



WEEK FOUR – JANUARY 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Reason to Believe* ▪ Matthew 11:1–6 (suppt.: James 1:5)

Bottom Line: *If you don't understand something about God, ask.*

Memory Verse: *“The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.”*
Proverbs 2:6 (NIRV)

Life App: *Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: In Matthew 11:1–6 we find John the Baptist, Jesus' own cousin, in prison. John seemed to wonder if Jesus was truly the Savior that God had promised. John sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus his questions. Jesus responded in love which reassured John that all of God's promises are coming true.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: Butcher paper; markers

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Draw a giant question mark on the tear sheet.
- For each of the following careers, encourage kids to name questions they would ask that person (list these one a time, so kids can focus on just one abstract concept at a time):
 - Zookeeper
 - Firefighter
 - Scuba diver
 - Astronaut
- Write each “question word” (who, what, when, where, why, how) the kids use around the giant question mark, using a different color for each word.
- If the kids get stuck, ask guiding questions such as: “What’s a question you could ask a zookeeper that starts with ‘Where’? ‘Where _____?’”
- Save the sheet for use during the “?” activity in Groups.

2. Questions, Questions

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Questions, Questions” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Give each child a “Questions, Questions” page.
- Briefly review the page to ensure kids understand it and know what each category is.
- Pair kids up and tell them they’ll be asking their partner about their favorite things.
- Give the group a few minutes to ask each other about their favorite thing for each category listed.
- If time allows, let kids “introduce” their partner to the group by telling everyone what a few of their favorite things are.

What You Say:

“Asking questions is a great way to get to know your friends. [Transition] In Large Group, we’ll hear about Someone else you can know more about by asking questions. Let’s go learn more.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *If you don’t understand something about God, ask. We never want kids to feel like they can’t ask hard questions about God. Questions about faith are part of growing in your relationship with God. We pray that kids will find a safe place in your church to ask about what they don’t understand. We pray they have a great small group leader who will help them as they are discovering what it means to put their faith in God.*

SMALL GROUP

1. ?

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Prepared tear sheets (like the one from Early Arriver), markers

What You Do:

- Set the tear sheets on the floor
- Help kids get into groups of four and gather around a tear sheet.
- Encourage kids to think of questions they have about God. If they’re stuck for ideas, remind them of the who, what, why, where, how, and when questions. They might ask:
 - Who _____?
 - What are You _____?
 - Why did You _____?
 - Where do You _____?
 - How did You _____?
 - When are You _____?
- Lead kids to draw or write their questions around the question marks.
- Let them share what they’ve written or drawn

What You Say:

*“John had questions about Who Jesus was, and that’s okay. It’s okay for you to have questions about God, too. The important thing to remember is that **[Bottom Line] if you don’t understand something about God, ask.** He’s happy when we ask Him our questions, because He wants us to know Him more and more. He wants us to know how much He loves us, and He wants us to know that Jesus is our Savior! Asking questions is how we learn!*

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when you didn’t understand something about God, and you asked Him. Tell kids how He answered your question, whether it was through the Bible, through a friend, or some other way. Make sure to explain that they probably won’t hear God’s voice with their ears, but He does give us ways to know Him.)

*“So, **[Bottom Line] if you don’t understand something about God, ask.** He’ll be happy to answer you! His answer may not come right away. It could be something that happens over a long time. But keep looking to God to help you understand.”*

2. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: The tear sheets from the “?” activity

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around the tear sheets.
- Use the conversation below to close out your group time.

What You Say:

“It’s ALWAYS okay to ask God questions if you don’t understand something about Him. He loves you and wants you to know Him! James, one of Jesus’ brothers, once wrote: If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you (James 1:5a NIV). What that verse means is that if you’re confused or don’t understand something about God, ask. He’s VERY happy to help you find the answer.

*“So, remember: **[Bottom Line] if you don’t understand something about God, ask.** Let’s pray.*

*“Dear God, thank You that it’s okay to ask You questions. Thank You that You WANT us to ask You questions so that we can know You better. (Guide kids to silently ask God the questions they have about him.) Thank You, God, that You’ve heard our questions. Thank You that You will answer them. Help us wait for your answers and keep looking to You until we understand. We love You so much, God. Amen.” **As adults arrive to pick up, guide kids to tell parents today’s Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] If you don’t understand something about God, ask.***