

Gospel Enquires: What are they and how do we do them?

What is it?

The purpose of the Gospel enquiry is first to help the young people to get to know the person Jesus Christ and to allow him to speak to them through the words, actions and experiences of the Gospel narratives. Secondly, it is intended to help them to relate the gospel message to their everyday lives.

Discuss!

Why is it important to know Jesus Christ? How do we get to know him?

How can the gospels, written 2000 years ago, have anything to say about life today? Why are they so important?

So how do we do them?

See

Read the passage. Let one or two people describe the content of the story in their own words.

Ask questions like:

Why did Jesus, the disciples or the other characters act or speak as they did?

What were the effects of Jesus' words or actions? How did people react?

What particularly strikes us or surprises us?

Judge

Can we think of a situation or experience today which is like what happens in this passage?

What attitudes and ways of behaving do we encounter today which are similar? What would we like to see changed?

How could things be different?

Act

What are we ourselves prompted to do by this Gospel story?

How can we imitate the actions or words of Jesus in our own life?

What can we promise to do during the coming week?

This way of doing the Review of Life gives more time to the Gospel text or scripture passage and helps the young people become more familiar with the story of Jesus' life and with his words and actions.

A Gospel/Scripture Enquiry is often used when the group is looking at a specific topic, during the JUDGE stage of the Review of Life. It can also be used as a stand alone meeting, without being part of a longer enquiry.

Preparing the Scripture Enquiry

The group should decide that they want to do a Scripture Enquiry, choose their passage and choose a leader(s) to prepare the session. It will be necessary for you, the adult companion, to help the leader(s) reflect upon the passage, so that they are able to prepare some questions and lead the group discussion. Prepare with the leader(s) by reading the Gospel passage out

loud. After it has been read wait a moment and then get someone else to read it. Hearing the same passage by two different voices can often help in gaining a deeper insight into the passage.

After the second reading the young people should begin to note what strikes them about the passage and begin to formulate some questions, which will in turn help the group to come to a deeper understanding of the message contained in the passage they have chosen.

A few points...

- The Gospel Enquiry is not a Bible study or scripture lesson. It's aim is to relate the Gospel message to the everyday life of the young person.
- Some simple background details will be necessary but detailed explanations can be confusing.
- The important thing is to make the passage come alive and to allow its relevance to today's world to become evident.

Some topics and texts

Who is Jesus and what is His Mission?

Mt 3:13-17

Mt 4:12-17

Mk 6:1-6

Lk 2:41-50

Lk 4:16-24

Jn 2:1-12

Jn 2:13-22

Jn 8:12

Jn 10:1-5

Call and Mission of the Disciples

Mt 4:18-21

Mt 9:9-13

Mt 10:1-10

Mk 6:7-13

Lk 5:1-11

Parables

Lk 10 :25-37

Lk 14 :15-24

Lk 15:1-7

Lk 15:8-10

Lk 15:11-31

Lk 16:19-30

Lk 18:9-14

The Kingdom of God

Mt 13:1-9

Mt 13:31-33

Mt 13: 45

Teaching and Values

Mt 5:1-12

Mt 5:38-48

Mt 6:19-21,24

Mt 6:25-34

Mt 7:12-14

Mk 10:23-27

Mk 12:28-34

Prayer

Mt 6:5-6

Mt 6:7-15

Mt 7:7-11

Lk 18:1-8

Following Christ

Mt 5:13-16

Mt 9:35-37

Mk 9:33-37

Mk 10:41-45

Mk 13:33-37

Lk 1:26-38

Lk 6:46-49

Healing

Mk 1:21-28

Mk 1:40-45

Mk 7:31-37

Mk 8:22-26

Mt 9:1-8

Lk 7:1-10

Raising to Life

Lk 7:11-17

Mt 9:18-23

Jn 11:17-43

Attitude to Sinners

Lk 7:36-50

Lk 23:39-43

Jn 8:2-11

Feeding the hungry

Mk 6:30-44

On the Lake

Mk 4:35-41

Last Judgement

Mt 25:31-45