

Here is a list of open-ended questions designed to help uncover a child's logic, reasoning, and unique perspective. They are phrased to gently expose assumptions, gaps, and misconceptions

1. The "How the World Works" Questions

These questions are great for revealing logic and potential misconceptions about science, nature, and cause-and-effect.

- **"If you could invent a new animal, what parts would it have and why?"** (Reveals their understanding of biological function and survival.)
- **"How do you think the sun knows when to come up in the morning?"** (This often reveals fascinating misconceptions about astronomy and personification of nature.)
- **"Where do you think money comes from before it gets to the bank?"** (Uncovers their grasp of economics, work, and value.)
- **"Why do you think we have to sleep every night?"**
- **"If you planted a LEGO brick in the ground, what would happen?"** (Tests their understanding of living vs. non-living things.)

2. The "Faith & Worldview" Questions

To see how a child is internalizing spiritual concepts.

- **"If you had to explain who God is to someone who has never heard of Him, what would you say?"** (This causes them to synthesize their theology into their own words.)
- **"Why do you think God lets us make mistakes?"** (reveals their understanding of grace, free will, and learning.)
- **"When you pray, how do you think God hears everyone at the same time?"** (Explores their concept of God's omnipresence.)
- **"What do you think is the difference between being 'good' and being a Christian?"** (This one is for identifying a "works vs. grace" misconception common in children.)
- **"Why do you think Jesus told so many stories (parables)?"**

3. The "Deep Dive" Learning Questions

Move beyond "What did you do at school?" to questions that reveal metacognition (thinking about thinking).

- **"What is something you believed yesterday that you don't believe today?"** (Celebrates the changing of a mind.)
- **"If you were the teacher tomorrow, what is the one thing you would teach the class?"** (Shows what they feel most confident in.)
- **"What was the hardest question you were asked today? How did you try to answer it?"**
- **"Is there anything you are trying to learn that feels like your brain is stuck?"**

4. The "Heart & Ethics" Questions

These reveal moral reasoning and emotional intelligence.

- **"How do you know when someone is a true friend?"**
- **"If you could make one new rule for our whole family, what would it be and why?"**
(Reveals what they perceive as unfair or chaotic.)
- **"Why do you think people are sometimes mean to each other?"**
- **"What is the bravest thing you've seen someone do recently?"** (Reveals their definition of courage.)

Sidebar for Parents: "How to Listen"

- **The Poker Face:** When your child says something logically wild (e.g., "The moon follows our car because it likes us"), try not to laugh or correct them immediately.
- **The Magic Phrase:** Instead of correcting, say: **"That is such an interesting thought. What makes you think that?"** This invites them to show their "evidence."
- **The "Wait Time":** After you ask a question, count to ten in your head. Children need longer to process abstract thoughts than adults do.
- **Valuing the Process:** The goal isn't to get the "right" answer, but to see the path they took to get there.