



# GET THE DISCUSSION GOING!

How to plan and lead a faith building discussion

# Planning

- Leading a good discussion takes planning & practice.
  - Ask the most helpful types of questions
  - Be an active listener
  - Give the most encouraging feedback



# Planning Questions

## □ Factual

- Right or wrong answers
- Limited
- Helpful for review



# Planning Questions

## □ Analytical

- From fact to meaning
- Multiple appropriate answers
- Open-ended
- Invite analysis & thinking



# Planning Questions

## □ Productive

- From meaning to life application

- Open

- Helpful, but not necessary, to support with facts & analysis

- Invite imagination & creativity



# Practice

## □ Deuteronomy 6:4-10

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

# Getting Started

- Know your content
- Know your students
- Prepare in advance for silence



# Keeping It Going

- Ask questions that are more open than closed.
- Move from more factual to more analytical, then to more productive questions.
- Present questions to the whole group.
- Ask one question at a time.



# And Going

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- Follow up with prompting questions.
- Follow up with probing questions.
- Give positive feedback.
- Use inquiry not interrogation.
- Provide qualifying instructions.

# More Practice

- What 3 types of questions were explained today?
- How does asking each of these 3 types of questions contribute to building the faith of students?
  - ▣ factual questions? analytical questions? productive questions?
- When and how will you begin to develop the art of discussion in your own teaching ministry?