

Writing Well-Crafted Inductive Bible Study Questions

Objective

That each Wilderness Craft 1 Guide will have the confidence and skill to quickly put together well-crafted inductive Bible study questions for trail quiet times and solos.

Procedures

I. Observation Questions

- What are the basic facts in this passage?
- Who, what, where, when, why?
- What do you notice about the way in which this passage is written?
- What repetitions, comparisons and contrasts, verb tenses, cause and effect are present?
- What kind of literature is it?
- Use the word “List” in your observation questions often (notice how we use this below)
- KEY: A good question will make them reread the whole passage
- KEY: A good question is one that anyone who answers it could get an “A” for their answer
- KEY: Open-ended questions (not one right answer or Yes/No only). For example notice how in the questions below we use the words “some of”, “some ways”, “some things”, or “might”, etc. These are open ended phrases that do not make it seem like you are fishing for one right answer. This causes the participants to be more open to sharing their ideas rather than being quiet because they are afraid they might have the wrong answer.

Examples of Observation Questions

- Mark 2:1-12; Who are the people in this story? What are some things we learn from the text about each of them? (Or have kids pick a person in the passage and focus on what they learn about them).
- Ephesians 2:1-10; List the contrast in these verses, and what are some of the differences between the two things being contrasted?
- Psalm 37; What are some ways the psalmist encourages us to follow the Lord? What are some of the reasons he gives for keeping each one?
- Write your own question for one of the passages above.
- Evaluate whether your question passes the test of the three KEYs above. If so then this is a GOOD OBSERVATION QUESTION.

2. Interpretation Questions

- Help discover the meaning of the text (to become an expert on what this passage is teaching)
- Help discover the purpose of the author
- Takes facts and builds on answers to the observation questions
- Why? (Ask this question carefully by adding words like “some reasons why”, “why might”, etc)
- Are there any words or phrases which need definition?
- How do we define these terms? (You might even bring a short list of vocabulary words with their definitions from a Bible Dictionary for them to look up to understand the passage better)
- What is the significance of any of the observations you have made in the previous observation questions?
- What is the main point of the passage?
- what was the author trying to get across in this passage?
- What are some ideas as to one of the the most important things this passage communicates?
- Use this phrase to preface your questions: “According to the passage”. This helps the participants keep their exploration of the meaning confined to what the text is actually teaching.
- How might you summarize what this passage teaches?
- KEY: Open-ended questions (not one right answer or Yes/No only)
- KEY: A good interpretation question helps the participant to explore the meaning of the passage

Examples of Interpretation Questions

- Mark 2:1-12; What are some reasons why Jesus might have spoken to the paralyzed man about sin before dealing with his physical need? Why do you think he healed the paralyzed man?
- Ephesians 2:1-10; According to the passage, what does it mean to be spiritually “dead” and “alive”? According to the passage, what are the sources of influence on each? How might you define in your own words “grace” and “faith”?
- Psalm 37; According to the passage who are the “good” and who are the “wicked”? What does it appear that the person writing this Psalm believes about each of these two kinds of people? What are some reasons why the person writing this Psalm believes that his readers would want to trust in the Lord?
- Write your own question for one of the passages above.
- Evaluate whether your question passes the test of the KEYs above. If so then this is a GOOD INTERPRETATION QUESTION.

3. Application Questions

- What issues does this passage raise which are still issues today?
- What does this passage say about God, about people, about sin, about salvation, about living?
- How might we build into our lives the truths in this text? When might we apply these truths? Where might we apply them?
- In what ways does this passage challenge my modern-day values and lifestyle?
- What behavior does this passage call for?
- How might I put into practice what I am learning from this passage?
- Chart: Example--Write out various ways that I might build into my life Ruth's kind of loyalty to her family?
- KEY: Help group members integrate the personal meaning and relevance of the text into their own lives. (I, Me)
- KEY: Relate to the here and now
- KEY: What is a specific thing I could do?
- KEY: Include personal application, and corporate application (WE). This could be different for each person.

Examples of Application Questions

- Mark 2:1-12; Jesus talks about his ability to forgive sins. Do you think forgiveness of sins is a need that people have today? Is this a need you have experienced in your own life? How, if ever, has forgiveness been important to you?
- Ephesians 2:1-10; Share an example of a movie, story, fictional character, t.v. show, etc. where a character seemed to be spiritually "dead" but then something happened and they became what appeared to be "spiritually alive". Has there ever been a "before (dead)" and "after (alive)" in your spiritual life? What made the difference for you? What are some of the "good works" which you believe Christians should be engaged in as a result of receiving God's love and grace?
- Psalm 37; Where do you find yourself tending to worry and how does the writer of this Psalm speak to your condition? Where do you find his counsel easy, and where do you find it difficult?
- Write your own question for one of the passages above.
- Evaluate whether your question passes the test of the KEYs above. If so then this is a GOOD INTERPRETATION QUESTION.

EVALUATION

AFTER YOU SET UP A STUDY AND HAVE YOUR GROUP SHARE WHAT THEY JOURNALED, EVALUATE HOW WELL YOUR QUESTIONS HELPED YOUR GROUP UNDERSTAND AND APPLY THE PASSAGE TO THEIR LIVES:

1. How good were the questions? How could I fine tune them?
2. How well did I involve others in the discussion?
3. Was interaction encouraged or discouraged?
4. What could be done better?
5. What worked well? What flopped?