

FaithTalk Groups

Lesson 8: Asking Good Questions

1. Why ask questions

- Demonstrate that we value the other person and their ideas.
- Help us listen
- Keep us from talking too much

2. What are GOOD questions? Good questions are those that

- Help us gather information
- Are easily understood
- Require thought (silence is good)
- Enable self-disclosure
- Encourage reflection and refocusing

3. Good questions are not 'closed ended' questions that can be answered with "YES" or "NO".

Example: "Did you have a good day? "

Good questions are 'open-ended'. They require more than a "yes" or "no" answer

Examples: "What was your day like?"
"How was your day?"

There are many types of questions (refer to the recommended resources for more examples of various types of questions that help facilitate discussion)

These following types of questions are particularly helpful for facilitating discussion in your group:

- **Observation Questions.** – These questions invite people to look closely at a subject and analyze it.
- **Interpretation Questions** – These questions invite people to seek meaning in a subject and gain information from it.
- **Application Questions** – These questions invite people to benefit from what they learn about a subject by finding ways to applying it to their lives.

A combination of the above types of questions helps facilitate spiritual growth and transformation as well as good discussion.

Activity

Read *Philippians 2:3-4*. Write several observation, interpretation and application questions that you could use in your small group discussion.

Additional Pointers to help facilitate discussion

- As a group facilitator, seek to be a question person not the answer person.
- Your goal is to help people make discoveries for themselves.
- If you feel like giving advice or if you are tempted to “pontificate” or let people know how much you know, ask a question.
- No one starts out as an expert. With time and practice you can learn to develop good questions to facilitate discussion.
- Practice asking good questions in everyday life.
- Facilitation is a spiritual process. It is participating in the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of others. You are blessed to be a part of the process. It’s not something you can force.

Recommended Resources:

Discussion as a Way of Teaching, Stephen D. Brookfield & Stephen Preskill

Coaching 101, Bob Logan

Transformational Coaching, Steve Ogne & Tim Roehl