



Developing Discussion Questions

Principles and Practice

Take notes during the sermon.

Develop questions as you listen to the sermon.

Leverage how the Scripture and sermon are impacting you in developing questions.

Review the sermon notes.

Offer a summary of the sermon, including the *sermon summary* if there is one.

Do not merely review the sermon.

Aim at questions that get your CG thinking through the text, theology, and application of the sermon.

Use relevant passages to help unpack questions and lead in discussion.

Questions

Invitation

An invitation is a starter question that pulls the group into the discussion. A good starter question is one that cannot be answered by merely repeating what was said in the sermon.

Example: From the sermon on 1/23/2022, *Replacing Judas (Acts 1:15-26)*, a good starter question would be, "Can you think of a time when being accepted or valued meant a lot to you?"

Observation

Ask questions that lead people to interact with the text in a way that forces them to unpack what is written. This means we should avoid fill-in-the-blank style questions, and develop questions that require a bit of "exegetical math."

Example: From the sermon on 1/16/2022, *Prayer, Patience, and Unity (Acts 1:12-14)* a good observation question could be, "How did the disciples' time in the upper room help them as a community of faith?"

Application

Application questions move from text and theology into experience. Application questions should be open enough to allow for a wide range of answers. Push for specific answers so the application.

Example: *From the sermon on 1/9/2022, The Mission and Power of the Church (Acts 1:6-11) a good application question could be, "Let's come up with 5 different ways in which a Christian can witness." Or for a more doctrinally grounded application question, "How does the doctrine of regeneration (the work of the Holy Spirit in causing sinners to be born again) encourage evangelism?"*

Recollection

Ask your CG to share what stood out to them as they were listening to the sermon. This can open up the conversation in unexpected ways, showcasing how God is teaching us in different ways while listening to the same message.