

## Benefits of questioning verses explaining

- Questioning encourages the student to be active participants in the learning process
- Questioning helps us clearly determine what the student knows from what is uncertain
- Questioning allows students to discover the answers; therefore, the learning is more meaningful

## The 6PQ Method (involves six levels of questioning)

1. **Preface**—The preface question should be very caring and broad.

What is it exactly that I can help you with?  
What are you having trouble with?  
In what way can I help you?

Before moving on from the preface question, you may need to paraphrase the information provided by the student.

2. **Pace**—The pace question will set the tone for the remainder of the session.

Tell me all you know about \_\_\_\_\_.  
Explain \_\_\_\_\_ as best you can.

Before moving on from the preface question, you may need to paraphrase the information provided by the student.

3. **Probe**—This is where you will really dig deep to evaluate complete understanding of the topic.

Why?  
Can you give me reasons?  
What makes you think so?  
Would you tell me more about \_\_\_\_\_?  
Can you give me an example?

Before moving on from the preface question, you may need to paraphrase the information provided by the student.

4. **Prod**—The prod questions encourage the student to speculate and guess.

If you had to guess, what would you say?  
I understand that you don't know, but what do you think it could be?  
What is your gut instinct?

Before moving on from the preface question, you may need to paraphrase the information provided by the student.

5. **Prompt**—This is where you will guide the student, step by step, to discover for themselves.

The Church was restored on April \_\_\_\_\_?  
The average of 5 and 3 is 4. How did I get that?  
What is the first step in this process? Second step? Third step?

Before moving on from the preface question, you may need to paraphrase the information provided by the student.

6. **Processing**—Allow the student to think through the information—by restating what they learned.

Now that you understand this concept, how would you compare it to another concept?  
How do you see this concept fitting into the entire course?  
Now that you get it, would you like to work through some examples?  
So, now, what can you tell me about \_\_\_\_\_?  
Now, tell me everything you know about \_\_\_\_\_.

### Exceptions

- There are times when you don't have to go through all six steps. The student may discover the answer on any step.
- There are times when questioning won't work, and you'll have to explain. In this case, try to put the explanation in question form.

### Some Other Tutoring Tips

- Sit next to the student, not across from them
- Be humble and show the student that you care
- Be honest—if you don't know the answer to a question, tell them you will find out and let them know
- Be a good listener—you want to make sure you know the true question before you answer
- Don't spoon feed the student—guide and assist them to open their own doors and lift their own veils
- Always be positive and cheerful about tutoring the subject matter—your energy will rub off
- Learn to love to serve others—in the heart of it, this is pure Gospel centered service
- Let the Spirit guide