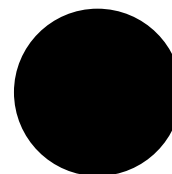


# Leading a Small Group Asking Questions



## Seven Uses of Questions

TYPE	EXAMPLE	USE
<b>LAUNCHING</b> Used to launch a discussion.	<i>"What are some ways other people's words have hurt you?"</i>	Setting the tone of the discussion and drawing group members into a discussion of the topic.
<b>GUIDING/CLARIFYING</b> Guide your group to accumulate facts, define, clarify, explain or compare/contrast.	<i>"What are some things James says about the tongue in this verse?"</i>	Bring a group back to a subject when it has gone on a tangent. Making group members think about a specific issue.
<b>FOLLOW-UP</b> Draw the rest of the group into discussion after a member has answered a question or expressed an opinion.	<i>"Good observation. What do the rest of you think?"</i>	Getting the whole group involved in a discussion.
<b>SUMMARIZING</b> Help the group to see the big picture of the passage.	<i>"How would you summarize what Paul says about love in these verses?"</i>	Helps the group synthesize what they have been discussing and gives insight to their understanding of the lesson.
<b>APPLYING</b> Help the group apply the principles learned from the passage.	<i>"What are some ways you can demonstrate love to someone this week?"</i>	Helping the group member process the content from the lesson and apply it to his/her life.
<b>REVERSE</b> Used to revert a question back to the person who asked it.	<i>"That's a good question, Allie. What do you think?"</i>	Making group members think through their questions, rather than expecting the leader to give all the answers.
<b>RELAY</b> Asked of the leader, but relayed to the group or a specific individual.	<i>"That's a good question, Adam. What do you think, Mike?"</i>	Allows a group to work through an issue. Can be used to get a specific member involved.

## Three Types of Questions

TYPE	EXAMPLE	USE
<b>OPEN</b> Allow group members to share any answer or relevant thoughts they may have on the subject or passage being studied.	<i>"What truths stand out to you in this passage?"</i>	Valuable for group discussion. Stimulates thought and discussion, because there are no right or wrong answers.
<b>CLOSED</b> Are obvious or imply the answer expected by the leader.	<i>"Paul says we are to rejoice in everything, doesn't he?"</i>	Not valuable for discussion and actually stifle group interaction.
<b>LIMITING</b> Limit the number of "correct" answers to a particular question.	<i>"What three motivations does Paul mention in this passage?"</i>	Aren't very valuable for open discussion, but useful to summarize a point or direct the conversation.