

HOW DO YOU DEVELOP THE BEST QUESTIONS TO DRAW OUT THE TRUTH FROM THE STUDENTS?



There are only 6 questions on the planet! The *5Ws and H* questions – *who, what, when, where, why and how*. By slowing down and asking yourself these questions, you begin to reason through the Scripture and discover truth for yourself.

These six basic questions will also form the foundation for the questions you will use to draw out discussion from your class. You may simply ask directly – “**Who** was Paul addressing in verse 1?” or you may “fluff” it out a bit and ask “Now that you read verses 1-2, **who** was Paul writing to?” Both are “**Who**” questions. For example:

Philippians 1:1–2

1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who wrote this letter?

How were they described?

Who were they writing to?

Where are they?

What do they say to them?

Or you may ask a broader question in order to have them reason through the verses.

What do you learn about the author of this letter in these verses?

What do you learn about those Paul is writing to?

Since you are reasoning through the Scripture by asking questions, the answers are found in the text. The best questions are the ones your students can answer from the passage you are studying, that enables them to engage the Word in such a way that it becomes theirs and they see truth for themselves.

You want to begin with simple questions to allow your students an opportunity to “adjust” to the discussion. One of the simplest ways to discuss a passage would be to just walk down through it asking the *5 Ws and H* questions.

Review questions covering last week’s lesson are perfect for the beginning of your discussion. They are simple questions with simple answers, and are already familiar to them and easily answered.

Then you need to consider some broad questions that will stimulate your students to discuss what they have learned. For example: *What did you learn about Jonah from chapter 1?*

In your mind, you already know what truths you want to highlight in the discussion regarding Jonah, so you need to listen carefully to make sure you receive all the information.

If your class gives you the information, then ask your next broad question. If they did not give you as much information as you needed, then ask a more specific question to make sure this point is included before you move on in the text.

Another broad question might be: *How does this information about Jonah help you to set the context of the book?*

Often there will be excellent questions in the lesson that you can use with your students.

Frequently, your next question will be in response to input from a student. Their response may cause you to ask a follow up question.