Discussion Questions



1

John Laing grew his building business from a small family business in Carlisle into a multi-million pound global business.

If you were going to start a business, what kind of business would it be?

2.

John Laing was very disappointed when a big building contract to build a sewer did not work out as he planned. His father was very worried. John Laing was even taken to court. He prayed to God about his difficulties. He won the case.

How do you cope with disappointment and difficulty?

3.

John Laing employed hundreds, then thousands of people. He worked hard at getting to know his employees and he treated them well.
What do you think are the

what do you think are the values or attributes of a good leader?



4.

John Laing wanted to be the top contractor (builder) in the country. What is your dream or ambition?



5.

We have been learning about John Laing as a good role model.

Who are your role models or heroes? Who do you admire?



6.

John Laing said that if he sold 1000 houses he hoped to gain 1000 friends, because they would love living in those houses.
What is your favourite part of where you live?



7.

Everything lovely and beautiful thrilled John Laing. He was especially delighted by nature or creation.

What do you find beautiful?



8.

John Laing believed
The Bible could guide him through his life.
What influences your behaviour? What are your values? Where do you get them from?

9

One businessman commented on John Laing: "Here comes Laing, happy as usual!"

What makes you happy? How would you like to be described by others?







10.

John Laing was very generous with his money and his time. He gave to many different charities. He had a strict rule that his name must not appear as a donor. He used several false names when he donated. Although he owned a multimillion pound company when he died he only had £371 in his bank account. He had given his money to others! a) If you were going to give, start or volunteer at a charity, who or what would the charity help? b)What false name would you use if you wanted to remain anonymous as a giver?

11.

After World War II there was a housing shortage. Many homes had been bombed. John Laing's company built Easiform houses – these houses were quicker and easier to construct than regular homes. Today many people are homeless in our country.

What are your suggestions for helping the homeless today?

12.

John Laing was a Christian.
His faith was very important
to him. He built a church,
then he attended it. He had
to extend it twice. There
were 1500 children in the
Sunday School!
Why do you think many
churches (not all) are not full
of children and young
people today?





13.

John Laing built several big community buildings, such as Coventry Cathedral. If you were going to build or design a community building, what would it be for?

14.

John Laing died when he was 98 years old. He had a long and interesting life. If you could meet him, what questions would you like to ask him?

15.

You have learnt a lot about John Laing's life. What will you remember about him?





