

Sample Powerful Questions

Alternatives

- What are the possibilities?
- If you had your choice, what would you do?
- What are possible solutions?
- What if you do and what if you don't?

Appraisal

- What do you make of it all?
- What do you think? (is best?)
- How does it look to you?
- How do you feel about it?

Background

- What led up to _____?
- What have you tried so far?
- What do you make of it all?

Clarification

- What do you mean?
- What does it look/sound/feel like?
- What seems to confuse you?

Description

- What was it like?
- What happened?
- Then what?

Evaluation

- In what way?
- How does this fit with your plans/way of life/values?
- What do you think?

Exploration

- Would you like to brainstorm this idea?
- What are other angles you can think of?
- What is just one more possibility?

Example

- For instance?
- Like what?
- Such as?

Extension

- What else?
- What other ideas do you have about it?

Failures, Preparation for

- What if it doesn't work out the way you wish?
- What if that doesn't work?
- And if that fails, what will you do?
- How do you want it to be?

Fun, Lighten Up

- What was fun about _____?
- What was humorous about the situation?
- How can you find a way to have it be fun?
- How do you want it to be?

Hypothetical

- If you could do it over again, what would you do differently?
- If it were you, what would you have done?
- How else could a person handle this?
- If you could do anything you wanted, what would you do?

Identification of Issues

- What seems to be the trouble?
- What seems to be the main obstacle?
- What is stopping you?
- What concerns you the most about _____?

Implementation

- What will you have to do to get the job done?
- What support do you need to accomplish _____?
- What will you do?
- By when will you do it?

Information

- What information do you need before you decide?
- What do you know about it now?
- How do you suppose you can find out more about it?
- What kind of picture do you have right now?

Integration

- How do you explain this to yourself?
- What was the lesson/learning?
- How can you lock it (the learning) in?
- How would you pull all this together?

Involvement

- What was your part in this?
- How do you fit into the picture?
- What were you responsible for?

New Start

- If you had free choice in the matter, what would you do?
- If the same think came up again, what would you do?
- If we could wipe the slate clean, what would you do?
- If you had it to do over again, what would you do?

Opening

- What would you like to focus on today?
- What would you like coaching on today?
- What would you like to explore today?

Outcomes

- What do you want?
- What is your desired outcome?
- If you got it, what would you have?
- How will you know you have received/reached it?

Perspective

- When you are 95 years old, what will you want to say about your life?
- What would you like to be doing five years from now?
- What is your life purpose?
- In the bigger scheme of things, how important is this?

Planning

- What do you plan to do about it?
- What is your game plan?
- What kind of plan do you need to create?
- How do you suppose you could improve the situation?

Predictions

- How do you suppose it will all work out?
- What will that get you?
- Where will this lead?
- What are the chances of success?

Relation

- If you do this, how will it affect _____?
- What impact will that have on balance/values?
- How does this affect the whole picture?
- What else do you need to take into consideration?

Taking Action

- What action will you take? And after that?
- What will you do? When?
- Where do you go from here? When will you do that?
- What are your next steps? By when?

Summary

- How is this working? How is this going?
- How would you describe this?
- What do you think this all amounts to?
- How would you summarize the work/effort so far?