

Big News About

SMALL GROUPS

650 Small Group
Discussion Questions
(According and thanks to Phil Ward)

Questions on Matthew 7

[Read Matthew 7:1-5](#)

1. The first five verses of Matthew 7 strongly say we should not judge others. What damage does it do to our relationship with others if we judge them?
2. Is judging something we do with our mouth, or with our mind? Explain your answers.
3. You might judge someone, but not verbalize it. Will that show in your body language towards that person?
4. What sort of person are we likely to become if we judge others?
5. The person doing the judging in the story had a log in his eye. The other person only had a speck. What does that say to you about people who judge others?

[Read Matthew 7:6](#)

6. What does it mean not to feed pearls to pigs?

[Read Matthew 7:7-8](#)

7. Do you really believe verse 7-8 when Jesus said, "Everyone who asks receives"? Why/Why not?

[Read Matthew 7:13-14](#)

8. What appeals to you about the illustration of the broad and narrow road?

Read Matthew 7:15

9. When verse 15 says false prophets are disguised as sheep, what does the word "sheep" suggest to you? In what ways is the word "sheep" appropriate?

[Read Matthew 7:17-20](#)

10. Why is the illustration about trees in verses 17-20 so clever? Elaborate your answer.

[Read Matthew 7:17-22](#)

11. Verse 22 says there will be many people who were so religious they even say they were prophets and miracle workers. But they won't be allowed into God's kingdom. Where do you see these people on earth today?

[Read Matthew 7:24-27](#)

12. The original text suggests the wise man's house was "pounded". And it says the foolish man's house was merely "hit". What is the significance of the difference in the words?

Questions about the Golden Calf in Exodus 32:1-14

[Read Exodus 32:1](#)

13. Why did the people ask Aaron to make an idol? How did this demonstrate a lack of faith in God?

14. What is your reaction to what the people wanted in verse 1?

15. According to scripture, why did the people think Moses hadn't come down the mountain? Should we let embarrassment motivate us?

16. Does this show that they were depending too much on Moses?

17. How should we operate when the church temporarily doesn't have a leader?

[Read Exodus 32:2](#)

18. Some people think Aaron didn't want to make the calf. So he asked for the earrings because he felt the people wouldn't give up their jewellery. What do you think?

[Read Exodus 32:3-4](#)

19. If you were Aaron, what would you have done?

[Read Exodus 32:5](#)

20. When they built the calf, did they think they were abandoning Yahweh their God?

21. What are the implications for us of the Jews' misplaced loyalty at this time?

22. How can we Christians avoid repeating the errors of the past?

[Read Exodus 32:7](#)

23. Moses was up on Mount Sinai while this was happening. What did God tell him was happening to the

people? Do you think this is an overstatement?

24. If you were Moses, what would your emotions be when God told you this?

[Read Exodus 32:9-10](#)

25. What did God want to do with the Israelites? Do you think this is an over-reaction? Why/why not?

[Read Exodus 32:11-14](#)

26. Did Moses make a mistake asking for the Israelites to live? Why/why not?

27. God offered to give Moses incredible status. Could this offer be considered to be a test of Moses' compassion for the people? Why/why not?

[Read Exodus 32:15-16, 19](#)

28. Did Moses do the wrong thing to break the stone slabs with the Ten Commandments carved on them? Why/why not?

29. In this situation, what did breaking the Ten Commandments' stone represent?

[Read Exodus 32:20](#)

30. Why do you think Moses made the people drink the ground-up gold?

[Read Exodus 32:21-24](#)

31. Aaron was a man about 80 years old. Do you think his excuse sounded childish? Does any excuse we make for sinning sound childish in God's ears? Explain your answer?

[Read Exodus 32:25](#)

32. Does verse 25 show that the golden calf incident was mob rule? Why/why not?

33. Can mob rule ever be a good thing? Why/why not?

34. In religious matters, is the majority ever right? Why/why not?

[Read Exodus 32:26-28](#)

35. How many people died for the part they played in the Golden Calf incident? How does that make you feel?

Questions on Romans 5:19

[Read Romans 5:19](#)

36. What do you think of the alternative meaning for "disobedience"?

37. What do you think of the alternative meanings for "righteous"?

38. Who is the one person' who makes us righteous? How does this happen?

39. Who is the one person' who made us sinners? Are you sure? Why/why not?

40. What do you think of this verse? Why?

Questions on Romans 6:3-6

Read Romans 6:3-6

41. What does verse 4 mean when it says "We were buried with him"?

42. Verse 4 talks about "living a new life". When is that new life? Now, or in Eternity?

43. Verse 5 talks about us being united with Christ. What human illustrations can you think of to illustrate being united with Christ?

44. What experiences in Jesus' life does this passage say are also our experiences? (There are five.) Why do you think Paul says these things?

Questions about 2 Corinthians 5:17

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

45. What is the purpose of the word "look" in this verse?

46. Do you like the word "new" in this verse? Why/why not?

47. What are some of the "old things that have gone"?

48. What does it mean to be "in Christ"?

Questions about Galatians 4:5-7

Read Galatians 4:5-7

49. Does saying that we are "adopted" mean we are second-class citizens? Why/why not?

50. What is an heir? In what way are you an heir?

51. What do you think of the alternative meanings of heir'?

Question about Ephesians 4:22-24

Read Ephesians 4:22-24

52. The words "taking off" in verse 22 are used for taking off clothes. How does that fit what Paul is saying in this passage?

Question about Colossians 3:10

Read Colossians 3:10

53. Whose image was Adam made in (Genesis 1:26-27)? Whose image were his sons made in (Genesis 5:3)? Whose image are Christians remade in?

54. What do you think it means to be in our "Creator's image?"

Questions about pregnant Mary

Read Matthew 1:18-25

55. Was Joseph doing the right thing to break off the engagement when he found out his girlfriend was pregnant?

56. Who told Joseph that he should still marry Mary? What would be your reaction if an angel told you to do something like this? Why?

57. What do you think made Joseph realize that this dream was different to a normal dream?

58. What Bible evidence did the angel give to show that Mary really did have a baby from the Holy Spirit?

59. Why do you think God chose for Jesus to be born from a virgin?

60. When he had the dream, what did Joseph do?

61. What does the name "Jesus" mean (Mathew 1:21)?

62. What is significant of each of the two words that make up Jesus' name?

63. Why was Joseph told to call the baby "Jesus"?

64. The words "he shall save [his people] from their sins" are a paraphrase from the Psalms. Who do these words originally apply to in Psalm 130:7-8?

Discussion about animals and armour

65. I want you to name five different animals. In what way are people like each of those five animals?

66. What animals are like Christians? Why?

67. In what way are Christians like turtles (Ephesians 6:11)?

68. A turtle without a shell would die. How is that parallel to a Christian without the armour of Ephesians 6:11?

69. The Bible calls the devil several different types of animals.

What is the devil called in Revelation 12:9

What is the devil called in 1 Peter 5:8

70. What is similar about all these animals?

71. How should we handle the devil (James 4:7)?

72. What things should we use to resist the devil (Ephesians 6:11)?

73. What do you think is the most important thing in this list from Ephesians 6:11?

74. What would people have thought about armour in Paul's day?

75. Why use armour as an illustration, rather than city walls?

76. What would happen to a soldier who threw away some of his weapons? What parallels are there in this for Christians?

77. Who wears "armour" today?

Answers: People playing sports. Special forces soldiers. Police with bullet-proof vests.

78. Why don't soldiers wear armour today like they have done in the past?

Answer: The weapons soldiers use in battle have changed.

79. Have the weapons that we personally use to fight the devil changed?

80. Who is going to win the war between us and Satan?

Christian Companionship

[Read Hebrews 10:25](#)

81. What does the word "day" mean in this verse?

82. Why would gathering with other Christians be more important when the day is near?

83. What usually happens to Christians who don't have close fellowship with other Christians? Why do you think this is so?

84. *Form a circle, link arms, and try to get one person to force his or her way in.* What does this illustrate in light of Hebrews 10:25??

Discussion About Family Arguments

85. Do most things we argued about a month ago still seem important today? What does that tell us about the importance of things we often fight over?

86. It has been said, "If you argue about which television program to watch, do it quickly because the program is gone in an hour, but the scars of the argument stay forever." Do you agree? Explain your answers.

87. Can having a family argument ever draw you closer to God?

88. What is the saddest verse in Genesis 25:21-28?

89. Why do children fight if their parents have favourites?

90. What was the worst thing Rebecca ever did because of her favouritism (Genesis 27:1-10)?

91. What did Esau plan to do because of the deception of his brother and mother (Genesis 27:41)?

92. What did Rebecca propose to save her favourite son's life (Genesis 27:42-43)?

It was 20 years before Jacob returned. In that time Rebecca died. So one consequence of her deception was that she never saw her favourite son again.

[Read Ephesians 4:26](#)

93. Why do you think we are supposed to stop being angry at sunset?

94. Arguments often mean people use foul language. What does the Bible tell us about using foul language (Ephesians 4:29)?

95. Instead of using foul language, this verse says to "say something good." How does saying something good help reduce arguing?

96. Which is more important: Putting your effort into arguing, or putting it into knowing God better? Explain your answer.

How God Communicates

97. In what different ways does God communicate with humanity?

Possible answers include: The Bible, circumstances, advice from other Christians, influence from others, books, nature, visions, direct prompting of our minds, conscience, history, personal relationships, prayer to God and meditation [because God can use prayer to clarify our thinking], angels...

98. Some of these forms of communication are dangerous because we can think it's God when it's not. Which of these do you think are the best two or three forms of communication?

99. Which of these are the most dangerous forms of communication? Explain your answer.

100. What does the Bible itself tell us that the Bible is good for (2 Timothy 3:16-17)?

101. What does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 say to you?

102. Which is better? To listen to other people's ideas about Scripture and get it 100% right? Or to read it yourself, even if you get it only 90% right? Explain your answer.

103. What are the main things we learn about God from nature?

104. What is good and what is bad about the communication we receive through nature?

We can get mixed signals about God by looking at nature because nature itself has been tainted by sin.

105. To see God in nature, do you have to see Him in other ways first? Why/why not?

Read Psalm 19:1-7

106. Tell me what this passage says to you.

107. How do "the heavens declare God's glory"?

108. What attributes of God do we particularly see from astronomy?

109. After discussing God being seen in nature, what does this Psalm discuss next (Psalm 19:8-11)?

110. This Psalm says God's rules are more desirable than a pile of gold. Do you agree? Why/why not.

111. In what ways is there "great reward in keeping" God's commandments?

112. What part does faith have in communication from God?

Possible answer: It covers the gaps in the knowledge communicated to us.

113. Prophets are another way God communicates with us. But there is a huge danger from false prophets. How can you tell them apart (Matthew 7:15-20)?

114. What does it mean that we "can identify them by their fruit"?

115. If false prophets and false teachers are deceiving millions of people, how can we keep ourselves from being deceived?

116. What do you think is the best way not to be deceived when studying Scripture?

Possible answer: Try to cut out what other people have told you and see what you're reading says to you personally.

117. If a person reads their Bible an hour a month, is that adequate? Why/why not?

118. In spiritual matters, what are the dangers of "gut feeling," or "it feels right to me"?

119. People sometimes say that sending Christ to earth is the best way God ever communicated with humanity. What do they mean by that?

120. Why do you think God gave us four separate stories of Christ's life?

121. Will communication with God be better in Eternity? Why?

[Read 1 Corinthians 13:12](#)

122. What does this verse tell you about our present level of knowing God?

123. What do you think about the concept of seeing God face to face?

Healing A Woman's Daughter

[Read Mark 7:24-30](#)

124. What did Jesus want in verse 24? Why do you think he wanted this?

125. What did a woman do who found out where he was (verses 25-26)?

126. Was Jesus nasty to this woman in verse 27? Explain your answer.

127. What did Jesus mean by "throwing bread to dogs"?

128. In verse 28, what did the woman say in return?

129. What do you think the woman meant by her comment about dogs?

130. In verse 29, what did Jesus do for the woman?

131. What do you think Jesus liked about the woman's answer?

132. What did the woman find when she got home?

The book "Humour in the New Testament" says humour is the key to understanding this passage.

Smart And Dumb Questions About Acts 9

Read Acts 9:1-2

133. Was Saul a nice man? Was he a very religious man? What conclusions can we draw about Saul being very religious, but not nice?

134. What good characteristic did Saul show by wanting to murder Christians (Revelation 3:15-16)?

135. It took about a week to walk from Jerusalem to Damascus. What does that tell you about Saul?

135. Why do you think that God didn't kill Saul for the terrible things he was doing?

Read Acts 9:3-6

136. How would you feel if this happened to you?

137. Did Saul answer the question the Lord asked in verse 4? Why not?

138. If Saul didn't answer the question, why did the Lord ask it?

139. Saul didn't say much. What would you have asked Jesus?

Read Acts 9:7-9

140. What do you think you would have done if you were one of the people there?

141. Why do you think Jesus made Saul blind? Why not make him, say, crippled? What advantages did it have in Saul being blind?

Read Acts 9:9

142. Relate a story of when you were unable to see a thing, blindfolded, caving, power failure...? What was it like?

Read Acts 9:10-11

143. Paul who was blind was now praying. Is praying in a crisis natural? Why/why not?

144. Do you think praying was easier when he was in this crisis than at other times?

145. On television dramas, when a person gets into a crisis they never pray. Which is a more realistic picture of what happens in a crisis Paul praying or TV heroes not praying? Explain your answer.

Read Acts 9:12-14

146. How do you think Ananias felt? How would you feel if God told you to go and pray with a terrorist leader, or with the president of an outlaw motorcycle gang?

147. If you were the Lord, would you zap Ananias for not immediately doing what he was told?

148. Ananias tells God things God already knows. Is it proper in prayer to tell God things he already knows? Why/why not?

149. Do you think that saying this prayer actually gave Ananias more courage to go to the man who wanted to chain him? Why/why not?

[Read Acts 9:15](#)

150. Did Saul do all the things that were predicted in this verse? From memory, can you give any examples?

151. What tone of voice do you think the Lord used when he said "Go" to Ananias? Stern? Bossy? Loving? Reassuring? Or something else?

152. From time to time over the years, Ananias would have heard stories of Paul's exploits. When he heard them, what do you think he felt about the prediction in this verse?

[Read Acts 9:16](#)

153. Can you give any examples of Paul's sufferings? Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-29

154. Would suffering just a quarter of that for Christ stop most people following Christ? Explain your answer.

155. Being a Christian these days is usually very easy. In what ways does that make our *spiritual life* harder?

156. Which is more dangerous for your spiritual life going through Paul's sufferings? Or being rich? Read Mark 10:23-25

157. What do you think about what Jesus said about being wealthy?

[Read Acts 9:17-18](#)

159. What happened to Saul's eyes? How do you think Saul felt?

Questions about Absalom

Absalom was one of King David's sons. He died when leading a rebellion against his father. This discussion traces the steps that led to that rebellion.

160. One of David's sons raped his half-sister. King David was the nation's chief judge. He should have executed him, but didn't. What does this tell you about David as a father?

161. In the Old Testament, the next of kin was entitled to carry out justice. The raped girl's brother was Absalom. When his father didn't execute the rapist, Absalom did it. What punishment did David apply to Absalom (2 Samuel 14:24)?

162. Was this punishment fair?

163. Surely this forced separation from his father reduced Absalom's loyalty to his father. Do you think this led to Absalom's later rebellion?

164. David had about 10-30 wives and concubines and you can imagine how many children he had. Did he have too many children to give each one the time that a parent should give each child? What are the consequences of not giving your children enough time?

165. What do you think of the idea of daily talking to your kids at bedtime?

Research shows that the evening meal table is the place where parents' values are most passed on to their children. When the family eats at the table at night at least four times a week, the kids have less teen pregnancies and are less likely to take drugs.

166. How practical is it to skip television and have the evening meal together?

167. Absalom set out to become king in his father's place. What did he do to pave the way for this? Read 2 Samuel 15:2-6

168. One of King David's skilled advisers was named Ahithophel. What was the first thing David did when he discovered this adviser was now advising Absalom? 2 Samuel

169. As well as praying to nullify Ahithophel's advice, what practical step did David take? 2 Samuel 15:32-34

170. David **both** prayed and took action. If you could only do one, which one would it be? Pray, or take action? *The question was not a valid question. You can always pray. And after prayer, you can almost always take action. You almost never have to do just one.*

171. When Absalom proclaimed himself king, how did he arrange to announce the fact? 2 Samuel 15:10

172. Absalom was killed, ending what had been a very successful takeover of the kingdom. Who was David more concerned about Absalom, or the soldiers who risked their lives to save him? 2 Samuel 19:1-8

173. David's poor relationships with his sons is shown by another son named Adonijah proclaiming himself king. What had David never done to this son? 1 Kings 1:5-6

174. What does this tell you about the importance of telling your children what is right and wrong?

An evil woman

175. What are the names of some of history's most evil women? Why did you say that?

Jezebel is often considered the most evil woman in the Old Testament.

176. When pagan Jezebel married the king of Israel, what change did the king make to his religion?

The religion of Baal was so evil that people sometimes burned their children alive as part of its rituals.

177. What did Jezebel do to the prophets of the Lord? 1 Kings 18:4

178. How many prophets of Baal did Jezebel personally provide meals for? 1 Kings 18:19

179. Jezebel's husband wanted to buy a block of land. Its owner wouldn't sell it. So what did Jezebel do? 21 Kings 21:5-11

180. What do you think of this woman?

181. What prediction was made about Jezebel? 21 Kings 21:23

182. What did Jezebel do when Jehu became king? 22 Kings 9:30

183. Jehu ordered that Jezebel be killed by throwing her out of a window. But when he went to give her a decent burial, what had happened to her body? 22 Kings 9:33-37

184. Good men sometimes marry evil women (and vice versa). Why do they do something that foolish?

185. Does the quality of a person's spouse have a major influence on that person's direction in life? Why/why not?

The prophet Elijah

The next 23 questions are about the life of the prophet Elijah.

[Read 1 Kings 17:1-6](#)

186. How do you think King Ahab felt about an insignificant person saying it would rain?

187. Why do you think King Ahab didn't kill Elijah?

188. What did God tell Elijah to do? 1 Kings 17:2-3

189. How did Elijah get his food? 1 Kings 17:4-6

190. How would you feel if you were fed like that?

[Read 1 Kings 18:1, 17-18](#)

191. How do you think Elijah got the courage to speak like that to a king?

192. Elijah proposed a contest between himself and all the prophets of Baal and Asherah. Was this an equal fight? 1 Kings 18:19-20

193. How should we as Christians feel if we are outnumbered like that?

[Read 1 Kings 18:20-24](#)

194. What was Elijah's challenge to the people? 1 Kings 18:21

195. What was Elijah's challenge to the pagan priests? 1 Kings 18:22-24

[Read 1 Kings 18:25-29](#)

196. Do you think it was right to mock them?

197. Elijah prayed without cutting his body. What message is there in that for us?

198. What did Elijah do to *prevent* his sacrifice burning? 1 Kings 18:33-35

[Read 1 Kings 18:36-17](#)

199. What contrasts do you see between the prayers of the pagan prophets and Elijah?

200. What happened to Elijah's waterlogged offering? 1 Kings 18:38-39

201. What did they do to the hundreds of prophets of Baal? 1 Kings 18:40

The drought ends: Read 1 Kings 18:41-46

202. What is your reaction to this?

203. The people all turned to Jehovah. But what affect did this great miracle have on Jezebel? 1 Kings 19:1-2

204. Why did Ahab sulk? 1 Kings 21:1-4

205. How did his wife get the land for him? 1 Kings 21:8-10

206. What does this story tell you about the character of Queen Jezebel?

207. What was Jezebel's punishment for doing this? 1 Kings 21:23

This prediction was fulfilled in 2 Kings 9:30-36

208. Why do you think God didn't kill Jezebel when she was young?

Marijuana

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

209. Which drug is the biggest cause of youth suicide?

61% of youth attempting suicide have marijuana or hashish as their drug of choice.

210. What other bad effects of marijuana do you know about?

Bad memory, sleepiness, depression, anxiety, paranoia (a feeling people are out to get you), altered perception of time, loss of interest in educational work, lower grades in school, loss of social skills, a danger to driving (and flying a plane), 55% more accidents at work, 75% more absenteeism.

ALSO: tremors (shaking), nausea (feeling of vomiting), headache, poor coordination, breathing problems, asthma, hives, daily coughing, increased appetite, reduced blood flow to the brain, changes in the reproductive organs; four times more chance of a heart attack in the hour after a smoke; mice more likely to develop tumours, use during pregnancy damages unborn babies.

PLUS: Marijuana is a major cause of schizophrenia, and 10% of people with schizophrenia commit suicide.

211. Which is worse for the lungs, marijuana or tobacco?

Marijuana contains more tar. It causes cancer of the lips, tongues, vocal cords, as well as the lungs. Lung cancer occurs much sooner with marijuana smokers than with cigarette smokers.

213. Is marijuana worse now than 50 years ago? Why/why not?

Marijuana is 100 times more potent now than 50 years ago. With the strength of marijuana today, users can have psychosis (mental problems) after just one or two joints.

The Price Of Heaven

213. If you could pay God something to get to heaven, how much would you pay?

Read Isaiah 55:1

214. What actually is the price for getting to heaven?

215. If people would pay huge amounts of money to buy a place in heaven, why do so few accept it when it's free?

216. Would you rather lose your leg and get to heaven, or not get to heaven with two legs? {DISCUSS}

[Read Matthew 5:29](#)

217. Is this verse really saying to cut off our hands? If not, what is it saying?

Possible answer: Stop your hand doing the wrong it's been doing.

218. Jesus said talked about a camel going through the eye of a needle. What was he trying to illustrate with that story? Read 2Matthew 19:24

219. What is your reaction to that story?

220. What was the disciples' reaction to that story? Matthew 19:25-26

221. Where did Jesus say we should we put our treasure? Matthew 6:19-21

222. What do you think Jesus meant by putting our treasure in heaven?

223. Who does Jesus say will get into heaven? Matthew 7:21-23

224. What, if anything, horrifies you about those verses?

Short Parables of Jesus

These discussion questions are about the short parables of Jesus. Read each short parable, then discuss it.

[Parable of mustard seed: Read Matthew 13:31-32](#)

225. The Bible doesn't explain the meaning of the Parable of the Mustard Seed. What do you think it means?

226. Why is a mustard seed so appropriate in this story?

[Parable of hiding yeast: Read Luke 13:20-21](#)

227. This is a humorous parable of a foolish woman accidentally making so much dough it couldn't all fit on a table. But what is the meaning of the parable?

228. Do you think it is inappropriate for Jesus to tell a humorous parable about a woman? Why/Why not?

229. Grains of yeast are very small. So are mustard seeds. Is the small size of these two trying to tell us something? If so, what is it?

[Fishermen who fish for people: Read Mark 1:17-18](#)

230. This parable applied to some fishermen who became disciples. Do you think it applies to us also? Why/Why not?

[Salt without flavor: Read Matthew 5:13](#)

231. Salt can't lose its flavor. So this parable is a humorous impossibility. But what is it trying to tell us?

A city on a hill: Read Matthew 5:14

232. What is the point Jesus is trying to make about it being impossible to hide a city?

A Clue: Often reading the surrounding verses can give us an explanation for a parable.

Blowing a trumpet: Read Matthew 6:2-4

233. People didn't really blow trumpets when they were about to give donations. Jesus is deliberately exaggerating a wrong attitude. What is that wrong attitude?

234. Which is better? To tell people about your big donation to charity, or to not make a donation at all?

A log in the eye: Read Matthew 7:3-5

235. Children can see that the parable of the log in an eye is exaggerated and funny. Adults often can't. How many different things is this humorous parable trying to tell us?

Giving a child a stone to eat: Read Matthew 7:9-10

236. What is the purpose of the parable of not giving bad food to children?

Clue: After some discussion, suggest that someone reads the next verse.

Narrow gate: Read Matthew 7:13-14

237. What do you think the narrow gate symbolizes?

238. What does the wide gate symbolize?

A patch on old clothing: Mark 2:21

239. Check the verses around this parable to see if they explain its meaning.

My mother and siblings: Mark 3:21, 31-34

240. What is Jesus trying to say with this illustration?

Not eating at a wedding: Luke 5:34

241. What does the happy time during the wedding symbolize?

242. What is the time after the wedding?

Better than sparrows: Matthew 10:29-31

243. What human weakness is the illustration about sparrows talking about?

Your Bible has a list of 236 parables and illustrations of Jesus. If discussing these few parables in your small group was successful, check out the full list. It might give you even better things to discuss.

Give To Everyone

Read Luke 6:30

245. This verse says, "Give to everyone who asks of you." Do we really have to do this?
246. Are there any exceptions? Are there people who we don't have to give things to?
247. Does this requirement to give include unworthy people, people who won't spend the money you give them properly?
248. Verse 38 tells us the reward for obeying this instruction. What is it? Luke 6:38
249. Does verse 38 imply that God's compensation plan makes the concept of giving to everyone a logical action? Why/why not?

General Questions

244. Suppose your three closest friends want you to join them boycotting someone else. And suppose they say they will boycott you if you don't help. What would you do?
245. Why do people swear?
246. Is it all right for Christians to use bad language? Read Colossians 3:8
247. Suppose someone you knew had only a 50% chance of surviving a fatal disease. What would you say to them when you both turn up at the same place?
248. What things can older people do better than you?
249. What things can younger people do better than you?
250. If 5% of people you invite to our group come, what would happen if you asked 100 people?
251. Would it be good to get five other people to come to our group? So why do so many of us focus on the 95 rejections rather than the five successes?
252. One teenager said, "TV has no other purpose than to waste time." Do you agree? Why/why not?

Giving Offerings At Church

253. Is it ever bad to give an offering in church? Why/why not?
254. Who gets the most benefit when you give an offering at church?
255. If you doubled your church offerings, would you become richer or poorer? Why?

Read Mark 12:41-44

256. Did the widow really give more than the rich people? Please explain.
257. Jesus is praising a woman for making a donation to an organization that in a few days' time would execute him. Does that mean we should donate to organizations even if they are corrupt?

More General Questions

258. What should Christians do about worry? 1 Peter 5:7
259. How can we overcome our weaknesses? Discuss this, then read Romans 8:26
260. What happens if we don't know how to pray properly? Romans 8:26
261. What are the greatest examples of victory in the Bible that you can remember?
262. Would anyone in this group like the other group members to pray for him or her?
263. The Pope warned a Catholic Youth Conference not to turn religion into a consumer product. What do you think he meant? Do you agree?
264. How do you think God feels when we go to the world to get happiness?
265. Who has the most genuine fun, a Christian or a non-Christian?
266. Someone has said, "Evil offers people short-term benefits. God offers people long-term benefits." Do you agree? Why/why not?
267. Is it coincidence that so many hip-hop musicians seem to be plagued by violence?
268. What is the difference between Christian and non-Christian fun?
269. How can we make church a happier place?
Clue: Joy is contagious.
270. At what stage do young people get to own the church? Do they already own it? Why/why not?
271. The Bible never mentions closing eyes during prayer? Should we close our eyes when we pray?
272. What is good about closing eyes during prayer?
273. What is bad about closing eyes during prayer?
Suggestion 1: Children misbehave when parents have their eyes closed during prayer. So it makes children less respectful about prayer.
Suggestion 2: Babies in church often start to cry when they suddenly lose eye contact with everyone around them.
274. Is it good to kneel beside our beds when we pray at night or in the morning?
275. What do you think of the clothing that young people wear?
276. Are Christian books a substitute for the Bible? (If the answer is "no," then ask, "Then what is the purpose of Christian books?")
277. How often should we do things that build our spiritual life?
278. Are we all equal in the church? Read Matthew 23:8

Read Galatians 3:28

279. Most churches have more women attending than men. Why are men less attracted to church?
280. Is it true that churches with more men than women grow faster?
281. Who is in charge of the church?
282. If our parents' generation failed in making the church grow, does that give young people an excuse to do the same?
283. Who will make the most mistakes in their religion, an old person or a young person?
284. Who will make the most mistakes in their religion, a person who does a lot for God, or a person who does almost nothing?
284. If you hear someone at church has made a mistake, what should you do about it?
285. Do we have the right to gossip about other church members? Why/why not?
286. If you have two choices, one with a short-term benefit and the other with a long-term benefit, which is likely to be the best? Why?
287. If you could do something now which would make your life better in 20 years' time, would you do it?
288. Can you be a genuine Christian if you are not trying to share what you have with others? Why/why not?
289. Is being healthy a religious duty? Why/why not?
290. Does God want us to be healthy? Read 3 John 2
291. A man called Bob Hawke held a world record in the *Guinness Book of Records* for drinking beer. But Mr Hawke was later elected as Australia's prime minister. He decided he would not drink alcohol while prime minister. What does that say to you?
292. Is it possible to be searching for God and be pushing him away at the same time? Please explain your answer.
293. What can you learn from being with people you don't like?
294. There is evil music. And there is godly music. Is it possible to have neutral' music? Why/why not?

Read Leviticus 19:28

294. What is wrong with tattoos?
295. Should the church be more open in discussing standards about sex?
296. Is it important to understand Bible prophecy? Why/why not?
After discussion, read these verses: 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 Amos 3:7
297. Is there any genre of music which is totally wrong?
298. Is it easier to do something nice for someone you like, or for someone you don't like?

299. Which is more important? To do something nice for someone you like, or for someone you don't like?
Read Luke 14:13
300. The religion of ancient Greeks and Romans was so unfulfilling that many of them used to say it was better never to have been born. Were they right?
301. Does a father play an important role in the life of a child under five?
Clue: Research shows that the more time the father spends with a preschool child, the higher the child's IQ will be.
302. Is there more than one acceptable style of religious music?
303. What should you do if you don't like what someone at church is doing?
After discussion, read Matthew 18:15-17
304. Which do most people find easier to say? "I love you mom?" Or "I love you dad?" {PAUSE} Why?
305. Researchers say that for the last 250 years, the fathers of each generation have become more remote from their sons. What do you think has caused that? What can we do about it?
306. If a person who has been reading the Bible, stops reading the Bible, what has gone wrong?
307. How often should a Christian pray?
After discussion, read Daniel 6:10 1 Thessalonians 5:17
308. Do you have a tough question you would like us to discuss?
309. What is good and what is bad about competitive sport?
310. Should coming to church be a social occasion?
311. Is there any type of Christian religious music that is not acceptable to God?
312. What should be the basis for deciding if music is good or bad?
313. Can you be a successful soul-winner if you do not have a personal spiritual life?
314. Ten percent of people are allergic to perfume. So is it a good idea to wear perfume or after-shave lotion?
315. When a young person choosing a future career, should they choose something they like to do, or something that will do good for the world? Why?
316. Some people look scared, even in church. What can Christians do to have more confidence?
317. Is the Christian Church growing fast enough?
318. Who would achieve the most for God, someone who prays two minutes a day, or someone who prays 30 minutes a day?
319. Which is more important, watching television two hours a day, or reading your Bible for 15 minutes?
320. Is it ever good for parents to let their kids suffer when they make mistakes?
321. What does it mean when someone says, "He's never heard that you can't do it"?

322. Some people say it is bad luck to walk under a ladder or have a cat cross your path. Can superstition ever be a good thing? Why/why not?

323. What does it mean when people say, "An apple doesn't fall far from the tree"?

323. A Christian TV station put words on the screen which said, "You will never be happier than when you give." Is that true? Why/why not?

After discussion, read Acts 20:35

324. What is a good way to make sure you read the Bible every day?

325. If you go out on a limb for God, will God always rescue you? Please explain.

326. Some people say that if you pay tithe, that nine tenths with God's blessing goes further than ten tenths without his blessing. Do you agree?

327. What is the danger of deciding to worship at home rather than to attend church?

After discussion, read Hebrews 10:25

328. Should genuine Christians always have a smile on their faces?

329. If you start to pay tithe, will God immediately and automatically increase your income by 10% to make up for the loss? Why/why not?

330. How can you use new technology for God?

331. Which is the better word to describe Heaven's view of humanity worthless, or undeserving? Please explain.

332. Does God require a higher standard from church members than he requires from worldly people?

After discussion, read Luke 12:47-48

333. Does God require a higher standard from church officials than he requires from church members?

After discussion, read James 3:1

334. What does it mean when we say some people are growing up too fast? Is it dangerous to grow up too fast?

335. What are some of the problems of having a baby if you are only 17 years old?

336. Mahatma Ghandi, the founder of modern India, said, "I like your Christ. I don't like your Christianity." What do you think he meant?

337. Do you agree with this statement? "*People will judge you more by what you don't like doing, rather than what you do like doing.*" Why/why not?

338. What things do you NOT do for a friend? Why?

[Read 1 John 4:7-8, 16](#)

339. Why does the Bible say "God is love" rather than "God is loving"?

340. On Christian television, a man said, "The last seven words of a dying church are, *We've never done it that way before.*" What does that mean?

341. Is it ever a good thing to make mistakes?
342. Can you order someone to love you? Then read John 15:17
343. What should we do if we find the Bible says something which disagrees with what we think?
344. Which is worse? Being too dependent, or too independent? Why?
345. Does being independent stop us learning to be dependent on God?
346. Should we be independent in our religious thinking, or should we go along with what everyone else in church believes? Why?
347. Is it more important to be popular, or to be right? Why?
348. Can we know God if we don't read the Bible regularly? Why/why not?
349. If you had the chance to interview God, what question would you like to ask him? Why?
350. What is more important in making us Christians, our doctrines, or our mission to take the Gospel to the whole world?
351. What are some things can we do if we are finding a particular church service boring?
352. If we love Jesus, will we automatically love people?
353. Teenagers who eat the evening meal at the table with their parents more than three nights are much less likely to use drugs or get pregnant. Why do you think this is so?
354. Young people who have older mentors are less likely to use drugs. Why is this so?
355. There's a saying that "A wise person learns from his own mistakes. But is it wiser to learn from someone else's mistakes?" Why is this so?
356. Who makes the best music on earth, God's followers, or the devil's followers? Why do you say that?
357. What does it mean if someone says that sometimes Christians are answering questions that people are not asking?
358. Can all religions be correct? Why/why not?
359. What should be the basis for deciding if a Christian denomination is correct? Please explain.
360. Is it true that the most boring sermons are usually the ones with the best information? Why/why not?
361. When teenagers start dating, it happens a lot that nice girls go out with bad blokes. What is wrong with that?
362. How should people be able to tell that we are Christians?
363. Does the church have to change its core beliefs to adapt as it spreads the Gospel in places like India and Africa? Why/why not?
363. What would you do if one of your unmarried friends at church got pregnant?

364. Where do you draw the line on compromise?

365. What is foolish about the idea of having sex with someone that you don't want to be long-term friends with?

Suggestion 1: People who have sex before marriage have higher divorce rates.

Suggestion 2: Research shows that women who are virgins at marriage have higher levels of sexual satisfaction within marriage.

Suggestion 3: Sex strongly binds a couple together. If you have sex without wanting it to bind you, it reduces the bond when you do get married.

366. Before they are married, some people have sex with people they like a lot. What does it do for their relationship with the opposite sex after they get married?

Suggestion: Sex before marriage reduces your ability to have non-sexual relationships with the opposite sex.

The habit of having sex with someone you like a lot can make Christians withdraw from a friendship to avoid going too far.

367. How do you find out more about someone? By having sex with them, or by having equal time with them, but without sex?

368. What do we have to do to be saved?

After discussion read Acts 16:30-31 and Luke 23:39-43

369. What do you think of the idea of saying, "I don't want to do anything except what God wants me to do?"

370. Is God's last great Judgment Day, good news or bad news? Why?

371. What should you do if someone hates you?

After discussion, read Matthew 5:44

372. Should you go to a party where you know there is going to be drugs?

373. Is God thinking about you right now? Explain your answer.

374. Is it all right to blaspheme when it is done in jest? Why/why not?

375. Is there anything wrong with watching apparently harmless TV programs? Why/why not?

376. Children tend to develop the weaknesses and failures of their parents. For example, the first-born tends to have the father's weaknesses and the second child takes on the mother's weaknesses. What can you do about this?

377. Because people have hurt us before, we tend to put up boundaries to stop people getting close to us. Is this good, or bad? Why?

378. What happens if you keep telling your children that they are dumb or stupid?

378. What happens if you keep telling your children in what ways they are fantastic?

379. Research shows that people who have a parent who is an addict tend to marry someone who is an addict. What do you think about this?

380. There is an old saying that, *A ship is safe in a harbour, but that's not why ships are built.* What does that mean?

381. What can we do to keep ourselves spiritual?
382. Should we have brief daily worship at home as a group?
383. What is the danger of sharing your spiritual problems with other people?
384. What is the danger of *not* sharing your spiritual problems with other people?
385. The concept of wearing your best clothes to church didn't start until almost 300 years after Christ died. Is this a good or a bad tradition to follow? Please explain.
386. Has God given us any abilities that he doesn't intend that we use for him?
387. When making changes at church, should you do them suddenly, or gradually?
388. Is any sin too great for God to forgive? Please explain.
389. There is a battle between God and Satan. Is every person involved in that battle, even if they don't know it? Please explain.
390. What can weaken a person's faith in the Bible?
391. What can strengthen a person's faith in the Bible?
392. How can you develop good habits?
393. How can you break bad habits, or prevent them developing?
394. What would you do if you knew you were going to die tomorrow?
395. When you go to work, should you go there for the job, or for the money?
396. Researchers believe that perspiration smell subconsciously guides people to choose mates who will produce healthier children. What does this tell you about wearing deodorant or perfume?
397. A school in England has classes on how to be happy. Can you teach people how to be happy?
398. If someone has sex outside marriage with someone else at church, could that make one or both of them leave the church after they break off the relationship?
399. After making a major change in a church, should you wait for people to get used to it before making more changes?
400. A stumbling block and a stepping stone are the same thing. Do you agree? Why?
401. Is God's Judgment Day something for Christians to fear?
402. If someone wants to make a change at church, how can you tell if it is a good idea?
403. Our body produces chemicals to make us happy. It doesn't make chemicals to make us unhappy. Unhappiness is just a lack of happiness chemicals. So if you are unhappy, what can you do to make happiness chemicals, what can you do to become happy?
Background: Research shows if people smile, even when they are not happy, the body releases the happiness chemicals.

404. What similarities are there between God's judgment in heaven and the TV program "This is your life"?
405. Will anything that the Holy Spirit tells people contradict what is in the Bible? Why/why not?
406. It's said that we tend to criticize the faults in other people which we have ourselves. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
407. Did God supply people with the energy and skill they used to spit in Jesus' face? What does your answer tell you about God?
408. Can you properly live the Christian life with the guidance of prayer, but without reading the Bible for guidance?
409. A youth pastor used to say there are four aspects to having a balanced life. They are the spiritual, mental, physical and social aspects. Is one of these more important than another? Explain your answer.
410. What things do you think would make a person leave the church?
Background: Research in one denominations shows that if a new convert doesn't make six new friends at church within six months, they will leave the church.
411. What should you do if you notice that someone has stopped attending church?
412. Should we still come to church if it is boring? Why/why not?
413. Should you tell your youth leader how to improve the youth program? Why/why not?
414. Is it wrong to marry someone who is not a church member? Why/why not?
After discussion, read: 1 Corinthians 7:39
415. Is it an overstatement to say that everything we do should be aimed at winning souls to live forever? Explain your answer.
- [Read Jeremiah 15: 19](#)
416. God says to Jeremiah, "You are to influence them. Do not let them influence you." Does this apply to us? Why/why not?
417. Research shows that workers who work seven days a week achieve less than people who work six days and have one day off. What does this say to you about the Ten Commandments saying to have a break one day in seven?
418. When a hero or heroine on TV gets into trouble, they never pray to get out of the situation. Does watching programs like this teach people not to pray? Why/why not?
419. What are the main things that lure teenagers away from God?
420. Why would God save someone from almost certain death?
421. How much would you give for a drug that only required a single dose to make you live a healthy life until age of a thousand years? Then what would you do to get a healthy life for eternity?
422. Tell me what you think is the greatest miracle, or one of the greatest miracles God has done. Why?
423. One in six women in the United States will get genital herpes from a sexual partner. And if it spreads to babies, it will kill 25% of their babies. What does this statistic say to you?

- 424 A McDonald's burger is so full of preservatives that a ten-year-old McDonald's burger kept for ten years didn't become moldy. If additives have such a big effect on food, can they have a big effect on people?
Fact 1: When children at an Australian elementary school went without food additives for two weeks, parents, teachers, and students noticed an improvement in behaviour. Students' also had a better attention span. And when given preservatives again, they again became noisy and restless.
Fact 2: In a teenage jail in England, they gave inmates a diet without food additives. It stopped most of the fighting between inmates.
425. Is it possible to be half a Christian?
426. Is it reasonable to think that almost everything we confront in life is something the devil wants to use to distract us from eternal life?
427. Are we saved because we have become better people? Or do we become better people because we are saved? Explain your answer.
428. Who finds it easiest to believe the promises of God, a forty-year-old adult, or a four-year-old child? Explain your answer.
429. Research in one denomination showed that teenagers want to have older people as friends and mentors at church. What does this tell you?
430. How can you use the internet for God?
431. Should the customs of society influence the way we worship at church?
432. If a miracle occurs, does it mean God was involved?
After comments, read Revelation 16:14
433. What do you know about teenage brains and alcohol?
Fact 1: Alcohol does more damage to teenage brains than adults' brains.
Fact 2: Teenage brains are developing, that's why they are susceptible.
Fact 3: Teenage brain can recover better from alcohol damage than adult brain.
Fact 4: Alcohol reduces learning ability when teenagers are at a peak age for learning.
Fact 5: Brain scans show considerably reduced brain activity of teen drinkers.
434. Where did the sons of Adam and Even get their wives?
After discussion, read Genesis 5:4
435. What should we do if we think someone at church has done something wrong?
After discussion, read Matthew 18:15-17
536. Is the food we eat important to our spiritual lives? Why?
537. Is it better to keep going to the same church every week, or to go to a different church every week? Why?
538. Do we come to church mainly to get, or to give? Give more details.
539. Can we be as perfect as Christ was on earth?
540. What is your favourite Bible verse, or your favourite thought from the Bible?

541. How do you think Noah felt when he got out of the Ark and saw how different the world was from a few years before?

542. Can doing work like mowing an old lady's lawn or trying to find a cure for a disease, be a distraction from spreading the gospel?

543. Do teenagers learn to control themselves better by parents restricting them, or by their parents leaving them restrict themselves?

After discussion, suggest: If children haven't developed the habit of being restricted from their parents, it's hard to develop it from within themselves.

544. News reports like to tell both sides of the story. Is it right for reporters to tell both sides when they know that one side is telling a lie?

545. What are good ways to regularly read the Bible?

546. Who is the command "Honor your father and mother" written for? For babies (who cannot read) or for adult age groups?

547. If your parents are atheists, should you still obey the command, "Honour your father and your mother"? Why/why not?

[Read Romans 6:23](#)

548. Which elements of Romans 6:23 appeal to you most? Why?

[Read James 2:24](#)

549. This is the only Bible verse that uses the words faith alone.' Christians often say we are justified by faith alone.' This verse says the opposite. What do you think of this verse?

[Read Revelation 22:10](#)

550. Christians sometimes say that we can't understand Revelation because it is a sealed book. This verse says the opposite. What do you think of this verse?

551. Do we have to love God, or just respect him?

[Read Matthew 18:3](#)

552. What did Jesus mean when he said we should become like children?

553. What is the difference between being childish, and child-like?

554. When we help someone who is suffering, do we reduce the suffering God feels? Explain your answer.

555. When it comes to clothes, what do you think of the idea that, "We shouldn't be the first into a fashion, nor the last out of it"?

556. Should we dress the same as people in a sub-culture to reach people in that sub-culture with the gospel?

557. Does it happen that God helps someone you pray for and he wouldn't help them if you didn't pray for them? Please explain.

Comment after discussion: Perhaps, God needs to be invited.

[Read John 20:26](#)

558. When Jesus came into the locked room after his resurrection, how do you think he got into the room?

559. Do we show mistrust of God by locking our doors at night? Why/why not?

[Read Luke 11:10](#)

560. Is this statement by Jesus an exaggeration, or is it true? Please explain.

561. What do you think of the idea of burning people at the stake for not agreeing with mainstream Christianity?

562. Jesus sent us into the world to change people by preaching the gospel. Is it better instead to change the laws of the land to force people to appear to change? Why/why not?

563. How important is it to be baptized by immersion?

564. What Bible concept do you find hard to understand?

After suggestions: Does anyone know Bible verses that might help solve this problem?

565. There have been about 100-200 million species on earth. For evolution to be true, we should see a totally new species formed every six years. But there are none. What does that say to you?

566. What should you do if you find science disagrees with the Bible?

Suggested comments: Wait for science to catch up. Most of the facts' currently accepted by science will later be changed.

[Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22](#)

567. What did Paul mean when he said he became "all things to all people"?

568. What do you think of the Japanese idea of wearing a surgical mask when you go out in public with a cold or the flu? Is it foolish? Is it considerate?

[Read Romans 2:1](#)

569. Many people criticize others and spread gossip about others, but they do the same things themselves. Why do people criticize others who have the same faults that they have?

Suggested comment: By highlighting the problem in others, maybe these people will think that others will think they are pure in this matter.

570. If it is not a Matter of principle, should we go along with decisions at church that we don't agree with?

571. Is it good or bad to be a perfectionist? Why?

[Read Matthew 22:37](#)

572. Talking comes from a different part of the mind to singing. So if we talk about God, but don't sing about him, does that mean we are not using the whole of our mind to show our love for God? Why/why not?

Read Ephesians 5:18-19

573. Does this verse mean that singing religious songs is a vital part of being filled with the Spirit? Why/why not?

Read Romans 13:1-2

574. Does this verse mean that Christians should not criticize our political leaders? Why/why not?

575. Did Satan know the full consequences of his actions of starting sin on earth? Why/why not?

576. There is a saying, "Love God and do your own thing." Is that a good idea? Why/why not?

577. Is it okay for Christians to break the road rules? Why/why not?

578. Do you agree with this statement? "God does not forbid being homosexual, only the act of homosexuality." Why/why not?

579. All other things being equal, is it better spiritually to be raised by parents with a lot of money, or by parents who are poor? Please explain

580. What were the spiritual highlights of your last month?

581. Is there anything you would want left out of the Bible? Why/why not?

Read Job 1:8

582. Do you think that God brags about genuine Christians today like he bragged about Job in this verse? Why/why not?

After discussion, read Ephesians 1:3

583. Should we take advice from other Christians? Why/why not?

Read James 5:16

584. Should we tell other people at church how we have sinned, or should we instead put on the mask of being without sin? {PAUSE} Explain your answer.

Read James 5:14-15

585. Is anointing sick people with olive oil just an old fashioned idea? Or should we do it today? Explain your answer.

586. A survey in America showed that half the people felt that if a person was generally good, they would go to Heaven. Is that opinion correct? Why/why not?

After discussion, read Ezekiel 33:12-13

587. Should you dress in your best clothes to go to church?

588. Is it all right to wear a cross as jewelry? Why/why not?

589. Jesus did a lot of his miracles on the Sabbath day. What was the advantage in doing the miracles on that day?

Read James 1:4

590. What do you think of this verse?

591. Should Christians be happy people? Why/why not?

592. Tell me some of the things that make Christians happier than others?

Suggested answer 1: God works things work together for good, read Romans 8:28

Suggested answer 2: When we do things wrong, we are forgiven.

Suggested answer 3: Because even problems we face lead to self improvement. Read James 1:2-4

593. Can Christians be unhappy? Why/why not?

After discussion, read Matthew 26:37-38

594. What things do we regularly do in the church that are not found in the Bible?

595. What do you think it when people frequently say, "God told me to do this?"

596. Do computer games work against God? Why/why not?

597. What is more important, watching TV for half an hour a day, playing computer games for half an hour a day, or reading your Bible for half an hour a day? Please tell me more.

598. Which of these three is the biggest timewaster for teenagers computers, television, or sport? Why?

599. Which of these three is the biggest spiritual danger for teenagers, the internet, television and movies, or sex? Explain your answer.

600. Is it an overstatement to say that anything which takes our time away from spiritual things is bad? Why/why not?

601. How can we train our eyes and our ears not to lead us into temptation?

602. If you were given \$100, how much should you give to God?

603. If you were given \$100 million, how much should you give to God?

Suggested comment: You should give God a much higher percentage if you get a lot of money because you still only need a small amount to live on.

604. If you get into trouble for doing good deeds, should that stop you from doing good deeds in the future? Why/why not?

605. What is the only basis for deciding if a genre of music is good in God's eyes?

606. Can you sin without actually doing anything? Explain your answer.

607. We can't be saved by being good, but is being good important?

608. A few decades ago most Christians did not go to the movies. Has anything changed? Is it still wrong today to go to the movies? Why/why not?

609. Is it all right to have a little bit of alcohol? Why/why not?

610. Is God ever spontaneous in his decisions, or is everything he does always well thought out? Please explain

611. Should churches run programs that help people live better lives, but which don't save their souls? Why/why not?

612. Does breaking minor man-made rules make a person more likely to feel it is all right to break God's rules? Why/why not?

613. Someone has said, "The deeper the crisis we go through, the greater the spiritual growth we get." Do you agree? Why/why not?

614. Why do terrorism leaders get other people to be suicide bombers rather than do it themselves?

615. A marriage counsellor said, "I used to think the opposite of love was hate. But now I think the opposite of love is indifference". What do you think he meant? Do you agree?

616. Some people have said that they wish they were blind so that what they see wouldn't tempt them. Is this wise or foolish? Why/why not?

617. Should every church member learn how to give Bible studies to non-Christians?

618. What do you think of this statement? "God can make beautiful circumstances around the ugly circumstances made by the devil."

619. Is it wrong to buy \$1000 pair of shoes? Why/why not?

620. What do you think is the most important book of the Bible? {PAUSE} Explain your answer.

A Rich And Lukewarm Church

[Read Revelation 3:14-21](#)

621. What disgusting thing does verse 16 say God would do with lukewarm people?

622. Why do you think God prefers people to be cold rather than lukewarm?

623. What did being wealthy do to people's feeling of need?

624. Do wealthy people need God more than poor people do? Why/why not?

625. What do you think verse 18 means when it says to buy white robes?

626. What does verse 19 say that Jesus does to people he loves?

627. In verse 20, what is Jesus doing at the door? What does that mean?

628. According to verse 21, who gets to sit on Jesus' throne?

Jesus Teaches About Prayer

[Read Luke 11:1-9](#)

629. Do you think Jesus meant we should always say the same prayer? Why/why not?

630. What is the purpose of this model prayer?

631. If you were one of John's disciples, what would you want him to have taught you about prayer?

632. What is the purpose of the story about the man in bed?

[Read Malachi 3:8-12](#)

633. What does this passage call it if we do not give tithes and offerings? (Verse 8)

634. What happened to the people for not giving tithes and offerings? (Verse 9)

635. What did God promise to do for people who paid tithe? (Verse 10-11)

636. Where did the people have to take the tithe? (Verse 10)

637. What does it mean "open the windows of heaven"? (Verse 10)

638. What will all nations think of God's people if they pay tithe? (Verse 12)

Picking Grain On Sabbath

[Read Mark 2:23-28](#)

639. What did the Pharisees in verse 24 think the disciples were doing wrong?

640. Was it stealing? Why/why not?

After discussion, read Deuteronomy 23:25

641. How was the story about David relevant to a discussion about the Sabbath?

See the Ultimate Bible Footnotes for Mark 23:26

642. Verse 27 says, "The Sabbath was made for people; people weren't made for the Sabbath." What does that mean?

643. What two meanings are there for the term "son of man" in verse 28?

See Bible Footnotes for Mark 23:28

Discussion Questions For Teenagers

644. Would it be good to have someone else always do your school assignments for you? Why/why not?

645. Is it good to be punished for everything you do wrong? Why/why not?

646. Is it good if parents don't help teenagers when they get into trouble?

647. What can you do as a teenager to keep yourself healthy when you are older?

648. As a teenager, what can you do now to give your children in 20 years' time have the best possible chance of salvation?.

649. What can we do as teenagers to help stop people leaving the church?

650. Is it wrong for teens to hand out religious brochures through car windows when driving along the motorway?

651. Is it wrong to open your car windows down and sing hymns at the traffic lights to the car in the next lane, then burn that car off?

652. We know the Bible talks about not marrying someone who is not one of God's people. Does that also include going on dates with someone who isn't a true Christian?

653. What should you do if you are given a high school assignment which is against your religious principles?

654. Does going on dates with non-Christians set a habit pattern which will make it more likely that a teenager will marry outside the church?

657. Is it a common slur to call a young man a "mommy's boy". But is it good to be closely attached to your parents? Why/why not?

Top 40 Tips for Leading a Small Group Discussion

Don't try to use all the following tips in the same small group discussion. Using just three or four of them is usually enough to make the discussion flow well. Then next time you lead the discussion group, use a couple of different ideas to create variety.

Tip 1: So at the start, ask a simple icebreaker question that everyone can answer. Examples could be, "How was your week?" "What did you think of today's amazing weather?" Don't underestimate the importance of this simple question. If people speak in the first 15 seconds in a discussion group, they are much more likely to speak during the rest of the discussion.

If one group member hasn't spoken, use their name in a simple question. "Tom, you're not looking your usual self today. Is everything alright?" Or "Judy, you look particularly happy today. What's done that?"

Tip 2: Another way to get everyone to speak at the start is to have each person speak in turn. "Let's go around the circle and each person give a reason why you're grateful to God." If there is a new person in the group, get people to include their names in the circle of comments. Say "Let's go around the circle and each person give your name, and tell us one thing that makes you happy." Other possibilities are to have each person tell their hobby, their occupation, a favourite Bible verse, what animal they are like, their earliest memory, or what they like about being in this small group.

If you regularly use this icebreaker, occasionally ask the group to decide what today's icebreaker question will be. (Start this series of answers at the opposite side of the circle to where any new person is sitting so that he or she isn't embarrassed by speaking first.)

Tip 3: Select an easy question as your first discussion question after the icebreaker. That will help create a mindset among the group of answering questions.

Tip 4: Do not answer your own questions. Ask the question and then remain silent. Someone will eventually be so embarrassed by the silence that they will speak. But if no one answers after 10 seconds, ask, "Do you want me to repeat the question?" (Some questions below insert the word {PAUSE} at places where the discussion leaders should be silent and wait for answers before continuing.)

Tip 5: If someone is dominating the discussion, specifically rule them out before asking the next question. "Alice, I know you'll know the answer to this, so I want to leave you out of answering this one."

Tip 6: If someone asks you as the questioner, "What do you think?" Reply, "Well, what do you think?"

Tip 7: If half way through the discussion period someone hasn't spoken up, ask for his or her option. Wait until people have discussed a question, then ask that person, "Jason, what do you think about this?" (People who remain silent often have very deep thoughts. They are often sitting in the group thinking, rather than speaking. So their contribution can be very good if you ask for their options after others have discussed an issue.)

Tip 8: Three quarters of the way through the discussion, ask one or two slightly emotional questions. Feelings get the mind working at a deeper level than facts do. So if it's appropriate, after people have discussed a particular question, ask "How does that make you feel?" "Does anyone feel angry about this?"

Tip 9: Questions that start with "How" and "Why." They usually get the longest answer. "When," "Where," "Who," "What," and "What do you think about " are also pretty good.

Tip 10: Avoid questions that start with "Is," "Was," "Does," or "Doesn't." These can usually be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." And the short answer can kill discussion.

Tip 11: If someone answers a question with a "yes" or "no" (or another short answer), ask "Why?" or "Why not?" or "Please explain?" That leads them to explain why they answered the way they did.

Tip 12: Questions that require a one-word answer are often good to use at the start of a discussion. They are easy for people to answer, and that breaks the ice. Then you can ask "Why?" when someone gives their brief answer.

Tip 13: Use eye contact to "nominate" who you want to answer a particular question. If there is someone you want to speak, ask the question while looking at them near the end of your question. (In our culture, people decide who is to speak next by making eye contact with the next speaker.) If someone makes eye contact with you after answering your question, then look away towards someone else. That is a way of saying, "I don't want to speak next, I want this other person to speak next.")

Tip 14: If making eye contact in a long pause doesn't work, look down to the ground. That shows that you are not available to be the next one to speak because no one can make eye contact with you. It suggests that someone else should speak.

Tip 15: After a question is answered, get more response by asking a secondary question. "What does everyone else think about this?" Or "Does anyone disagree with what Mary said?" (If someone gives a one-word answer "yes," then look at that person and ask "Why?")

Tip 16: Sit in a circle. This subliminally suggests that all opinions are equal and that all people should speak up. If the group hasn't been sitting in a circle before your discussion starts, say, "Move the chairs into a circle for our discussion." If you can't have a circle, arrange the seats so people are looking at each other. For example, have two church pews facing each other, or three pews in a triangle. Jesus understood the superiority of a sitting in a circle. He taught while sitting in a circle Mark 3:34

Tip 17: If you have one person who regularly dominates discussion, sit next to that person at the start of the discussion. That's because the people in a group who tend to speak the least are those sitting immediately beside the discussion leader. So the seating position will make this person less dominant.

Tip 18: Sit down. Don't stand up to lead a discussion. That makes others in the group think that you are the one who has to do most of the talking. (But your role is actually to get them to do the talking.) If the position of the seats requires that you stand, then walk among the seats. That subliminally says, "Everyone is included."

Tip 19: If one person is making every long speeches, "That's good, Barbara. But let's try to keep our comments down to a maximum of 15 seconds or so."

Tip 20: If your group is small, occasionally say, "Let's go around the circle and get each person's answer in turn." Start at the opposite side of the circle to the person who speaks least so that person is not embarrassed by speaking first.

Tip 21: If you have a very large group, occasionally break it into groups with 5-6 people in each. Then walk to each group and give them a question to discuss. Even go back in two minutes and give them a second question. Then bring the groups back together to report what their questions and responses were. After each report, ask the assembled large group, "Who has something to add to that?"

Tip 22: Occasionally ask the group, "What questions do you have?" And then remain silent. If no one speaks up after five seconds, ask the most outgoing person in the group, "Do you have any questions, Michael?" That person is likely to then suggest a question which the group can discuss. Then say, "That was a worthwhile question, Michael. Does anyone else have a question?" By now the shy members of the group may have thought of a question.

Tip 23: Give positive feedback. A good feedback comment for the silent types is, ""Yes, I agree with what you say, Mary." To the shy members of the group. say, "That was a good thought, Alex." Or to the outgoing types, "Thanks, Norma."

Tip 24: When a shy person speaks up, try to get others to react to what they said. Seeing the success of their comments is likely to make shy people speak up more often. Say, "John's comment was really significant. What ideas can we develop from this?"

Tip 25: Sometimes use body language to give positive feedback. Nod your head in agreement. Smile. Laugh. Even give a thumbs up gesture to show approval. (It is particularly good to use these non verbal approvals if you are usually the discussion leader but are not on this particular occasion.)

Tip 26: Actively listen to what other people are saying in the group. It will kill discussion if people in the group see that their leader not interested in what they are saying. Pay attention to others even if it means you forget a point you were about to make. Your body language showing that you are interested is almost always more important than what you may have said as a comment.

Tip 27: Do not fold your arms or frown while people are answering. It can make them think you are not interested. If you fold your arms because you're cold, say, "I'm really interested in what you're saying, David. I'm only folding my arms to keep warm."

Tip 28: When you have a Bible passage to read as part of the discussion, call for volunteers if it is near the start of the discussion. If half the discussion period has gone, ask a specific shy person who is a good reader. Allow people who are poor readers to volunteer, but don't embarrass them by asking a poor reader to read. If it is a long passage, say, "Let's read two verses each around the circle."

Tip 29: If your group is usually not responsive, give each person a pen and paper to write several brief points on paper. Ask a question that can have a broad range of options. After 3-4 minutes, ask people to report on what thoughts they wrote down.

Tip 30: If you as the discussion leader, have strong opinions on a topic, keep them to yourself. Expressing your opinion strongly may intimidate others and make them less likely to participate. Remember, your role is to create discussion, not to give your opinion. No matter how knowledgeable you are, the group as a whole knows more than you do. So try to draw out that knowledge. This small group his God's group not yours. And "he must increase, but I must decrease" John 3:30

Tip 31: If you are using the discussion questions on this app, read them through in advance. Read any Bible verses attached to the questions. Read their context and read them in other versions so that you can add a few brief explanations to the discussion. Think in advance of examples from your own experience that may illustrate a particular question. Go onto the internet to search for a few stories that may illustrate a particular point. Then use these stories after one or two people have commented on the question you ask.

Tip 32: If you are genuinely happy, your group will become happy also. If it's your first time to lead the discussion and you're nervous, tell the group that you are worried. A bit of honesty on this will overcome what could be interpreted as the body language of a negative person. Say, "This is my first time doing this. I'm petrified. Will you promise to make it easy for me?"

Tip 33: If your group is not responsive, break them into groups of two to talk to the person next to them. Ask your question. Then say, "I want you to discuss this in groups of two for the next 30 seconds." If they are still going strong after 30 seconds, let it run for a minute. Then say, "Okay, now I want one person from each group to report your key points."

Tip 34: If the discussion is running hot, don't ask any questions. Just watch the people talking and answering each other. This is what you have been trying to achieve getting people to talk. So if it happens, don't interrupt (unless people become critical of each other.) Watch to see signs of who is eager to talk during such a discussion. When one person finishes talking, use your eyes to "nominate" that person as the next person to talk.

Don't worry that you won't use all the questions you prepared. You might be able to use some of the leftovers next time you lead the discussion group.

Tip 35: Use people's names when talking to them or about them. This is automatically done more often in some cultures (like Australia) and less in others (like England). But using people's names in any culture helps make them feel significant to the group. If you can't remember a particular person's name, write that name on a piece of paper to remind you.

Tip 36: If an answer has been particularly interesting, ask follow-up questions that are not on your script. "Tell me more about that?" "What makes you say that?" "What does everyone else think about that?" "How would you (gesturing to the whole group) explain that concept to a non-Christian?"

Tip 37: Do not interrupt someone, even if you disagree with them. It's important that the shy people in your group have confidence that they won't be embarrassed by having you stop them too. If you stop others, the shy people may think that would also happen to them.

Tip 38: Be simple. Don't use long sentences. And avoid complicated words. Gesture, if it's natural for you to gesture, but don't force it if gestures aren't natural for you.

Tip 39: Point people to the Bible. Make the Bible the hero and the ultimate authority. If you know there is a Bible verse, but don't know where to find it, say, "Keep talking, Norma. I know there's a Bible verse on this. I just want to find it." Then use this app to search for a key word or a rarely used word that you know is in the verse you want. Then say, "Here's the Bible verse I wanted. I think that will answer our question." Then read the verse.

Tip 40: At the end of the discussion, occasionally tell people what some of the questions will be for the next small group meeting. Or suggest a Bible passage for them to read, saying, "Our questions next time will be about Matthew chapter 7. You can read Matthew 7 during the week, if you like."