

## Ask the Right Questions

As the salesman came to the front door, he turned to the little boy sitting on the steps and asked, "Is your mother home?" The little boy replied, "Yes," and the salesman began to ring the doorbell. After several rings and no response, he turned to the boy and said, "I thought you said your mother was home," to which the boy replied, "She is, but this isn't my house."

Sometimes we get the wrong answers because we ask the wrong questions. I was taught to ask people, "Are you saved?" Now maybe 50 years ago most people would know what I was asking, but today that is not true.

"Are you saved?" is Christian vocabulary that many people in our country are not familiar with. So if we ask them if they are saved, they will not know what we are asking. Likely they will say something like, "Saved from what?" And if we say, "Saved from your sins," they might respond with, "What are sins?"

Then as you tell them what sins are, and that they are sinners, they may feel judged, maybe attacked, and the conversation may break down.

So what kinds of questions should we be asking people? Some suggestions would include:

Do you consider yourself to be a spiritual person? What form does this take? What is God doing in your life? What kind of god do you believe in, if any? Have you ever been to a church? Tell me about it. What did you understand it to be about?

As you try to tell people about Jesus, ask them questions that will help you see what part of Biblical truth they already agree with. This gives you a starting place to dialogue about what you believe in. We need to see if they are open to our message before we present it to them.

- pastor Robin