

Leading Others Module 4 • Facilitating Discussion

Sample Questions for Facilitating Discussion

Here are example questions to illustrate the different types of questions to bring people through a progressive thought pattern. The first question of each pair could be used in a Bible study on James 3:13-18. The second question could be used in a worship team's discussion about introducing new songs in worship.

- **Level 1**

The purpose of level 1 questions is to stir people's thinking around a specific topic. These questions surface initial thoughts, current wisdom, past experiences, and feelings.

- **Observation** asks what people see so they might gain greater information or understanding.
 - Which attitudes does James say are the key markers of bad wisdom?
 - When we have introduced new songs in the past, how long is it until people seem comfortable with them?
- **Insight** asks people what they might already know about the subject.
 - In your experience, what are the key ingredients that go into making peace?
 - How do you tell that the time is right to introduce a new song?
- **Opinion** asks people what they personally think or feel about a subject.
 - In your opinion, why do some smart people bring peace wherever they go while others who are just as smart at bringing strife?

- How often do you think new songs should be introduced to strike a balance between familiarity and variety?

- **Level 2**

The purpose of level 2 questions is to help people think on a deeper, more analytical level. These questions help people evaluate, break down, segment, and verbalize concepts in their own words.

- **Evaluation** asks people to assess the significance, worth, or quality of an item or experience.
 - Think of the last time you observed (or participated in) an informal debate. How much did the debaters exhibit the characteristics of earthly wisdom verses the wisdom 'from above'?
 - The last time we introduced a song, how well did we help people pick it up (on a scale of 1 to 10)?
- **Analysis** asks people to dissect various aspects of the topic for the purpose of understanding a process or design.
 - According to James 3:18, how are righteousness and peace related to each other?
 - Whom have you seen do a really good job introducing new songs, and what can we learn from their technique?
- **Descriptive** asks people to describe something in their own words or to illustrate a concept.
 - What true to life examples could we use to present the contrast between earthly wisdom and wisdom from above?
 - What does a person need from us to sing along with a song they don't know yet?

- **Level 3**

The purpose of Level 3 questions is to challenge people to put what they are discussing into practice and move them to the level of transformational thinking.

- **Design** asks people to consider how they would design, build, or lay out something.
 - Imagine that someone you're working or serving with failed to come through and left you scrambling to pick up the pieces. What response fits the characteristics of wisdom from above?
 - How would you structure this song's 'road map' to make it easy for people to learn the first time?

- **Transference** asks people to consider how they would communicate or transfer the concepts or lessons they learned to someone else.
 - How would you describe the difference between bad wisdom and good wisdom to a pair of quarreling siblings, a ten and twelve year old?
 - What is the most important lesson about introducing new music that you would tell a person just starting out as a worship leader?
- **Application** asks people how they will make specific application of the concepts they're learning.
 - How will you install peaceable wisdom in a relationship where you're tempted by jealous, ambitious wisdom?
 - What are three 'best practices' we should follow when we introduce this song next weekend?