

99 Wondering Questions

The following is a list of “99 Wondering Questions” from the book “Irresistible Evangelism” by Sjogren, Ping, and Pollock. The purpose of this list is to restore child-like wonder and curiosity to our conversations, to encourage dialogue, and to get to know people on a deeper level.

What this list is NOT:

- 1) It is not a list of springboard questions for a gospel presentation. Certainly, these may help lead to an opening for the gospel, but the main point is to show interest and to engage people in “active wonder” and curiosity about life.
- 2) It is not a list to be memorized so we can ask people a series of canned questions. It’s simply to give you a taste of the kind of questions that promote discussion, dialogue, and deeper human connection.
- 3) It is not a requirement to ever use any of these questions. Depending on your personality, you might choose to use these verbatim, you may adapt them and put them in your own words, or never use any of them. It’s just a list to get our wheels turning, to fuel our thinking about good questions to make conversation.

Life Lessons:

1. I’ve made it my lifelong goal to learn from others; what’s the greatest lesson you’ve learned thus far in your life’s journey?
2. Tell me about your greatest success and your greatest failure along the way.
3. Would you share the greatest piece of wisdom ever passed on to you?

Life Goals:

4. What prompted you to pursue your career in _____?
5. What do you like most about what you do; how about the least?
6. Do you see what you’re doing as a lifetime career or a stepping stone to something else?

God:

7. If someone wanted to talk to you about God, how would you like to be approached?
8. Has anyone ever approached you and tried to talk to you about God?
9. What kinds of feelings were you left with after the encounter?

Evangelism:

10. What images or words come to your mind when you hear the word evangelism?
11. The word evangelism means proclaiming good news; why do you think so many people view this word so negatively?
12. Do you know what the good news is that evangelists are supposed to be sharing with people?

Career:

13. What is your ultimate dream job?
14. What stands in the way of your achieving it?
15. What advice would you give to a young person just entering the workforce today?

Religious Experience:

16. What kind of exposure did you have to religion as you were growing up?
17. Why do you think there are so many different religions?
18. Do you think it’s possible for each one to be right?

Eternity:

19. What conclusions concerning an afterlife have you reached?
20. Do you think it’s possible to have a degree of certainty about where you will spend eternity?
21. Have you ever taken the time to explore what the Bible has to say concerning eternity?

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A Good Life:

- 22. Have you ever been able to get a handle on what you think your purpose in life is?
- 23. People say that many by itself cannot buy happiness; what does lead to a happy life?
- 24. Where do you feel you are really winning in life? Losing at life?

Becoming a Christian:

- 25. In your opinion, how does one become a Christian?
- 26. Do you think it's possible to know God personally?
- 27. Has anyone ever shown you what the Bible says about how to begin a personal relationship with God?

World Events:

- 28. How did 9/11 affect your view of God and the world?
- 29. When you watch or read the news, what conclusions do you draw about the nature of man?
- 30. Is there a solution to social problems like rape, murder, famine, war, racism, and divorce?

Good versus Evil:

- 31. Have you ever sensed the presence of evil?
- 32. Have you ever sensed the presence of God?
- 33. Have you had any major turning points in life?

Barriers to Belief:

- 34. What do you find the most difficult pill to swallow concerning belief in God?
- 35. It's been said that Christians are like bulldogs: they have big teeth and a loud bark, but no brains. Have you found this stereotype to be true?
- 36. Would it be fair to say that your disbelief in God is due more to your experience with Christians or with God himself?

Relative Truth:

- 37. It sounds like you value open-mindedness. Do you ever find yourself closing your mind to certain things, ideas, or people?
- 38. What criteria do you use when determining whether something is true or not?
- 39. Does your worldview allow for any absolutes?

Marriage or Dating:

- 40. How did you meet your wife/husband (or boyfriend/girlfriend)?
- 41. What have you learned about yourself through marriage or dating?
- 42. What do you enjoy the most about marriage or dating? What do you enjoy the least?

Love:

- 43. Has your understanding of the word love changed at all over the years?
- 44. Why do you think so many couples end up falling out of love?
- 45. If you could pass one secret on to the world about how to keep a relationship going and growing, what would it be?

Finding God:

- 46. Why do you think so many people prefer to live as if God does not exist?
- 47. What would you want God to do to validate his existence and bring you to belief?
- 48. It's been said that many people never find God for the same reason a robber can't find the policeman standing on the corner. What does this saying mean to you?

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Right and Wrong:

49. Many have suggested that we are a product of a random evolution. If this is true, why do you think our culture still talks of right and wrong?
50. How do you teach your kids right from wrong?
51. What authority do you appeal to for such teaching in a world that says right and wrong have no meaning other than what we give the words?

Dreams:

52. What did you see yourself doing career-wise when you were eighteen?
53. What dreams have you let go of?
54. What dreams are you still hanging on to?

The Future:

55. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of our world?
56. Do you think it's easier or harder to raise kids in today's world?
57. What concerns you most as you think about your future?

Major Influences:

58. Who is the most impressive person you have ever met?
59. Has there been one book/movie that has greatly influenced you?
60. Besides your parents, is there any one person who stands out as having had a major influence in your life?

Change:

61. God has begun to change my life. Have you ever considered letting him change yours?
62. If God has his way with you, what do you think He would change first?
63. What scares you the most about letting God change your life?

Taking Stock:

64. What three principles have benefited you the most thus far in your life journey?
65. What, if anything, causes you to be hopeful about your future?
66. Is there anything left undone in your life that would cause you great sadness if you only had twenty-four hours to live?

Getting to Know You:

67. As people get to know you, what do they enjoy most about you?
68. What do they enjoy least?
69. As people get to know you, in what area do you feel most misunderstood?

Leadership:

70. How would you describe your leadership style?
71. What leadership style do you respond best to?
72. Jesus was described as a servant leader. What kind of images does that stir up inside you?

Direction:

73. Why do you do what you do?
74. What life experiences have molded you and motivated you to pursue this path?
75. Would you choose this same path again?

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Questions for God:

- 76. If you could ask God any three questions, what would they be?
- 77. What would you say if God asked this one question: "Are you for Me or against Me?"
- 78. How would you defend yourself if your response was put on trial?

Sex:

- 79. Which sex do you think has the tougher path in life?
- 80. What do you enjoy most about the opposite sex?
- 81. What do you enjoy most about being male/female?

Hate:

- 82. Have you ever hated anyone?
- 83. Has anyone ever hated you?
- 84. Do you think there is a solution for this emotion?

Death:

- 85. If you could choose the manner of your death, how would you like to go?
- 86. What would you like written on your tombstone or spoken at your funeral?
- 87. Does the thought of death scare you?

Control:

- 88. It's been said that life is largely out of our control. If that's true, why do so many people try to control the life they live?
- 89. Do you struggle with that?
- 90. What kinds of things do you think can be controlled in life?

Habits:

- 91. What kinds of habits do you struggle with most?
- 92. Do you ever find yourself wondering why you don't do the things you want to do and end up doing the things you don't want to do?
- 93. Do you think there is anything out there that can set you free from this cycle?

Childhood:

- 94. How would you change the way you were raised?
- 95. What things are you going to do or are you doing as you raise your kids?
- 96. What values from your childhood do you want to pass on to your kids?

Questions for Jesus:

- 97. If Jesus were here right now, what would you ask Him for?
- 98. How do you think He would answer?
- 99. How would you feel if that happened?

Source: Sjogren, Steve, et al. "Irresistible Evangelism." Group, 2004.