

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.