

QUESTIONS PROXE

Training

TRAINER NOTES

The Questions Proxe Station engages students in both fun, thoughtful questions and in the power of the Holy Spirit, all in a 10-20 minute encounter! In our test, there was even a student healed during the training. This proxe does have more elements, and requires more time to train than previous proxe campaigns, depending on your students' experience with engaging tough questions and praying with non-Christians. This training is designed for 90 minutes, including time to practice. If you choose to break it up into two training sessions, we recommend doing the healing training separately.

Please train your students in:

1. How to engage with tough questions
2. How to pray with non-Christians
3. How to share our Gospel summary

SET UP

Have the buckets and proxe posters set up before the training begins so that the students get the full experience. Bring copies of the script, gospel summary and contact cards/QR code.

WELCOME

Have fun as students arrive. Show them how to play Bucket Ball, and let them play until it is time to start.

CAST VISION (10 min)

FOR PROXE

InterVarsity is different from many student orgs, because we are not just for the people in the room, we exist for the whole campus and beyond. We want to start this semester obeying Jesus' call to have spiritual conversations with those surrounding us in hopes they will receive Jesus' words as good news and join us in growing to understand him together (Acts 1:8).

A new semester feels like a new start. It is a perfect time to have these conversations on campus! Some people are coming to campus for the first time and many do not know we even exist. Maybe others were casually interested in attending last semester, but their schedule didn't work and they need to be reminded. Others might not be Christians but had a spiritual experience or their curiosity peaked over break that makes them open in a way they weren't before. Still others may be actively opposed to Christianity or a member of another faith, but be open to an encounter with God that makes them curious.

Training

Being visible on campus and engaging people in conversations helps us meet all these people. Leading the proxe is also profoundly good for us. We get to practice having spiritual conversations and become more comfortable having spiritual conversations people we meet and those closest to us now and for the rest of our lives.

VISION FOR QUESTIONS PROXE

We are doing the Questions Proxe Proxe. We want people to know that it is ok to ask God and us big questions and give him space to prove that he is trustworthy. In the tests, non-Christians were impressed that we were willing to engage with tough questions.

In Pairs: What questions have you had about God or Christianity throughout your faith journey? How did you feel when you were asking them? How do you feel when others ask you spiritual questions?

(Share some questions and feelings as a group. Take a moment to pray as feels appropriate.)

DEMONSTRATION (10 min)

I need a volunteer to be a random student passing by. I will show us what the whole experience will look like. Then we will break down the different components and train you in each part. (Choose volunteer)

We will have one person as a gatherer inviting people passing by to invite people to play Bucket Ball.

Other people will be guides. People willing to engage with the station will be introduced to a guide. The guide will lead the conversation and walk them through the stations. Success is people leaving feeling heard and loved. We want to engage people in meaningful conversations where you learn more about their story and you can share some about yourself and ultimately Jesus.

Ok, let's start.

BUCKET BALL¹

"Hey, come play Bucket Ball! You throw the ball in. You answer a question. You win a prize!"

(Ask them a question)

TRANSITION

"We are InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. I asked you a question to get to know you a bit. We believe we can also ask God questions to get to know him. If you were to ask God one of these

Training

questions, which would you pick?"

PANEL 1

"Would you like to hear my thoughts?" (answer from responses)

TRANSITION

"Just like we can ask God big questions, God likes to ask us questions too. Do you have a few more minutes for this story about how Jesus asked a man a life-changing question?"

"Can you read it out loud?"

PANEL 2

[Read Mark 10:46-52¹]

"Jesus repeatedly asks people this important question, 'What do you want me to do for you?' I love this question because Jesus wants to hear the desires of our hearts, and this question allows the man to sincerely ask for healing."

"How about you? If you wanted Jesus to heal an area of your life, which would you ask for?"

Heal my
anxiety

Heal my
shame

Heal my
depression

Heal my
loneliness

Heal my
physical pain

"May I pray for you right now?"

(We have seen healings in trainings, so feel free to pause and encourage the volunteer to take the opportunity to ask for real prayer rather than act they are open to it.)

PANEL 3

"God doesn't only want to heal our mental and physical illnesses. God wants to bring spiritual wholeness to our broken world. Can I share about that?" (use script)

PAUSE SCRIPT

DEBRIEF

Turn to your neighbor. What do you like? What Questions or concerns do you have? How do you feel about doing this next week?

(Group debrief and Q&A)

ANSWERING QUESTIONS TRAINING (10 min.)

¹ The version on the proxe is our paraphrase.

Training

Take a moment to review the answers to the questions. Feel free to put things in your own words. These are only a sampling of answers. If you have a preferred way to answer a question write it down.

DEBRIEF

Is anything unclear? Does anyone have a favorite way to answer a question that is not on the list?

Please take some time familiarizing yourself with these answers. The more familiar you are, the more you are able to focus less on your words and more on the person in front of you.

TRAINING | PRAYING FOR HEALING (15-25 min)

Check out this excellent resource from our partners at the Vineyard: [Vineyard training](#)

The Vineyard made two videos on [prayer ministry training](#) for InterVarsity that we suggest. If your students need some accessible theology around healing, use video 1 (8 min.). The practical training is video 2 (8 min.). Feel free to play them or use them to summarize yourself. If you are doing two trainings for the proxe station, consider doing this one by itself first and then the rest all together.

Has anyone experienced supernatural healing or witnessed healing before? What was that like? What did it do to your faith?

(Watch video(s))

DEBRIEF HEALING TRAINING

What was new for you? Do you have questions? How do you feel about praying for healing for strangers?

PRACTICE

Choose your own adventure:

1. Break people into pairs to practice. Again, this is a great moment to encourage people to bring their real needs to Jesus.
2. Ask for volunteers that have a healing need and volunteers that want to try praying, and do it all at the same time or one at a time.

We are now going to practice. I just want to remind us that the Holy Spirit does have power to heal through us, and he chooses how he responds to someone. Healing is not our success or failure. We are just being open to be a vessel used by him. Ultimately, success is the person leaving feeling loved and cared for by us and God.

Training

DEBRIEF

How did it feel to be prayed for? Did anyone experience healing? Any questions?

GOSPEL SUMMARY TRAINING (10 min)

The final panel of the proxe is the gospel summary. This is a very important part of the proxe. As you see by the highlighted words, all these big questions are answered by the gospel. Even if someone doesn't pray to accept Jesus in the moment with us, we want them to hear this good news and hope that it sparks a lingering curiosity as they leave.

Can I get four volunteers, one to read each section on your paper script?

The gospel means "good news." What feels like good news to you in this script?

Now take a few minutes and feel free to mark up the script and put it in your own words. As you see, the panel has the key phrase from the paragraph written for you so you can remember and the participant can track, but it will be hollow if it doesn't mean something to you.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER (15 min.)

Ok, let's practice the script up to the gospel diagram in pairs. If you come across something in the script that feels weird, note to put it in your own language.

DEBRIEF

Let's share tips as a group. What did your partner do well?

Please take some time between now and the proxe to practice a few more times.

FOLLOW UP (10 min)

Our hope is that the proxe is the beginning of a relationship, not a one-and-done conversation. God calls us to be a good steward of the people he brings our way, and follow-up is key to this.

Trainer Note: Adapt according to your chapter's follow-up procedures. For instance, if they will be assigned contacts from a spreadsheet.

If someone gives you their contact information at the Proxe station, please take that as permission to use it. So what I'm saying is part of committing to do the proxe station is committing to follow-up on conversations. Can you do that? (actually invite a verbal response)

Within 24 hours of meeting someone, text them an invitation to coffee/meal, to a small group or a fun event. Often an invitation to time with you can be less intimidating than going to small

Training

group. You can encourage them to bring a friend if they want. It might make them more comfortable and give us two people to meet!

Let's talk ghosting. Particularly at the beginning of the year, people get overwhelmed and texts from unknown numbers don't hit the top of the priority list. Don't take their silence as intentional ghosting. (Great if you have a student story of someone who ignored follow up texts but got involved with the chapter eventually.)

Please try at least three more times over the week to contact them. If they don't respond, send a nice text sharing how you would like to meet up but don't want to bother them if they are uninterested. Give them your small group time and location and tell them you would love to see them anytime.

Let us not be weary of doing good, nor take someone's silence as a rejection of us. Our hope is that we will see people have an experience with God, even healing. We hope our community and those we encounter will grow in maturity and relationship with Jesus. How amazing would it be that next year there will be people in proxe training that come because they recognize the significance it had in their life.

PRAY

ADDITIONAL TRAINING: PROXE ROLES

GREETER

Be yourself, friendly, inviting, and even a little shameless. Don't be aggressive, but get people's attention. If someone pauses or lingers at a distance, invite them in.

GUIDE

We've all heard a large portion of communication is through non-verbal cues, so your posture is important.

Be hospitable. Consider the proxe your home. You are inviting people into the space. What does being hospitable mean to you?

- Introduce yourself.
- Smile & be friendly. – Has anyone seen an awkward skit or public speaking? If the content wasn't awkward, what made it awkward? (let them answer) Generally the person is uncomfortable and doesn't own the role or their platform. Sometimes things are only as awkward as you make it. Own your space and look like you want someone to talk to you.
- Be yourself & invite them to be themselves- You don't have to be extraverted to do this. If you aren't overly bubbly, don't fake it. That would defeat the purpose. There are people who would be annoyed by bubbly people and even more that are annoyed by people who aren't being themselves. Trust the Spirit is going to bring someone that you can handle and maybe someone who needs your personality to speak to them.

Training

- LISTEN – We are listening to both their story and the Spirit. Where does their story & the Gospel meet? Have you also experienced something similar? Where the three combine is the story SWEET SPOT
- Don't take hostages- The proxe is designed to give people opportunities to opt into further discussion or gracefully opt out. Make sure you get consent at each transition to move forward. If someone says they need to go to class, believe them. Ask for their contact information so you can stay in touch. They may be politely exiting, but we don't want to miss an opportunity if they are interested in hearing more.