Four Types of Discussion Questions

1. Opening/Ice Breaker Questions
   The opening question has a purpose beyond merely getting people to know each other or talk.
   1. A good opening question should level the playing field.
   2. A good opening question will help the group connect to the Bible lesson.

   Keys to asking good opening questions:
   1. Can be answered with more than a one word response.
   2. Are as general as possible.
   3. Are welcoming to everyone.

2. Observation Questions
   These questions uncover the facts. Start with: who, what, when, where?

   Keys to asking good observation questions:
   1. Avoid being the Bible answer person.
   2. Summarize the group’s answers.
   3. Avoid using jargon.

3. Interpretation Questions
   These questions uncover motivations of one’s actions. Start with: why?

   Keys to asking good interpretation questions:
   1. Connect group members with the Bible story or theme.
   2. Provide a bridge between the observation and application questions.

4. Application Questions
   These questions enable the group members to take the truths learned and discover how to apply them in practical ways individually and as a group.

   Keys to good application questions:
   1. Expect specific and measurable responses.
   2. Ask for collective action as well as individual action.

   What to avoid:
   1. Avoid making assumptions.
   2. Avoid looking away.
   3. Avoid speaking when it’s silent.

   Avoid getting anxious.