50 Youth Small Group Questions That Help Teenagers Go Deeper

SHADES

A practical guide for moving conversations from “I don’t know” to honest, gospel-centered reflection.

GREAT QUESTIONS CAN OPEN THE DOOR TO GREAT CONVERSATIONS

But asking a good question isn't always enough.

Teenagers may need time to think. They may not know how to put their thoughts into words. They may be afraid of giving the "wrong" answer.

These questions are designed to help you create conversations that move beyond:

"Yeah."
"I don't know."
"Nothing really."
"Jesus?"

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE -
Don’t ask every question.
Use this to help your conversation have a steady flow.
Choose a few questions that fit your group and your discussion.
Think of these as tools—not a script.

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1. GETTING THE CONVERSATION STARTED

Use these questions to get students talking and help everyone find their voice

1. What's something that's been on your mind lately?
2. What's something you're looking forward to right now?
3. What's something that's been difficult lately?
4. What's something that made you laugh this week?
5. If you could change one thing about this week, what would it be?
6. What's something you wish people understood about you?
7. What's something you're really enjoying right now?
8. What's one thing that has surprised you recently?
9. What's something you've been thinking about a lot?
10. What's something happening in your life that you could use prayer for?

2. OBSERVE

Help students engage with that they're reading

1. What stood out to you in this passage?
2. What do you notice about what is happening?
3. What surprises you?
4. Is there anything confusing or difficult to understand?
5. What words or ideas seem important?
6. What do you notice about God in this passage?
7. What do you notice about the people in this passage?
8. What seems to be the main point?
9. What questions does this passage make you ask?
10. If you had to explain this passage to someone else, what would you say?

OBSERVE → UNDERSTAND → RESPOND

3. GO DEEPER

These questions help students think about why they believe what they believe and how their faith connects to real life

1. Why do you think this matters?
2. What makes this difficult to believe or live out?
3. Why do you think people struggle with this?
4. What do you think is underneath that?
5. How does this connect to something happening in the world right now?
6. How does this connect to your life?
7. Have you ever experienced something like this?
8. What do you think people often misunderstand about this?
9. How might someone who disagrees with you see this differently?
10. What questions or doubts does this bring up for you?

Leader Tip: Don't be afraid of honest answers.

A deeper conversation isn't one where every student says the same thing.
It's one where students feel safe enough to be honest and are invited to think about their beliefs in light of the truth of the Gospel.

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4. SEE THE GOSPEL



Help students see the Gospel story

1. What does this teach us about who God is?
2. What does this reveal about what people are like?
3. What does this reveal about our need for God?
4. Where do we see grace in this story or passage?
5. How does this connect to the bigger story of the Bible?
6. How does this help us understand our need for Jesus?
7. What has Jesus done that changes how we see this?
8. How does the gospel challenge the way we normally think about this?
9. What is true because of what Jesus has done?
10. How does knowing the Gospel change the way we respond?

5. RESPOND

Help students apply the Gospel to their lives

1. What is one thing you want to remember from this conversation?
2. What might God be inviting you to believe?
3. Is there something in your life that this challenges?
4. What might change if you actually believed this was true?
5. What is one way you could live this out this week?
6. What might make it difficult to live this out?
7. Who could help or encourage you with this?
8. Is there something you need to let go of, confess, or bring to God?
9. What is one step you can take this week?
10. How can we pray for each other as we respond to this?

OTHER WAYS TO INVITE PARTICIPATION:

- Ask students to write before sharing
- Give everyone a chance to answer a simple question
- Ask students to choose between two options
- Use "What do you think?" instead of "What's the right answer?"
- Ask students to discuss in pairs before sharing with the group
- Give students permission to say, "I'm still thinking about that."
- Don't rescue every moment of silence

6. Bonus! End in prayer!

End by helping students respond together

1. How can we bring this to God?
2. Is there something you want to thank God for because of what we learned tonight?
3. Where do you see your need for Jesus in this area of your life?
4. What is something you need to trust God with after what we talked about tonight?
5. What is one thing you would like us to pray for you about?