

## Good Discussion Questions, Part 2

*Good discussion questions can make a HUGE difference*

### Discussion

1. For those who were here last time, what do you remember about good discussion questions?
2. Do you remember the acronym we used for discussion questions?

### The Theology Behind Good Discussion Questions

We want God's truth to go into a person's heart and transform the person's life. But for most things, it all starts with the content. These are the stages of how truths from a sermon impact a small group.

So most (if not all) discussion questions will fall into these categories WuBUDA

1. Warm-Up questions – get to know you; get to know the topic
2. Biblical basis of the lesson
3. Understanding more about the lesson
4. Difference the lesson makes in real life. Where does this lesson connect in real life? What are the costs of obedience or disobedience?
5. Application of the lesson

So there are different kinds of questions that match each of these categories:

1. There are questions that help the group **warm up**: they're easy to answer, interesting, not-threatening, and often fun or light-hearted.
2. There are questions that show that the lesson comes from the **Bible** passage.
3. There are questions about **understanding** the content: was the message clear? What was the main point?
4. There are questions about the **difference** the lesson would make in our real lives. This tells us where the lesson connects with real life—including the costs of obedience or disobedience. This should persuade us to take the lesson to heart.
5. There are questions **applying** this to my life: where does this intersect with my day to day life? What are some specific next steps I can do?

## Example: Missions and the Treasure of God (Matthew 6:19-24)

### Matthew 6

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

### Example Questions

\_\_\_\_\_ : What is Jesus’ attitude about accumulating treasure in heaven?

\_\_\_\_\_ : Did you set any life goals for the previous 12 months? How did you do?

\_\_\_\_\_ : Why does Jesus say “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”  
and not the other way around? Is there a difference?

\_\_\_\_\_ : Will you make a Great Commission Goal to BCEC’s missionaries and Missions  
Fund? What will it be?

\_\_\_\_\_ : Based upon these goals, where have you been storing up treasure with your  
life: on earth or in heaven?

\_\_\_\_\_ : What competes with God for being the master of your life?

### Look at the SDG from that week. Consider these things:

1. Is there a logical progression?
2. Do you tend to skip over any types of questions
  - a. Skip the WARM-UP because your group already knows each other?
  - b. Skip the BIBLE and/or UNDERSTANDING because everyone in your group is already Christian?
  - c. Skip the DIFFERENCE and/or APPLICATION because you run out of time, because it’s hard to drill down to application?

**You Try:** Using the message and Scripture from this morning, write out WuBUDA questions.

Sermon Title: Unworthy of God's Promises

Sermon Text: Genesis 32:1-12

Warm-up:

Bible:

Understanding:

Difference:

Application:

### What did you learn from trying to come up with your questions?

- That it's not easy. Pastor Steve said in all his years of ministry, the hardest thing he has found is to write those dreaded SDGs!
- People tend to focus on certain types of questions/discussion: theology, application, sharing, fun/tangents, etc. (Preachers have their tendencies, too!)

### From the Passage to the Person to Practice

This progression usually happens in this order. If someone tries to apply it without giving people the opportunity to review and make sure they get it, then they're going too fast. If the questions keep asking about what the Bible passage says without getting at what it means or what difference it makes, the discussion may feel boring. If there are no application questions, then we are missing the point of the passage.

As a small group leader, identify what purpose the questions serve and fill in any needed questions. You may even have to make up some questions yourself.

This flow chart may help (or confuse you).

Bad things happen when people commit.

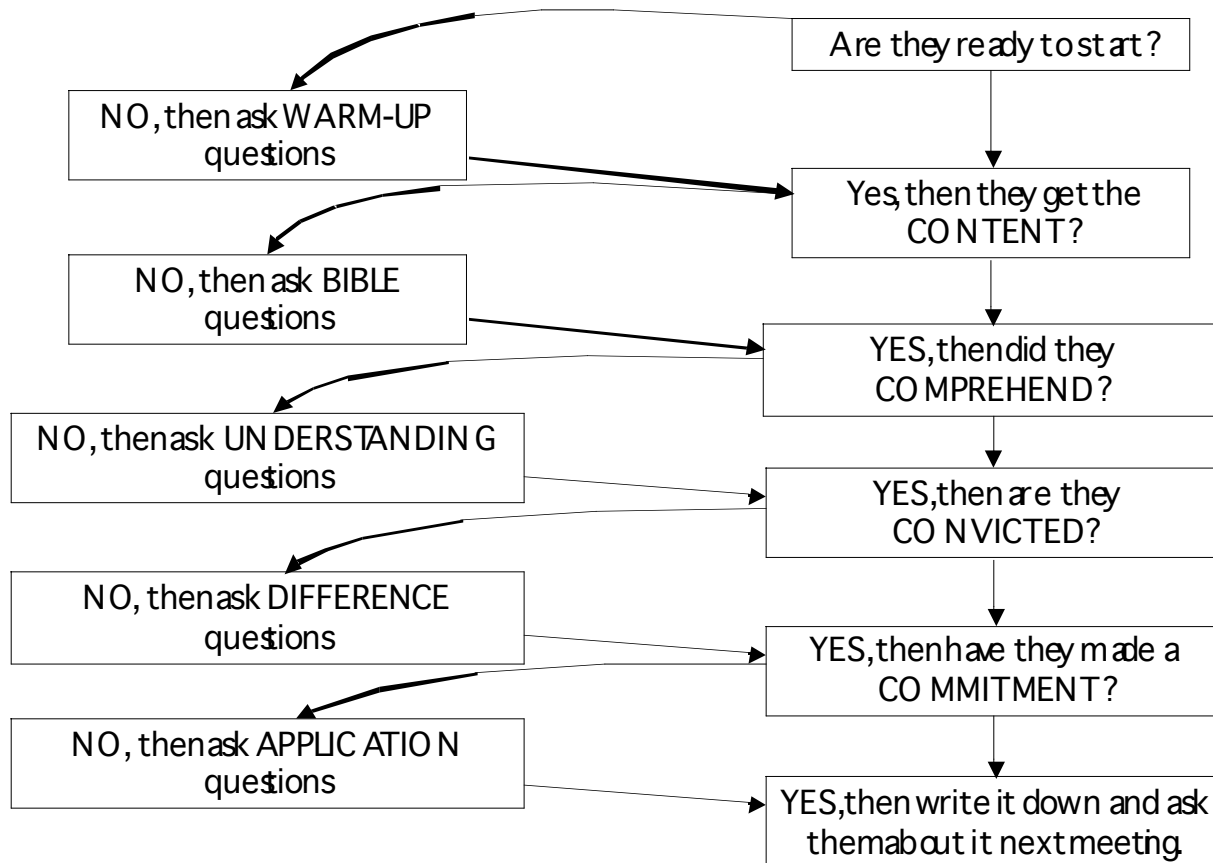
People want to get to application so badly, that they often skip over important steps.

If people apply before seeing Bible content...	... people are <b>blindly following</b> . (Follow rules they haven't seen in the Bible. They may even obey a rule faithfully, but have never studied it for themselves from the Bible.)
If people apply before comprehending...	... people become <b>legalistic</b> . (Follow rules they don't understand. They may even hold others to those standards but don't understand why it's important to God.)
If people apply before conviction...	... people become <b>hypocritical</b> . (Follow rules for wrong reasons, and for short time. Unless they get convicted, they'll stop obeying. Example: someone graduates from high school, leaves home and Teen Fellowship, and backslides because they may not have been truly convicted.)

If your group tends to find the Bible or Understanding questions too obvious, then consider how your group is reaching out to either young-, new-, or non-believers. You can move quickly through the Bible and Understanding questions, but think: does your group even need a Bible for your typical discussion?

This progression is why we identify a Discussion Goal for each SDG. Now that we've covered the thinking behind a SDG, let's walk through a past SDG.

## When to ask what questions?



### Listen like a Leader

- As you listen to the sermon, jot down every question or discussion point you think of.
- Before Small Group, pick out the 1 or 2 best questions for each category. Edit them if needed.
- If you are not facilitating discussion, you can still offer your best questions to the leader.

**Enoch's Vision: What if we become a community of great question writers who share their best questions with all of our groups? What if we crowd-sourced our question-sharing? Anyone interested in setting this up?**