



COMMUNITY GROUP TALK-BASED QUESTION DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for the value you are adding to the spiritual development of the people and community of newhope! Our mission is to present hope and develop people, and how we invite and help people think about and understand God and themselves through these groups will directly impact the freedom and hope they experience in their relationship with God and with others. The questions you create matter!

As you're creating discussion questions for the talk-based groups, here are some things to guide your process. Also, read the article, [Five Ways Adults Learn](#), before you start writing questions.

Objectives

- For individuals to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
- Create questions that help leaders facilitate honest discussion about faith and life experiences with their group.
- To have people engage deeply and critically (analytical thinking) with scripture and the talks. (Explore, analyze, apply) We want people to engage their critical thinking skills and ask questions when it comes to thinking about faith, rather than focusing on a "right answer."
- Provide opportunities for people in groups to apply and move forward with scripture and ideas from the talk.

Criteria for Writing Questions:

- Provide 4-6 questions for the group to discuss
- Open with an opening question that relates to the theme or application of the talk or the theme you'll discuss.
- Ask at least one question that gives them the opportunity to look up other scriptures relating to the topic, and provide at least 2-4 supplementary scriptures for them to start with.
- We always want to include two questions that cause us to answer:
 - *What does this topic, scripture, etc. tell me/us about who God is?*
 - *Why does it matter or what does this mean for me/us?*
 - **Feel free to adapt these concepts and language to fit your topic or use them as they are, but these two questions are the most important ones we can ask. People are on a continual internal search to understand who God is and who they are (their identity), and they make decisions about how they live out of their understanding of these two questions. We want to provide space where they can get truthful answers to those questions.**
- If applicable, include a question that addresses or helps cultivate tools for living out an aspect of faith.
- The last question should ask them to evaluate *what Jesus is asking them to do and how/when will they do it?* We want to teach people to listen to the Holy Spirit and



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respond to what He is saying to them, rather than assuming that there is only one application for everyone.

- Use language that is approachable for everyone regardless of Bible knowledge or church background. Before finishing, ask: "would someone who has never been to church be able to understand this language?"
- When finished writing your questions, go back and check for spelling, grammar and fluency. Read each question out loud to make sure it flows and makes sense.
- Save your document as a PDF and upload it to the newhope website. (see instructions on *Uploading CG Questions to Website*)

Questions to ask yourself as you're writing questions:

1. What 1 or 2 main ideas from the talk do we want them to explore and understand better?
2. What critical questions do I need to ask so they understand those main points?
3. What questions do we need to ask so they dig deeper and do not remain on the surface?
4. What can I ask to help them explore how they can relate the passage to their life?
5. What can I ask to help them apply the passage to their life?

Sample Questions:

Opening Question: can provide leaders with a few options:

1. A question that relates to the theme or application of the talk.

Example: (Relating to the theme of living by faith) When is a time that you've had to take a big step of faith/a big risk? What was the outcome and what was something you learned about God and yourself in the process?

2. A question that gives people the option to share how they applied the *how* from the week before. This provides an opportunity for growth, accountability, and encouragement.

Example: Last week many of us identified an area we wanted to grow in or something we wanted to start doing. How did that go for you this past week?

3. A fun question

Example: Would you rather have a tail or horn? Why?

Questions that explore what scripture says about a topic or tool for living out faith:

1. What are some scriptures that could serve as tools or a filter for our emotions? (Ex: Ephesians 4:8-9)
2. (Example based on talk about Benaiah and "Chasing the Roar"): There are times when God asks us to "chase the roar" or respond in faith to what He's calling us to, and a very real response in those moments would be to experience fear. What are some scriptures that could encourage and give confidence to us in those moments?



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John 14:1, Psalm 28:7, Romans 15:13, John 14:26-27, Deuteronomy 31:6, Isaiah 26:3, Proverbs 3:5-6

Questions that develop or facilitate tools for living out faith:

- A question that addresses or helps cultivate tools for living out an aspect of faith.
 - Context: In talks at newhope, we often talk about "living by faith" when we're following Jesus; this involves decision making. A question that could be asked to help people think about *HOW* they live by faith and make those decisions.
 - When we're trying to discern whether God is asking us to obey or take a step of faith, what are some "best practices" or ways we can accurately discern God's voice in our lives? (scripture, paying attention to reoccurring thoughts, getting wise council, etc.)

Closing Questions:

- In 2 Timothy 3:16, Timothy says that "16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right." With that in mind, what is the main (or one) thing the story of Beniah has taught you or challenged you to surrender to Jesus and change?
- What is one thing Jesus is asking you to do this week?
- What is one takeaway from our discussion today? (this is a good one as it is general and can leave room for application and insight responses)