



# Writing Good Questions

## For Inductive Bible Studies

The questions a Life Group leader asks have a profound effect on the quality of a group Bible study. But for most of us, thinking of great questions that draw people out isn't something that comes naturally. Writing good questions takes work and practice. What follows is some great info about different types of questions and about what makes a "good" Bible study question.

### **Remember this: Observation, interpretation, and application questions.**

**Observations** → The answer is clearly in the text.

**Interpretation** → You "figure out" what was happening by observations in the text.

**Application** → Find a "timeless principle" in the text and applying it immediately.

### **Good Bible study questions tend to:**

- Use language that is accessible to the group (avoid Christian-ese).
- Be text-based (even application questions should be reflective of the passage you've read).
- Help Life Group members relate to the text with their emotions and/or experiences.
- Be open-ended (not yes/no questions).
- Be concise.
- Make people think deeply.

*Each type of question is useful, and a combination of them will tend to make for an interesting, relevant, and in depth study. It is important to make sure you've personally, prayerfully studied the text. We need to "hang out" with the passage long enough to work through our own thoughts and questions so that we can anticipate others' questions and thoughts. Then we'll think of questions that are the most relevant, allow for the deepest discussions, and have the most potential to actually transform lives.*

### **Here are some genres of questions:**

1. Questions that help the group envision the scene.
2. Questions that capture the point of tension in a text.
3. Questions that link the students' lives to the text.
4. Questions that tie the discussion together.

### **Examples of questions using Mark 4:35-41**

<b>Questions that:</b>	<b>A good example:</b>	<b>A bad example:</b>
<i>Help the group envision the scene</i>	What would it be like to be one of the fishermen that evening in the boat?	Who was there?
<i>Capture the tension or point of intrigue in the text</i>	What is Jesus' attitude towards the disciples when he wakes up?	What do you think of the disciples' lack of faith when they wake Jesus?
<i>Tie portions of the discussion together</i>	In this passage, the disciples voice two different questions. How would you compare these two questions?	How does the sea change over the course of this passage?
<i>Link students' lives to the text</i>	Describe a time when you were physically or emotionally overwhelmed.	When is the last time you were on a boat?

