

# Igniting Conversations:

## Not Interrogations! A Guide to Small Group Questions

Alright, let's be honest. We've all been there. Sitting in a small group, the leader stares intensely, "So... what did you guys think of *verse 3?*" Crickets. Awkward silence. Someone coughs. You suddenly become VERY interested in the pattern on the carpet.

That's not what we want, right? We want lively, engaging conversations. We want those "aha!" moments, those deep dives into faith and life where we connect with God and each other. And the key to unlocking those moments? **Great questions.**

Think of it like this: you're not a professor grilling students in a final exam. You're more like a campfire host, building a warm, inviting space where everyone feels safe to share and explore.

This little booklet is your guide to becoming a master question-asker, a conversation igniter! It's packed with tips inspired by Karen Lee-Thorp, a wise woman who literally wrote the book on asking great questions.

## 1. Campfire Vibes, Not Classroom Chaos

Remember, your small group isn't a lecture hall. It's a circle of friends gathered around truth. Your goal? Spark a conversation, not a spotlight of terror.

Instead of: "John, explain the theological implications of Paul's use of the word 'justification' in Romans chapter 3."

Try: "What jumps out at you from this passage? What do you think Paul is trying to say?"

See the difference? The first question makes you want to crawl under a rock. The second invites everyone into the conversation, making space for different perspectives.

## 2. Sharp Shooters, Not Scatter Shots

Think of your questions like arrows, not a shotgun blast. Keep them focused and clear. No one wants to untangle a question with more twists and turns than a pretzel factory.



If you've got a complex topic, break it down. Instead of one massive question, ask a few smaller, simpler ones. It's like building a bridge, one step at a time.

### 3. Plain Talk, Not Professor Speak

Imagine you're explaining this to your friend who just started exploring faith. Would they understand your question? Ditch the theological jargon and insider language. Keep it simple, keep it real.

### 4. Mean What You Ask

Words matter, people! Choose them carefully. Vague questions lead to vague answers. Be intentional, be precise. Hit the bullseye with your questions, not the wall next to the dartboard.

### 5. Unlock the "Why"

"Yes" or "no" questions are like dead ends. They shut down the conversation faster than you can say "amen." Instead, ask open-ended questions that invite people to think, reflect, and share their hearts.

Instead of: "Did you understand this passage?" (Cue the chorus of mumbled "yeses".)

Try: "What stirred in your heart as you read this? What questions did it raise for you?"

### 6. Heart Matters

Faith isn't just about head knowledge, it's about heart transformation. So, craft questions that tap into emotions, personal experiences, and those "God moments" that make us go "whoa."

### 7. Real Life, Real Faith

Let's be honest, sometimes the Bible can feel like it happened a long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. So, build a bridge between those ancient truths and your group's lives. Connect the dots to their interests, their struggles, their everyday experiences.



## 8. Questions, Questions Everywhere!

Don't be surprised if your group starts throwing questions back at you! That's a good thing! Instead of giving a mini-sermon, toss the ball back to the group. "That's a great question! What do you all think?"

### You've Got This!

Leading a small group is an amazing privilege. By mastering the art of asking great questions, you'll create a space where people connect, grow, and encounter God in powerful ways. So, go forth and ignite those conversations!

