



WRITING OPEN QUESTIONS



Open questions breathe life into a small group Bible study. They foster discussion and application of the text to our lives. Open questions encourage group members to observe carefully and think deeply about the text. They generate conversation. To gain a full understanding of the passage, many different perspectives are needed.

Features of Open Questions

- There is more than one answer to the question.
- They cause participants to pause and think about the question.
- They invite many people to respond to the question.
- They are multi-faceted in perspective.

Examples of Open Questions from 2 Samuel 12:1-15

- How are the different people described in this story?
- In what ways has God prospered David?
- What are some of David's responses to Nathan's story?

Features of Closed Questions

The opposite of open questions are closed questions.

- They can be answered by a yes or a no.
- They have one-word answers.
- They look for a certain number of answers.
- They require a specific answer.

Examples of Closed Questions from 2 Samuel 12:1-15

- Do you think David is sorry for his sin once Nathan confronts him?
- Who does God send to David to confront his sin?
- Who are the 3 characters in the story Nathan tells?
- What was David's initial reaction to Nathan's story?

Helpful Hints to Use in Writing Open Questions

- Use plural nouns to open up a question. *"What are some ways...What truths...What reasons...?"*
- Use plural verbs to open up a question. *"What are some...How do...?"*
- Review your questions to see if they address the significance of the passage.
- Include application questions which flow out of the principles of the passage.
- Ask one question at a time.

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