conversations

One of the keys to listening well and to engaging well with others is to ask good questions. Use the prompts below to help as you participate or lead your group and to help your group learn to ask good invasive questions as they run alongside one another.

Learning to ask good questions is a powerful way to engage others, to learn about one another and to even help others understand themselves. Good questions can unlock thoughts and ideas that are hidden or are “unknown.” There is an art to asking good questions and then giving people space to respond and to share their thoughts. You’ll be amazed at how good questions can unlock a series of questions that will lead to the real heart need, the real heart belief, and the real heart of who a person is. Learn to ask good questions and to listen; you’ll be amazed at what you learn.

The following are questions to use as you engage with other Christ-followers in helping them go deeper with Jesus:

Questions for discipleship/spiritual growth:

1. Are you gaining/losing altitude: physically, emotionally, and spiritually?
2. Is it possible God is trying to get your attention in this?
3. When was the time in your life that you felt closest/furthest from God?
4. On a scale of 1-100, with 100 being where you want to be with God, where are you?
5. What has God been teaching you lately?
6. Where would you say you are on your spiritual journey?
7. How are your daily devotions going?

Questions to help clarify when making decisions or in times of uncertainty:

1. Where is it written? What does God’s Word say about this issue?
2. Have you asked God about this issue?
3. What will be the likely outcome/result of this decision?
4. How will this decision and the outcome bring God glory?
5. Are you following your heart or God’s Word in this decision?
6. How will you respond to God if He leads you differently than your desire?

Questions to ask to clarify the condition of someone’s heart:

1. If you died today, on a scale of 1-100, how certain are you that you would spend eternity with God in heaven?
2. If you died today and stood before God, and He asked you why He should let you into heaven, what would you say?
3. How can you know for certain that you’ll spend eternity with God in heaven?

Questions that can be really helpful as you engage with people who may not be Christ-followers:

1. What is your spiritual background?
2. Do you believe in God? How would you describe God?
3. What do you believe happens after a person dies?
4. What do you think will happen to you after you die?
5. What are you living for? What's the purpose of your life?
6. What is your standard of right and wrong? Is there a universal standard?
7. Who or what determines a universal standard of right and wrong?

Other tips for asking good questions and learning to listen well:

1. Probe
 - Could you say more about that?
 - What did you mean when you said _____?
 - Are you saying . . . ?
 - Well, what do you think? How would you answer your own question?
 2. Don't interrupt
 3. Listen with your eyes
 4. Turn your phone off
 5. Diagnose before you prescribe
 6. Avoid throwing out two-cent answers to million dollar questions – understand the real question
 7. Speak much less than you listen
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