

## **Learning to Listen & Ask Questions (Wil) (9:10-9:30):**

Exercise: *Drawing Twins*

Questions after round 1.

- Why don't many drawings look like the original?
- Artists what were your frustrations with the source of the instruction?

Questions after round 2.

- Did it help knowing what you were drawing beforehand?
- Did it help to be able to ask questions?

Questions after round 3.

- Did it help to be able to watch the person drawing?
- How could this possibly relate to evangelism?

Randy Newman in his book "Questioning Evangelism" suggests evangelism that "will sound less content/persuasion driven and more relationship/understanding driven."

The goal of questioning is to help people know *how* to think not necessarily *what* to think.

Here are some main ideas and basic principles:

- Understand your own basic assumptions about your Christian beliefs.
- You want to help people to understand their own assumptions.
- It'd also be good to help them understand why they believe them.

The importance of asking questions: Jesus often answered questions with questions.

- Mk 10:17-18 *As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.*
- Mt 12:9-12 *Departing from there, He went into their synagogue. <sup>10</sup>And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse Him. And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup>How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."*
- Matthew 21:28-32 *"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he*

*answered, 'I will, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They \*said, "The first." Jesus \*said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe him.*

Why did Jesus do this? What do you think? (Table talk about the benefits of asking questions)

The benefit of asking questions:

- Questions make great *conversation* starters.
- Questions are interactive by nature. Allows you to engage in dialogue is often more effective with a non-believer than a lecture.
- Questions shows we respect people enough to listen to them.
- Questions force people to examine their own beliefs and assumptions.
- Questions takes the pressure off you.

Burden of Proof: Who bears the burden of proof?

*Read Scenario #1:*

- Someone should ask the question, "How did you come to that conclusion?"
- Whoever makes the claim bears the burden.
- Two of the most tactical questions:
  - What do you believe? Why do you believe it?

Examples of responding to a hostile question with a question:

- You don't believe God really sends people to hell, do you?
  - Do you think there should be a consequence for bad things?
  - Do you think anyone deserves to go to hell?
  - Does Hitler deserve to be in hell?
- Jesus was just a good teacher.
  - What do you mean by just?
  - What makes you think that Jesus was a good teacher?
  - What makes him good?
  - What do you know about what Jesus taught?

It's important to try to understand what someone believes:

- Do they believe in the existence of God?
- What do they believe (or know about) the Bible?
- Do they understand the concept of personal accountability?
- Do they know who Jesus is?

We do this by what Gregory Koukl calls “staying in the driver’s seat” when asking questions.

### *Read Scenario #2*

One of the best ways to transition to the gospel is asking the right kind of questions. We ought to do so with tact, grace, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Read Colossians 4:5-6. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Here’s a list of helpful questions:

1. Do you have any interest in spiritual things?
2. Do you have any spiritual beliefs?
3. What is your religious background?
4. What do you think is the purpose of life?
5. Do you ever wonder about life after death?
6. Who is Jesus to you?
7. Have you read much of the Bible?
8. Is there anything I can be praying for you?
9. How do you find strength when you’re going through hard times?
10. What do you think it means to be a Christian?
11. If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
12. How would you determine if a person is good or not?
13. Do you think there is such a thing as right and wrong? How do you know?
14. If you were to die tonight, how sure are you that you’d go to heaven?
15. If God asked you, “Why should I let you into heaven...” what would you say?
16. What is the biggest issue that prevents you from being a Christian?
17. Would you like to know how you can have a personal relationship with God?
18. Has anyone ever explained to you how you can have a personal relationship with Jesus?

Tactical Questions:

19. What do you mean by that?
20. How did you come to that conclusion? Why do you say that? What are your reasons for holding that view?
21. How do you know?

Questions can be great to help you understand what a person believes and why they believe it.

