

The Art of Thinking

Getting kids to think



- ▶ Ask the right questions in the right order.
 - ▶ Get them hooked
 - ▶ Start simple and progress to more involved
- ▶ Goal - to think and apply knowledge (higher order thinking skills)
 - ▶ Lots of people thinking
 - ▶ Personal learning
- ▶ Reflection is key



“ Mirror ,
mirror on the
wall ... ”

Reflection is

linking and constructing
meaning from
experiences



Parts to reflection

- * Taking a current experience and linking it to a previous learning
- * Involves both mental and emotional components
- * Synthesizing and evaluating data
- * It enhances the meaning of something



What does the Bible say about reflection?

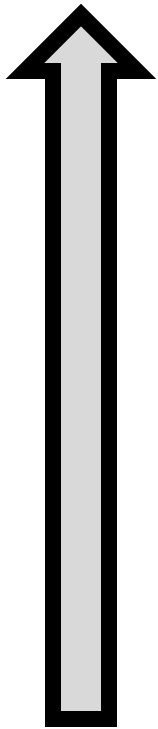
- ▶ **2 Cor. 13:5** Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith
- ▶ **Lam 3:40** Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.
- ▶ **Ps. 4:4** when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.
- ▶ **Jer. 6:16** Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.
- ▶ **Gal. 6:4** Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else
- ▶ **Matt. 7:3** Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

How do you get kids to reflect?

- ▶ Start Simple - a question that everyone can respond to - scale of 1-5, thumbs up or down, raise your hand if ...
- ▶ Observe and listen to what is said and done
- ▶ Ask questions sequentially:
 - ❑ what? (DATA)
 - ❑ So what? (ANALYZE)
 - ❑ Now what? (TRANSFER)
- ▶ Let students talk with a partner or a group - 1 answer for the group
- ▶ Be aware of group dynamics
- ▶ Age appropriate

Taxonomy of Reflection

- model developed by Peter Pappas



Creating

Evaluating

Analyzing

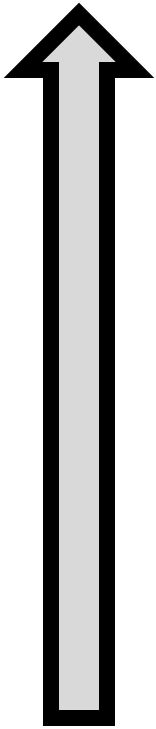
Applying

Understanding

Remembering

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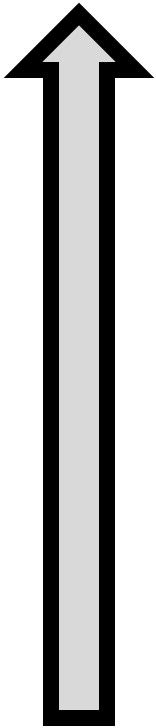
Applying

Understanding

Remembering - What did you notice? What happened?

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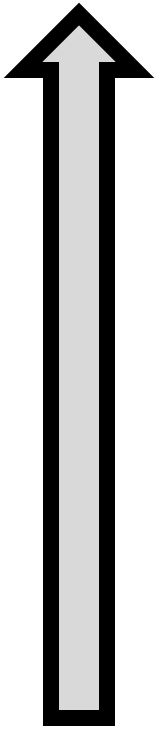
Applying

Understanding - Why did it happen? What is important about it?

Remembering - What did you notice? What happened?

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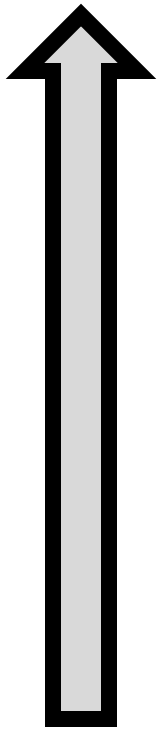
Applying - Does this happen in life? Where can I use this again?

Understanding - Why did it happen? What is important about it?

Remembering - What did you notice? What happened?

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Creating

Evaluating

Analyzing - How, when or where does this happen?

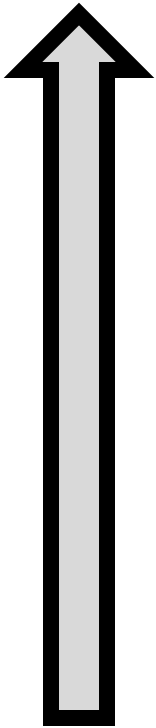
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this again?

Understanding - Why did it happen? What is important
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Remembering - What did you notice? What happened?

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Creating

Evaluating - What will you do now?

Analyzing - How, when or where does this happen?

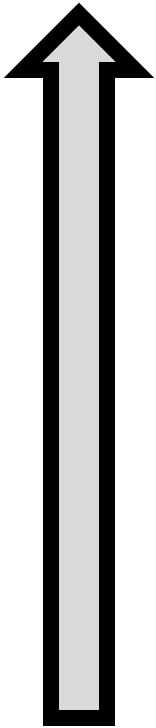
Applying - Does this happen in life? Where can I use
this again?

Understanding - Why did it happen? What is important
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Creating - What should I do next?

Evaluating - What will you do now?

Analyzing - How, when or where does this happen?

Applying - Does this happen in life? Where can I use
this again?

Understanding - Why did it happen? What is important
about it?

Remembering - What did you notice? What happened?

Reflection

takes work

“To take an honest look at oneself demands some courage and much grace.”

“ We will never develop a mature spirit if we do not risk and more importantly tell the truth about our limitations and failures”

“Our best lessons come out of our own questions, our own searching, our own discoveries. “

- Greg Robinson Lessons of The Way

Thoughts

Reflection Questions for Youth Leaders

- ✓ What are you currently trying to get your students to do or to believe?
- ✓ Do you provide more answers or questions to those you disciple?
- ✓ When you are with your students, what percentage of the time do you spend talking about their stories and experiences?
- ✓ How often do your students reveal their failures, fears, and limitations? Why do you think that is?
- ✓ What questions do you wish your students would ask themselves?
- ✓ What conditions could you change or create that would better promote spiritual formation or authentic community?

(Adventure & the Way of Jesus)

Which questions guide our lives?

Which questions do we make our own?

Which questions deserve our undivided attention
and full personal commitment?

Finding the right questions is as critical as finding
the right answers.

- Henri Nouwen