

Reading 1: Use questions to help your students connect God's world and Word

You: Why use questions to help students connect God's world and Word?

Me: Two reasons. First, because it's doable.

You: What do you mean "doable"?

Me: Well, you already know how to ask questions. Your students already know how to answer questions. And you don't have to have all the answers. You can start with the answers you have. You can use questions anywhere, at any time, and without equipment—you don't need a whiteboard, sound system, projector, or computer.

Bottom line? You already have what you need to use questions. Today. Right now. During your next class. Just ask a question. How about "How can we use what we are learning to serve others?"

You: You said you had 2 reasons for using questions to help students connect God's world and Word. What's other reason?

Me: Because it works. Students connect God's world and Word as they consider questions like "How can I be a wise steward?" "How can I bridge cultural differences?" "How can I use math to make sense of God's world?"

You: Got any examples to support that?

Me: Sure—one student shared, "Questions challenge me to think in new ways and help me be a discerning thinker, to use a Biblical perspective."

And another student shared, "The question 'What's wrong with the world?' helped me. Many times in literature the characters are searching for truth and trying to escape whatever is wrong in their situations, so this question helps me connect to the Bible because the Bible tells us what exactly is wrong and how we can solve it (connecting to Christ)."

You: Do teachers think questions help students make connections?

Me: Yes. An elementary teacher said, "My students have learned to apply a Biblical perspective to course content. I ask them questions like, 'How can I show that I obey God?'"

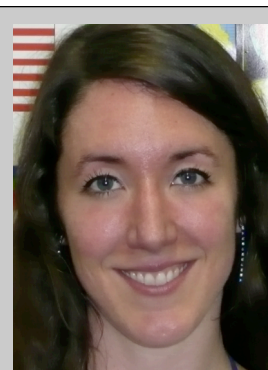
A middle school teacher said, "In my classes I ask questions like 'How do authors help us see truth?' Using questions like this helps my students see God's will in all that they do and understand that God's Word applies to all subjects." And a high school teacher said, "Using questions has helped my students think through a Biblical perspective and apply it to course content and to their lives."

You: So I should use questions because it's doable and it works.

Me: You got it. You can use questions right now. Using questions will help your students connect God's world and Word.

You: Now what?

Me: Take action. Get better at using questions to help your students connect God's world and Word. You can do this by discussing this reading, by taking a self-assessment on using questions, and by using your self-assessment data to help your students make connections.



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I ask my students, "How does God show creativity?"

In our weather study, a student wrote, "No two things made by God are the same."

In our current health unit, which focuses on growing and changing, one student responded, "God made us with detail. Each one of us is different."

To help your students make connections, ask questions like...

1. What's true?
2. How can you be a good caretaker?
3. How should you deal with injustice?
4. How should you respond to competition?
5. How can you make healthy decisions?