

Questions for Bible Students and Pastors

The Most Effective Method of Teaching

Never underestimate the power of the right question!
A question appeals to the conscience, where an accusation hardens the will.
Asking the right questions is one of the keys to active learning.
This method of teaching is extensively used in the Bible.

Questions for Self-Analysis and Reflection

Am I a risk taker?
Am I a soldier of the cross?
Am I a wall builder or a bridge builder?
Am I able to do what I do best every day?
Am I entangled in a web of my own making? (2 Pet. 2:20-22)
Am I faithful to my wedding vows—in thought and deed?
Am I guilty of the sin of fear?
Am I guilty of the sin of prayerlessness?
Am I guilty of the sin of worry?
Am I impatient?
Am I irritable?
Am I moving too fast in implementing change?
Am I offended easily?
Am I putting off my dreams by what I am doing—or following them?
Am I willing and ready to forgive any wrong against me or against my family?
Am I willing to pray the price for revival?
Am I willing to do anything God wants me to do?
Am I neglecting the Word of God?
Are my thoughts pure?
Am I a good steward, or a bad steward, of what God has given me?
Am I a spiritual leader or a religious politician?
Am I afraid like Moses, young like David, impetuous like Peter?
Am I bringing light, and hope, and encouragement into the dark places?
Am I committed to excellence in ministry?
Am I doing my best, or am I coasting?
Am I focused on the insignificant or the indispensable?
Am I giving Jesus my best?
Am I leaving a monument—or a legacy?
Am I listening to Satan's whispers?
Am I relevant, or am I just taking up space?
Am I satisfied with the level of God's power in my life?
Are we anything more than chemicals?
At what point is a baby entitled to human rights?
Could it be that we have not because we ask not and that we see no miracles because
we expect none?
Did I fret today?
Did I complain today?
Did I make the most of today?
Did I meet every situation today as a Christian should?



Do I bear grudges?
 Do I believe that the lost will fall into that bottomless pit and burn forever and ever and ever? Do my actions show it?
 Do I blow up?
 Do I cause others to struggle?
 Do I deny myself daily to follow Jesus?
 Do I do loving things?
 Do I excel in the grace of giving?
 Do I expect my students to conform to my learning style, or do I adapt to their learning styles?
 Do I get angry?
 Do I have any secret sin that I excuse, but should forsake?
 Do I have any habit which I should forsake?
 Do I have anything in my possession that does not rightly belong to me?
 Do I have enmity toward anyone?
 Do I have a right attitude toward leaders in the church?
 Do I have a right attitude toward my fellow church members?
 Do I know how to interpret the Word of God?
 Do I really believe in the power of God to guide me in my decisions?
 Do I really believe in the power of God to take care of any situation?
 Do I swell up with resentment?
 Do my "hurt feelings" keep me from serving God?
 Do I choose God or the pleasures of sin for a short time?
 Do my students struggle with anger, apologetics, death, envy, evangelism, forgiveness, gluttony, greed, joy, leadership, love, lust, marriage, peace, pride, relationships, resentment, self-concept, sloth, spiritual disciplines, suffering, vanity, worry?
 Does my pastor know that he can count on me?
 Evil is uniting, why can't good unite?
 Has my life brought joy to others?
 Have I been a tale-bearer or a gossip?
 Have I forgiven everyone?
 Have I forgiven those who have talked about me?
 Have I found joy in my life?
 Have I honestly tried to be a good witness for Christ today?
 Have I hurt someone by needless talk about someone's faults?
 Have I taught a theology of change that anticipates change?
 Have I paid all my debts to others?
 Have I worried about things over which I have no control?
 Have I wronged anyone and failed to make restitution?
 Have I ever met a bitter, loving person?
 Have I ever met or read about a believer whose walk with God I found inspiring, even intimidating, whose life was not littered with trials?
 Have you forgotten?
 How am I growing, developing?
 How am I when I do not get my way?
 How can I make life worth living for my spouse?
 How do we know the Bible is true? (Isa. 46:9-10)
 How do I express compassion, forgiveness, grace, love?
 How can I help you move from a 2 to a 4?
 How come opportunity knocks only once when temptation knocks my door down everyday?

How do I define rich?
 How do I go from success to significance?
 How do I negotiate with those whose objective is to kill me?
 How do I want to live the rest of my life?
 How do the following passages of Scripture demonstrate God's forgiveness, justice, love, mercy?
 How is my love relationship with my Head, my local church, the church worldwide?
 How many of us have decided in our minds that we cannot accomplish the great task before us?
 How many people are being set free as a result of my ministry?
 How much do I want to know?
 How much would I pay to make my marriage a hotbed of passion and romance?
 How will history remember me?
 How will I die—in ashes, in flames, in games?
 How will my family remember me?
 I can say "No" to Jesus, but why would I?
 I have cerebral palsy, now what's your problem?
 I wonder how many of use have decided in our minds that we cannot accomplish this great tasks in front of us? If not now, when? There is no better time to chose to be happy than now.
 If not us—who? If not now—when? –Ronald Reagan quotes Sam Adams
 If Osama had been a Christian who murdered 3,000 innocent non-Christians, how would Christians worldwide have reacted? Compare that to the reaction of Muslims.
 If I could ask the pastor anything, what would I ask?
 If I were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict me?
 If I were to die right now have I done enough to get the best my religion has to offer?
 If my God is so almighty why am I running from my problems?
 If my truth is that your truth ia a lie, is it still true?
 Instead of asking, why can't I do this? ask, Why should I do this?
 Is abortion good? Why not? Then why do you support it?
 Is God at home in my life? Is my mind honest and clean in the sight of God?
 Is my perspective based on a temporary outlook or an eternal outlook?
 Is it worth it?
 Is the reputation of another safe in my hands?
 Is there a word from the Lord today?
 Is there anything in my life from which I need to repent?
 Is there anything in my life that I would be unwilling to give up for Christ?
 Is there jealousy in my heart?
 Is there not a cause?
 Is there resentment in my heart?
 Is what I am doing, thinking, or saying building trust or is it undermining trust?
 Isn't Jesus worthy of extravagance?
 It is becoming illegal to be a Christian, what will you do when it is totally illegal?
 Should evil be ignored, tolerated, resisted, or defeated?
 So I have an opinion about something I know absolutely nothing about?
 Was I guilty of the sin of unbelief today?
 What activities keep me from drawing near to God?
 What am I afraid of?
 What am I dreaming about?
 What are my plans for personal and professional growth?
 What are the five best books I have read in the last year?

What are the key issues in my community?
 What are the key issues I am facing?
 What am I doing to help my students grow spiritually?
 What am I doing to maximize the potential of each student?
 Who am I helping to carry their cross?
 What am I gifted for?
 What am I intolerant of?
 What am I learning in my time of darkness?
 What am I looking for?
 What am I risking by doing this? (You should have thought twice>)
 What are my goals for the next ten years?
 What are my physical, mental, social, and spiritual shortcomings, and how do they keep me humble?
 What are my spiritual gifts?
 What are my strengths—and how do they give me satisfaction?
 What are the experiences that have shaped my life?
 What are we doing to help our students grow spiritually?
 What battles and torments bring about my sleepless nights?
 What can I learn from history?
 What can I do better than virtually anyone else?
 What can I learn from my last crisis that I can use in my next crisis?
 What can we do better?
 What can't I stand in others?
 What cave am I in today? The cave of offense, despair, loneliness, hurt, fear, comfort, apathy, envy, greed, business?
 What do I get angry about?
 What do I believe God wants me to do next?
 What do I get excited about? What really turns you on?
 What do I have that I did not receive?
 What do I have to do differently to go from good to great?
 What do I have to do differently to go to the next level?
 What do I need to do to reach my full potential?
 What do I want to accomplish with my life?
 What do I want to do next?
 What does God want me to do today?
 What does it mean to live in light of eternity?
 What events and people have shaped my life?
 What fears are standing in my way of reaching out to others?
 What gives life meaning?
 What grabs my heart?
 What has come clear to you since we last met?
 What has God entrusted to me?
 What if God designed marriage to make us *holy* more than to make us *happy*?
 What if there were no Christmas?
 What if my daughter grew up and married someone like me?
 What if my son grew up and married someone like you?
 What is God's plan and purpose for my life?
 What is God calling me to do—and how can I serve you?
 What is it that brings a sparkle to my eyes?
 What is it that God wants me to finish?
 What is left when honor is lost?

What is my heart passion?
 What is necessary in order for God to work in and through my life?
 What is one thing I believe will make an impact on my city?
 What is the toughest decision I ever made?
 What is the point of free speech if we are always afraid to speak freely?
 What is the single most important thing I want to accomplish in this life?
 What is my biggest take away from this course?
 What is my greatest vice? I drink way too much coffee.
 What is my shape?
 What kind of person do I want to be?
 What real or perceived demons do I find myself constantly fighting?
 What report do I want to give to God about the next ten years?
 What three things do I do really well?
 What would I try to do if I had the right perspective on failure?
 What would I try to do if I thought I could succeed?
 What would I do if I knew I could not fail?
 What would I do if I knew I could survive failure?
 What would I like to be doing when the Lord returns?
 What would I want people to say about me at my funeral?
 What you said really interests me. Would you give me an example?
 What's stuck in my life?
 Which schemes of Satan am I struggling with?
 When does life begin?
 Where does my mind go when it is not legitimately occupied?
 Where is the separation of church and state found in the constitution?
 Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?
 Who am I passing the baton to?
 Who is helping me carry my cross?
 Who is writing the script for my life?
 Who needs my encouragement, my written and oral blessing?
 Who will pursue God because I do?
 Who would make up a religion that includes the Sermon on the Mount that so goes
 against human nature?
 Whose burdens am I bearing?
 Whose cross am I bearing?
 Whose hearts am I touching?
 Why are we feuding when lost souls are dying and going to hell?
 Why aren't I fully me?
 Why did Saul offer to give his armor to David? (He wasn't using it)
 Why do bad things happen to good people?
 Why do I give my people fish to eat? Why don't I give them a rod to catch the fish?
 Why do I believe there is a physical order in the universe (science), but not a moral order
 in the universe (ethics)?
 Why do I do the work of ten men, rather than recruiting ten men to do the work?
 Why do I listen to slander?
 Why has God left me on earth?
 Why is God pruning me?
 Why not do bad?
 Why should the killing of unborn humans be legal while the killing of unborn eagles is
 illegal?
 Will he swim through shark-infested water to bring me lemonade?

Will this issue matter 10 years from now?
With what or whom do I struggle?
Would I enjoy being married to a mamma's boy?

Questions to Inspire Reflection in Others

Apart from the Bible what scriptures encourage visiting prisoners, widows, and orphans?

Are you a risk taker?

Are you a wall builder or a bridge builder?

Are you a soldier of the cross?

Are you able to do what you do best every day?

Are you entangled in a web of your own making? (2 Pet. 2:20-22)

Are you faithful to your wedding vows—in thought and deed?

Are you guilty of the sin of fear?

Are you guilty of the sin of prayerlessness?

Are you guilty of the sin of worry?

Are you impatient?

Are you irritable?

Are you offended easily?

Are you putting off your dreams by what you are doing—or following them?

Are you willing and ready to forgive any wrong against me or against your family?

Are you willing to pray the price for revival?

Are you willing to do anything God wants me to do?

Are you neglecting the Word of God?

Are your thoughts pure?

Are you a good steward, or a bad steward, of what God has given you?

Are you a spiritual leader or a religious politician?

Are you afraid like Moses, young like David, impetuous like Peter?

Are you bringing light, and hope, and encouragement into the dark places?

Are you committed to excellence in ministry?

Are you doing your best, or are you coasting?

Are you focused on the insignificant or the indispensable?

Are you giving Jesus your best?

Are you leaving a monument—or a legacy?

Are you listening to Satan's whispers?

Are you relevant, or are you just taking up space?

Are you satisfied with the level of God's power in your life?

At what point is a baby entitled to human rights?

Could it be that you have not because you asked not and that you see no miracles
because you expect none?

Did you fret today?

Did you complain today?

Did you make the most of today?

Did you meet every situation today as a Christian should?

Do you bear grudges?

Do you believe that the lost will fall into that bottomless pit and burn forever and ever
and ever? Do your actions show it?

Do you blow up?

Do you cause others to struggle?

Do you deny myself daily to follow Jesus?

Do you excel in the grace of giving?

Do you expect your students to conform to your learning style, or do you adapt to their
learning styles?

Do you get angry?



Do you have any secret sin that you excuse, but should forsake?
 Do you have any habit which I should forsake?
 Do you have anything in your possession that does not rightly belong to me?
 Do you have enmity toward anyone?
 Do you have a right attitude toward leaders in the church?
 Do you have a right attitude toward your fellow church members?
 Do you know how to interpret the Word of God?
 Do you really believe in the power of God to guide me in your decisions?
 Do you really believe in the power of God to take care of any situation?
 Do you swell up with resentment?
 Do your "hurt feelings" keep me from serving God?
 Do you choose God or the pleasures of sin for a short time?
 Do your students struggle with anger, apologetics, death, envy, evangelism, forgiveness,
 gluttony, greed, joy, leadership, love, lust, marriage, peace, pride, relationships,
 resentment, self-concept, sloth, spiritual disciplines, suffering, vanity, worry?
 Does your pastor know that he can count on me?
 Has your life brought joy to others?
 Have you been a tale-bearer or a gossip?
 Have you forgiven everyone?
 Have you forgiven those who have talked about me?
 Have you found joy in your life?
 Have you honestly tried to be a good witness for Christ today?
 Have you hurt someone by needless talk about someone's faults?
 Have you paid all your debts to others?
 Have you worried about things over which I have no control?
 Have you wronged anyone and failed to make restitution?
 Have you ever met or read about a believer whose walk with God you found inspiring,
 even intimidating, whose life was not littered with trials?
 Have you forgotten?
 How are you growing, developing?
 How are you when you do not get your way?
 How can you make life worth living for your spouse?
 How do you go from success to significance?
 How do you know the Bible is true? (Isa. 46:9-10)
 How do you express compassion, forgiveness, grace, love?
 How can an uncaring universe give you a sense of ought?
 How can you move from a 2 to a 4?
 How come opportunity knocks only once when temptation knocks your door down
 everyday?
 How do the following passages of Scripture demonstrate God's forgiveness, justice,
 love, mercy?
 How do you account for the problem of evil?
 How do you define rich?
 How do you know that Hitler was evil?
 How do you negotiate with those whose objective is to kill you?
 How do you want to live the rest of your life?
 How does evolution account for moral evil?
 How does evolution account for moral good?
 How is that working for you?
 How is your love relationship with your Head, you local church, the church worldwide?
 How many people are being set free as a result of your ministry?

How many ways to God do there need to be?
 How much would you pay to make your marriage a hotbed of passion and romance?
 How will history remember you?
 How will you die—in ashes, in flames, in games?
 How will your family remember you?
 How would you respond to the New Atheists' questions?
 If not now, when? There is no better time to chose to be happy than now.
 If not us—who? If not now—when? –Ronald Reagan quotes Sam Adams
 If Osama had been a Christian who murdered 3,000 innocent non-Christians, how would
 Christians worldwide have reacted? Compare that to the reaction of Muslims.
 If you could ask the pastor anything, what would you ask?
 If you could either stop climate change or eliminate human evil, what would you choose?
 If you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict
 you?
 If you were to die right now have you done enough to get the best your religion has to
 offer?
 If your God is so almighty why are you running from your problems?
 Is abortion good? Why not? Then why do you support it?
 Is God at home in your life? Is your mind honest and clean in the sight of God?
 Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire? –Corrie Ten Boom
 Is it worth it?
 Is the reputation of another safe in your hands?
 Is there a word from the Lord today?
 Is there anything in your life from which you need to repent?
 Is there anything in your life that you would be unwilling to give up for Christ?
 Is there jealousy in your heart?
 Is there not a cause?
 Is there resentment in your heart?
 Is that what you need to know?
 Is what you are doing, thinking, or saying building trust or is it undermining trust?
 Is your perspective based on a temporary outlook or an eternal outlook?
 Isn't Jesus worthy of extravagance?
 Just what did you mean?
 Should evil be ignored, tolerated, resisted, or defeated?
 So you have an opinion about something you know absolutely nothing about?
 Were you guilty of the sin of unbelief today?
 What activities keep you from drawing near to God?
 What are you dreaming about?
 What are your plans for personal and professional growth?
 What are the five best books you have read in the last year?
 What are the key issues in your community?
 What are the key issues you are facing?
 What are the possible outcomes?
 What are the schemes of Satan?
 What are three things that are unique about you?
 What are three things you want me to pray for you about?
 What are you afraid of?
 What are you doing to help your students grow spiritually?
 What am you doing to maximize the potential of each student?
 What are you gifted for?
 What are you intolerant of?

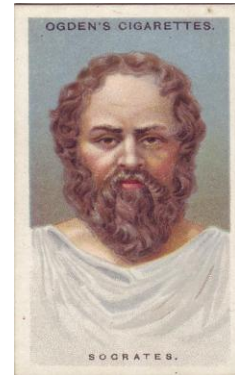
What are you learning in your time of darkness?
 What are you looking for?
 What are you risking by doing this? (You should have thought twice>)
 What are your goals for the next ten years?
 What are your physical, mental, social, and spiritual shortcomings, and how do they keep you humble?
 What are your strengths—and how do they give you satisfaction?
 What battles and torments bring about your sleepless nights?
 What can you learn from your last crisis that you can use in your next crisis?
 What can you do better?
 What can you do better than virtually anyone else?
 What can't you stand in others?
 What cave are you in today? The cave of offense, despair, loneliness, hurt, fear, comfort, apathy, envy, greed, business?
 What could you do?
 What do you get angry about?
 What do you believe God wants you to do next?
 What do you get excited about? What really turns you on?
 What do you have that you did not receive?
 What do you have to do differently to go from good to great?
 What do you have to do differently to go to the next level?
 What do you need to do to reach your full potential?
 What do you need to go on to the next level?
 What do you want to accomplish with your life?
 What do you want to do next?
 What does God want me to do today?
 What events and people have shaped your life?
 What fears are standing in your way of reaching out to others?
 What gives life meaning?
 What grabs your heart?
 What has come clear to you since we last met?
 What has God entrusted to you?
 What have you gained if you earn a diploma and lose your family?
 What if God designed marriage to make us *holy* more than to make us *happy*?
 What if there were no Christmas?
 What if your son grew up and married someone like you?
 What if your daughter grew up and married someone like you?
 What is God's plan and purpose for your life?
 What is God calling you to do—and how can I serve you?
 What is God teaching you—and how will you respond?
 What is it that brings a sparkle to your eyes?
 What is it that God wants you to finish?
 What is left when honor is lost?
 What is necessary in order for God to work in and through your life?
 What is one thing you believe will make an impact on your city?
 What is so great about Christianity?
 What is something unusual about yourself?
 What is the basis of morals?
 What is the toughest decision you ever made?
 What is the point of free speech if we are always afraid to speak freely?
 What is the single most important thing you want to accomplish in this life?

What is your biggest take away from this course?
 What is your greatest vice? Mine is drinking way too much coffee.
 What is your shape?
 What kind of person do you want to be?
 What other way to God can make you perfect enough for heaven?
 What other way to God can deal with sin without compromising justice?
 What real or perceived demons do you find yourself constantly fighting?
 What report do you want to give to God about the next ten years?
 What three things do you do really well?
 What would you like to be found doing when the Lord returns?
 What would you try to do if you had the right perspective on failure?
 What would you try to do if you thought you could succeed?
 What would you do if you knew you could not fail?
 What would you do if you knew you could survive failure?
 What would you like to be doing when the Lord returns?
 What would you want people to say about you at your funeral?
 What you said really interests me. Would you give me an example?
 What's stuck in your life?
 When does life begin?
 When have you had a healthy growing relationship with someone you didn't trust?
 Where did you get the notion of right and wrong?
 Where does your mind go when it is not legitimately occupied?
 Where have you failed?
 Where is the separation of church and state found in the constitution?
 Who are you? Why are you here? Where are you going?
 Who are you passing the baton to?
 Who has the most to lose?
 Who is helping you carry your cross?
 Who is writing the script for your life?
 Who needs your encouragement, your written and oral blessing?
 Who will pursue God because you do?
 Who would make up a religion that includes the Sermon on the Mount that so goes against human nature?
 Whose cross are you bearing?
 Whose hearts are you touching?
 Why are you feuding when lost souls are dying and going to hell?
 Why aren't you fully you?
 Why did Saul offer to give his armor to David? (He wasn't using it)
 Why do bad things happen to good people?
 Why do you believe there is a physical order in the universe (science), but not a moral order in the universe (ethics)?
 Why do you do the work of ten men, rather than recruiting ten men to do the work?
 Why do you give your people fish to eat? Why don't you give them a rod to catch the fish?
 Why do you listen to slander?
 Why has God left me on earth?
 Why does God prune His children?
 Why should the killing of unborn humans be legal while the killing of unborn eagles is illegal?
 Will he swim through shark-infested water to bring you lemonade?

With what or whom do you struggle?
Would you enjoy being married to a mamma's boy?
You can say "No" to Jesus, but why would you?

Questions: The Socratic Method of Teaching

Socrates was one of the greatest educators who taught by asking questions and thus drawing out (as *'ex duco'*, meaning to 'lead out', which is the root of 'education') answers from his pupils. Unfortunately, he was forced to drink hemlock by those who did not like his questions. He lived very frugally and was known for his eccentricity. His pupils include Plato and Aristotle. Plato wrote up much what we know of him.



Here are the six types of questions that Socrates asked his pupils. Probably often to their initial annoyance but more often to their ultimate delight. He was a man of remarkable integrity and his story makes for marvelous reading.

The overall purpose, by the way, is to challenge accuracy and completeness of thinking in a way that acts to move people towards their ultimate goal. Don't waste time by doing it for your own gratification. Get your kicks vicariously, from the movement you create.

Conceptual clarification questions

Get them to think more about what exactly they are asking or thinking about. Prove the concepts behind their argument. Basic 'tell me more' questions that get them to go deeper.

- Why are you saying that?
- What exactly does this mean?
- How does this relate to what we have been talking about?
- What is the nature of ...?
- What do we already know about this?
- Can you give me an example?
- Are you saying ... or ... ?
- Can you rephrase that, please?

Probing assumptions

Probing of assumptions makes them think about the presuppositions and unquestioned beliefs on which they are founding their argument. This is shaking the bedrock and should get them really going!

- What else could we assume?
- You seem to be assuming ... ?
- How did you choose those assumptions?
- Please explain why/how ... ?
- How can you verify or disprove that assumption?
- What would happen if ... ?
- Do you agree or disagree with ... ?

Probing rationale, reasons and evidence

When they give a rationale for their arguments, dig into that reasoning rather than assuming it is a given. People often use un-thought-through or weakly understood supports for their arguments.

- Why is that happening?

- How do you know this?
- Show me ... ?
- Can you give me an example of that?
- What do you think causes ... ?
- What is the nature of this?
- Are these reasons good enough?
- Would it stand up in court?
- How might it be refuted?
- How can I be sure of what you are saying?
- Why is ... happening?
- Why? (keep asking it -- you'll never get past a few times)
- What evidence is there to support what you are saying?
- On what authority are you basing your argument?

Questioning viewpoints and perspectives

Most arguments are given from a particular position. So attack the position. Show that there are other, equally valid, viewpoints.

- Another way of looking at this is ..., does this seem reasonable?
- What alternative ways of looking at this are there?
- Why it is ... necessary?
- Who benefits from this?
- What is the difference between... and...?
- Why is it better than ...?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of...?
- How are ... and ... similar?
- What would ... say about it?
- What if you compared ... and ... ?
- How could you look another way at this?

Probe implications and consequences

The argument that they give may have logical implications that can be forecast. Do these make sense? Are they desirable?

- Then what would happen?
- What are the consequences of that assumption?
- How could ... be used to ... ?
- What are the implications of ... ?
- How does ... affect ... ?
- How does ... fit with what we learned before?
- Why is ... important?
- What is the best ... ? Why?

Questions about the question

And you can also get reflexive about the whole thing, turning the question in on itself. Use their attack against themselves. Bounce the ball back into their court, etc.

- What was the point of asking that question?
- Why do you think I asked this question?
- What does that mean?

Questions for Critical Thinking

Clarity

Could you elaborate further?
Could you give me an example?
Could you illustrate what you mean?

Accuracy

How could we check on that?
How could we find out if that is true?
How could we verify or test that?

Precision

Could you be more specific?
Could you give me more details?
Could you be more exact?

Relevance

How does that relate to the problem?
How does that bear on the question?
How does that help us with the issue?

Depth

What facts make this a difficult problem?
What are some of the complexities of this question?
What are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?

Breadth

Do we need to look at this from another perspective?
Do we need to consider another point of view?
Do we need to look at this in other ways?

Logic

Does all this make sense together?
Does your first paragraph fit in with your last?
Does what you say follow from the evidence?

Significance

Is this the most important problem to consider?
Is this the central idea to focus on?
Which of these facts are most important?

Fairness

Do I have any vested interest in this issue?
Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?
Would others agree with my representation of their viewpoints?



Source: Richard Paul and Linda Elder. *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools*. Dillon Beach, CA: Foundation for Critical Thinking, 2006, 12.
www.criticalthinking.org <http://www.criticalthinking.org/resources/tgs/>

Questions by Topic

Apologetics

What is the name of the theory that life springs from non-life?

Bible Interpretation

Why do you give your people fish to eat? Why don't you give them a rod to catch the fish?

Bible Overview

Church Administration

Why do you do the work of ten men, rather than recruiting ten men to do the work?

Church History

What can we learn from history?

Church Starting

Communication

Conflict Resolution

How are you when you do not get your way?

Counselling

How long do we have?

Why don't you tell me about it?

Just what did you mean?

What other people have you talked about this matter?

Where have you failed?

May I share an experience?

What could you do?

What are the probable outcomes?

Is that what you need to know?

May I pray with you about this?

Do we need to meet again?

Creation

Crucial Issues

What are the genuine counterparts of non-Christian religions of the Catholic and Protestant hospitals and orphanages throughout Africa, Asia, and the rest of the third world?

Devotionals

Ethics

What is the basis of morals?

Where did you get the notion of right and wrong?

Evangelism

Family

What have you gained if you earn a diploma and lose your family?

Humour

Leadership

Life of Christ

Marriage

How can I make life worth living for my spouse?

Men

Why do men do what they do?

Missions

New Testament

Old Testament

Pastoral Leadership

Patriotic

Preaching

Prophecy

Spiritual Formation

What do you need to go on to the next level?

Suffering

Teaching

What goals and objectives have I set for this session?

Am I overloading my students with too much information?

Are my assignments realistic?

Are my assignments thought provoking?

Have I prayed for the students and myself?

Have I filtered the lesson through the (1) "need to know," (2) "nice to know," and (3) "who knows and who cares" filter?

Have I taken time to listen to my students?

How am I demonstrating care for to my students?

How am I incorporating multiple intelligences?

How am I making expectations clear?

How am I fostering mutual respect?

How am I motivating my students to learn?

How am I getting the attention of my students?

How am I affirming my students?

How am I encouraging the involvement of my students?

How am I building communication bridges to my students?

How am I using illustrations to capture attention, for personal identification, for needed clarification, for specific application, for fresh repetition, and to improve retention?
How am I using colourful, encouraging language?
How am I using role play and drama for better retention of the lesson?
How am I using and graphs to summarize the facts of the lesson?
How am I incorporating case-studies and problem-based learning in the lesson?
How am I allocating maximum time for application?
How am I preparing students for a change in their lives?
How am I stimulating the curiosity of my students?
How am I asking open-ended questions and allowing students to respond?
How am I providing students with a choice of assignments?
How am I expecting the best from my students?
How am I emphasizing the important points in the lesson?
How am I causing my students to learn?
How am I encouraging and motivating my students?
How am I using extrinsic motivation?
How am I using intrinsic motivation?
How am I creating an environment where students feel they can take risks?
How am I open and vulnerable to my students?
How am I mentoring my students?
How am I facilitating the flow of the lesson?
How am I teaching my students how to think, learn, and work?
How am I helping my student to retain the information?
How am I helping my students to integrate and apply the lesson?
How am I making learning fun?
How am I causing students to process and summarize the lesson?
How are the materials appropriate and relevant to the students?
How is my teaching changing the lives of my students?
What are the needs of my students?
What are the attitudes, attention, and actions of my students?
What conflicts do I need to deal with?
What kind of relationships am I building with my students?
What story would best illustrate this lesson?

Theology

What does theology lead to?

Women

Will he swim through shark-infested water to bring you lemonade?
Would you enjoy being married to a mamma's boy?
Would you want your son to marry someone like you?

World Religions

What scriptures/religions, apart from the Bible, advocate caring for widows and orphans?
What scriptures/religions, apart from the Bible, advocate love for enemies?

Worship

What does worship lead to?

Youth

Asking Questions like the Master Teacher

Eight types of questions Jesus used to produce change

by Dave Arch

"Do you not yet understand?"
—Jesus (Matthew 8:21)



Whether in a public gathering, a confrontation with his enemies, or a private conversation with his closest friends, Jesus consistently used questions to produce change and growth. In the eighth chapter of the Book of Mark, he used eight types of questions.

1. Answering with Questions (Mark 8:5)

Rather than merely answering a question (and thereby stunting the question's teaching potential), Jesus would often answer a participant's question with a question of his own.

In Mark 8, when his followers asked Jesus how he planned to feed a crowd of 4,000 people, he responded with a question: "How many loaves do you have?" That question kept his followers involved.

It takes confidence and wisdom to ask involving questions. Asking a question as simple as "What do the rest of you think?" can keep people engaged and searching for truth. When we answer every question, we rob the questioner of the satisfaction found in personal discovery.

2. Gathering Data (Mark 8:5, 19-21)

Jesus eventually asked some personal questions in this chapter. However, he began with and interspersed throughout the dialogue questions of a more factual nature. "How many loaves do you have?" involved his followers on a non-threatening level.

Using these types of questions helps maintain group involvement while gently moving toward the more personal application questions. A factual question such as "How many years have you worked in your current job?" doesn't require much personal disclosure but still reveals insights about the person.

3. Making Statements (Mark 8:12)

Jesus skillfully asked rhetorical questions to emphasize a point in a powerful but non-combative manner. "Why does this generation seek for a sign?" communicates much better than "You stubborn group of unbelieving people!" Such diplomacy is a beneficial teaching skill.

4. Communicating Passion (Mark 8:17-18)

When rhetorical questions are linked together, they can transport tremendous passion. In Mark 8:17-18, Jesus asked his followers: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?"

As Jesus joined questions together without giving pause for an answer, his listeners were rendered thoughtfully speechless.

This technique can be used effectively in discussion groups to powerfully reinforce a point.

5. Correcting (Mark 8:21)

When we need to correct someone, phrasing it as a question can allow the person to make the necessary changes without defensiveness or losing face. Instead of saying, "You are so stupid—you never understand anything," Jesus asked, "Do you not yet understand?" This question made the point while maintaining the involvement of his participants.

6. Seeking Feedback (Mark 8:23)

While healing a man of blindness, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" We can ask the same kind of question throughout any teaching process. A question such as "Do you understand what we're studying?" can reveal the level of comprehension and keep people on track.

7. Encouraging Personal Application (Mark 8:27-29)

Toward the conclusion of Mark 8, Jesus used two increasingly personal questions to lead his followers into content application.

He began with a more general question—"Who do people say I am?" (Mark 8:27)—before leading into the directly personal question—"Who do you say I am?" (Mark 8:29).

When we want to move our group to application, a good approach is to ask, "What are some ways we could...?" before transitioning to "What are some ways you could...?"

8. Soul Searching (Mark 8:36-37)

Mark 8:36-37: "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

These types of questions reach to the heart of an issue and have no comfortable reply. One example of such a question might be: "How can a church survive if it isn't in touch with the needs of the congregation?" Closing with this type of question or writing it at the bottom of a handout can make a strong impact.

Socratic Method Links

http://www.greatbooksacademy.org/html/what_is_the_socratic_method_.html

http://changingminds.org/techniques/questioning/socratic_questions.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socratic_method

<http://lonestar.texas.net/~mseifert/crit3.html>