



WEEK FOUR – JANUARY 2019 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *When you have questions about God, who can you 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 ACTIVITY

1. Just for Fun

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: N/A

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
- Pair kids up.
- Explain kids will play the question game. To play:
 - One kid asks his or her teammate a question.
 - The teammate must respond with a question that makes sense in the context of the first question that was asked.
 - The first kid who doesn't respond with a question within 15–seconds loses that round.
 - Play two rounds and then switch partners.
 - For example:
 - Kid 1: Do you like to play tennis?
 - Kid 2: How do you play tennis?
 - Kid 1: Do you have a racket?
 - Kid 2: Do I need a racket?

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *When you have questions about God, who can you ask? Preteens are starting to discover the complexities of the world around them. With those discoveries comes some big questions about God and faith. They need people in their lives they can trust to help them navigate those big questions. We pray that through this lesson, kids will identify people in their life who can walk them through their questions and point them towards Jesus.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Butcher paper, markers

What You Do:

- Gather the group around a big piece of butcher paper.
- Write the following words on the paper: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW. Be sure to space out the words so kids can write around them.
- Guide kids to write questions they may have about God or that they want to ask God. Each question should be written around the corresponding word that you wrote on the paper.
 - For example: Why did you create mosquitos? (Kids would write, “did you create mosquitos?” near the big “Why” on the paper.)
 - What job will I have when I am an adult? How can I really know You are talking to me? How can I know You are listening to me? When will it rain? What is heaven like? Who can I talk to about You? Why didn’t You free John the Baptist from jail?
- Review the questions and ask:
 - You have a lot of great questions. It’s important to ask if you don’t understand something; it’s also important to figure out who would be a good person to ask.
 - If you wanted to know about animals, who would you ask and why?
 - Or if you wanted to know how to bake a cake, who would you ask and why?
 - If you had questions about God, how could you identify someone you could ask?
 - Do you have someone you could ask if you have questions about God? If so, who?

2. Discussion Questions

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - When you have questions about God, who can you ask?
 - What if you don’t get answers to the questions you have, what can you do?

- What truths do you know about God? How can knowing these truths help you while you wait to find answers to questions you may have?
- What do you do when you have questions that don't really have answers?

3. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask: What was one new thing you learned today?
- Give kids some time to think of an area they need God's help. Perhaps they have a question about what God says or they are struggling with a decision they need to make. Maybe they have a situation with a friend or brother and sister they need God's wisdom in handling.
- Give kids an opportunity to share areas they need wisdom.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, You are generous, and You give us all that we need. We want to know You, God. Give us wisdom to recognize the people You have put in our lives to help us learn more about You. Remind us of Your Word so we can make wise choices. Amen! “