

The A-Team

A-Team stands for "Answer Team." This problem-solving exercise stimulates discussion. Before you begin, write a number of problems or questions (like those that follow) on slips of paper and place them in a bowl. Then have the participants divide into A-Teams, which should be no larger than three or four.

Have each team draw a question from the bowl and go somewhere to work on a solution or an answer. Allow approximately ten minutes for this. When the teams return, have each team read its problem or question and share its response. The rest of the group can

decide whether they agree with the answer. If there is disagreement, have the group discuss the issue.

1. I don't get it. If Christianity is true, why are there so many religions that call themselves Christian? I mean, what is the difference between Baptists, Catholics, and so on?
2. If you ask me, the Christian religion makes you a doormat, always loving and turning the other cheek.
3. What if I lived like hell for eighty years and then became a Christian on my deathbed? Would Pope John Paul II and I go to the same place?
4. Your father says this to you: "Your mother and I do not believe in all this Jesus stuff, and we think you spend too much time in church. So we want you to stay away from church for a while."
5. If God is a god, then why can't we see him or her or it? Why don't you prove that God exists? Go ahead . . . prove it to me.
6. The Bible has some nice little stories in it, but everyone knows it is full of contradictions, errors, and myths. How can you believe it?
7. I know a bunch of people that go to your church, and they are supposed to be Christians. But I also know what they do during the week and at parties that I attend. They are phonies. If Christianity is so great, why are there so many phonies?
8. My little brother died of leukemia, and I prayed like crazy. Don't tell me there is a God who loves us. Why didn't God help my brother?
9. Look, I know I am overweight, and even though it hurts me to say it, I'm ugly. I started coming to your church because I thought the kids in your youth group would treat me differently than the kids do at school. Wrong! They ignore me and make fun of me just like everyone else.
10. My parents make me go to church. I like the youth program, but the Mass is a drag. Our priest's homilies are irrelevant and boring, and Mass doesn't relate to me at all.
11. I have always been told that kids who smoke grass and drink really don't enjoy it. I haven't done any of those things partly because I believed that and partly because I didn't think it was a Christian thing to do. At least, I thought that until a few weeks ago. I tried pot and drinking, and it was great. I never had so much fun in my life. How can something so good be bad? Did the people who told me these things were bad lie?