

Using Questions to Teach a Bible Study

Benefits of Using Questions to Teach:

Questions can:

1. Help keep the children's attention.
2. Help children track with the lesson and think through it.
3. Help the children to understand, and can act as a detector for the teacher to know if they are understanding.
4. Teach the children to go to the Bible to find truth and enforce it as the final authority.

Important:

As we teach, we must always point to God's Word (the Bible) as the place we go for truth. We must also teach them to honor the Bible.

Don't be afraid to repeat yourself when teaching that:

- 1) the Bible is the source of truth and
 - 2) we need to honor it.
5. Set the stage for responding to God through His Word.
 6. Give the children a tool that they can use in their own study time.
 7. Be very enjoyable for both children and teacher.
 8. Help raise the teacher's awareness of a child's level of vocabulary and experience.
 9. Help the teacher in the studying of the lesson.
 10. Act as a tool that helps the teacher teach the study.



The foundation to this method of teaching is questions.

Questions from two different categories:

- 1) Who, what, when, where, why, how
- 2) And the questions such as: "Is there in this verse a promise to claim?"
- 3)



Will students really answer and interact?

-You will have at some time or other, three types of children in your class: those that _____ or _____ answer questions, those that _____ answer questions, and those that _____ answer questions.

Here are some aspects that will affect the interaction of the students:

- What are the students' personalities?
- Are they a child of God? The things of God are spiritually discerned.
- Do they feel safe? Can mistakes be made without the danger of being made fun of or put down?
- How are you asking the questions? Are they being put on the spot?
- Are you encouraging them to figure out the answer when they don't have it immediately? Are you giving them enough time to answer?
- Do they understand the question and what's expected from them when answering... such as do they raise their hand or not? You need to be clear in your question, and you have to train them and tell them what you expect.
- Are you encouraging them *to* answer questions and when they *do* answer questions? Without putting them on the spot!
- Are you over-explaining things? *It's a fine balance in asking questions and explaining enough.*
- What part of the Bible are you studying? Old or New Testament?



Various points on using questions to teach:

- Using questions with “obvious” answers will not waste valuable time. What is “obvious” to an adult, is often not obvious to a young person.
- This method has been used with 1st – 6th graders and with groups of three students up to groups of thirty students.
- If only 1 student will answer your questions, that's perfectly fine. The other students are listening.
- There will be times where the students won't interact and/or respond to God. But you, as the teacher, are still giving them a mindset by asking questions as much as you are able and leading them to respond to God.
- The students need to be trained in what is expected of them! (Such as: raising hands, when to talk, etc.)
- Be careful what questions you choose because questions lead to conclusions and emphasis.

- You can still explain things without using questions, as the need arises. There just needs to be sensitivity to the children to keep them from getting in the rut of only listening, as much as is possible.
- There are definitely times when you will need to give the answers to your questions to the students. Sometimes they simply *can't* figure the answer out, other times they *won't*.



There are important things to remember when studying and teaching:

Children lack two things:

- 1) Experience: thus we need to teach in the realm of their experience.
- 2) Vocabulary: we need to teach within their vocabulary, we need to use words that they know and understand.

This is key: We often don't teach on their level – because they don't understand, they don't track with us or participate.

Many times when they are not answering a question it is because they don't understand – not because they aren't interested or don't care. Don't always assume that they understand your question.



Using questions as a platform for responding:

Our teaching is not more important than the children coming to God. Are we teaching the children to search the Scriptures, yet not taking them to Jesus? That is hindering a child. Are we teaching them to be religious or to have a relationship?

-Interaction during the study time helps create a level of comfort for the students to respond to God. It creates a natural transition – it moves them from communication with the teacher, answering the teacher, to communicating with God, answering God.

-Just as certain things affect whether the children will *answer questions* or not, certain things affect whether they will *respond to God* or not. (How do you meet with God if you don't know Him?)



It's good to use questions for other times in the class besides the Bible study time. Questions build relationships. When you ask questions, it says, "I care about what you think and how you think," it tells them you care about them.

"The teachings of our childhood leave clean-cut and sharp impressions upon the mind, which remain after seventy years have passed. Let us see that such impressions are made for the highest ends." –C. H. Spurgeon

Using questions is a skill that gets developed: those who develop it stay at it week after week – they don't give up – they learn how to do it and they get better and better.

Who?

Who are the participants, the author, and the intended listeners or first readers? If there is a command – who must obey it?

What?

What happened or will happen? If there is a command, what should be done? What does the text say about God, Jesus, people, Satan, angels, demons, etc.? What ideas discussed, and what is said about them?

When?

When did (will) it happen? (Time lines are helpful.) If there is a command, when must it be done? If the text is a prophecy, has it been fulfilled?

Where?

Where did (will) it happen? (Bible maps are helpful.) If there is a command, where must it be performed?

Why?

Why was (is) this done? Why did (will) this happen? Why should it be done?

How?

How was (is) it done? How should it be done?

When teaching with other questions such as: “Is there a promise to claim?” use the “what” question in explaining or asking, what does: “Is there a promise to claim” mean? Ask students, do you know what that question means. Explain meaning of question.

Is there in these verses a:

Promise to claim?

Sin to avoid?

Warning to heed?

Command to obey?

Good example to follow?

Bad example to shun?

New or fresh thought about God the Father?

New or fresh thought about God the Son?

New or fresh thought about God the Holy Spirit?

Fresh insight into the person of Satan?

Fresh insight into Satan’s cruel goals?

Fresh insight into Satan’s subtle devices?

Through the ROOF

Mark 2:1-12

MEMORY VERSE

"I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Mark 2:11

Fill in the Blanks:

- 1 "And again He entered _____ after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house." Mark 2:1 *Where was He?*
- 2 "Immediately _____ gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the _____. And He preached the word to them." Mark 2:2 *How crowded was this house that Jesus was in?*

TRUE OR FALSE: *Is there a new/fresh thought about God the Son?*

- 3 "...they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying." Mark 2:4 *What is a paralytic? Why couldn't they get near Jesus? So, what did they do?* TRUE FALSE
- 4 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are not forgiven you.' Mark 2:5 *What did Jesus see? What is faith?* TRUE FALSE

U.6,7 **Fill in the Blanks:** *Good example to follow? Is Jesus able to forgive our sins?*

- 5 "But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His _____ that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, 'Why do you reason about these things in your _____?'" Mark 2:8 *New/fresh thought about God the Son? Were they right or wrong? How?*
- 6 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your _____ and _____?'" Mark 2:9 *Which do you think is easier? Why?*
- 7 "But that you may _____ that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"- He said to the paralytic." Mark 2:10

TRUE OR FALSE:

- 8 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Mark 2:11 TRUE FALSE
- 9 Soon after that he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We never saw anything like this!' Mark 2:12 TRUE FALSE

New/fresh thought about God the Son? Good example to follow?