

City SG-January 25th-26th, 2020

Bible Story: Reason to Believe (Jesus and John the Baptist) • *Matthew 11:1-6 (Supporting: 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)

NOTE: For Activity #4, you will partner up with another Small Group

1. Toothpick Brain Games

What You Need: Toothpicks (100 per group)

What You Do:

- Divide your group into three or four teams. Give each team 12 toothpicks.
- Explain that you will give teams a challenge and they have to work together to figure out a solution.
- If they get stuck, they can ask you a question for help.

Challenge 1a:

Make three squares out of 10 toothpicks.



THEN take away two toothpicks to create two squares.

Solution: Take away the two toothpicks that form the bottom and side of the third triangle.



Challenge 2:

Use six toothpicks to make four triangles.

Solution:



Challenge 3:

Show your group how to use twelve toothpicks to create four squares.



THEN move three toothpicks to create three squares. Leaders, this one is the biggest challenge, so be prepared to answer questions and lead them to the solution!

Solution: Remove the two toothpicks that form the upper left corner AND the toothpick that forms the bottom of the lower right-hand square. Then use the three you've removed to form a new square at the lower right as shown below.



What You Say:

“These brain games were tough! Good thing you could ask for help when your team was stumped!

[Transition] In Large Group, we discovered that when it comes to following God, we can always ask for help.”

2. Color Choices

What You Need: Red and blue construction paper halves (8 of each color, per group)

What You Do:

- Divide your small group into two teams. Declare one team the red team and one team the blue team.
- Give each kid a piece of their team’s color of construction paper.
- Explain that you will call out several true-or-false statements about today’s Bible story.
 - If they think the statement is true, they should hold up their paper.
 - If they think the statement is false, they should just leave the paper in their lap.
- Ask for one kid to volunteer to be the scorekeeper. You can count up the papers and call out the score for the volunteer to write down.
 - If the statement is true, count the number of papers raised by each team.
 - If the statement is false, count the number of papers in laps for each team.
- To keep the kids from simply waiting for others to answer so they can follow suit, instruct the kids to close their eyes when they answer. Make sure they understand they can’t change their answer once they’ve made their decision.

True / False Statements:

1. John was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. *(True)*
2. Jesus didn’t think that John should baptize him. *(False; Jesus asked John to baptize Him even though John didn’t think he was worthy)*
3. King Herod threw John into prison for speaking the truth. *(True)*
4. While in prison, John heard about what Jesus was doing and started to question if Jesus was really the One they’d been waiting for. *(True)*
5. John told his messengers to go to Jesus and ask, “What do you like better: chocolate ice cream or vanilla?” *(False; John sent his messengers to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah)*
6. When John’s messenger found Jesus, he asked, “Are you the one we’ve been waiting for? Or should we look for another?” *(True)*
7. To prove who he really was, Jesus showed the messengers his ID badge. *(False; Jesus told them to report what they had witnessed to prove He really was the Messiah)*
8. Jesus told John’s messengers to report back to John that the blind were given sight, the lame could now walk, the deaf could hear, and those with leprosy were now cured. *(True)*
9. Even John had doubts and was willing to ask questions. When you have questions about following God, you can always ask. *(True)*
10. It’s not okay to ask questions about God in our small group. *(False; you can always bring your questions; we may need to figure things out together but that’s part of why we meet as a group each week)*

What You Say:

“John seems like the last person that would have had doubts about Jesus and who He really was! After all, John was the one who baptized Jesus. Why do you think John began to question Jesus’ identity? *(Pause.)* Do you think Jesus was bothered by the questions John’s followers asked of Jesus? *(Pause.)* No way. No question is too small or too big for God. We can always ask. We can read God’s Word. We can talk about our questions here in this small group. We can ask parents or other trusted adults who follow God. We might not always find an answer, but we will gain knowledge about God by asking questions. Then our faith becomes stronger as we learn and grow. **[Bottom Line] If you don’t understand something about God, ask.”**

[Make It Personal] *(Talk to kids about a question you were curious about when you were their age. Maybe you wondered about heaven or about how to follow God when others around you were making different choices. Who did you talk to? What did you learn? How did asking questions help you grow in knowledge of God and your faith and trust in Him?)*

3. A Plateful of Wisdom, Anyone?

What You Need: Bible, Paper Plates with verse words and numbers (2 sets per group), Dice (2 dice per team)

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Proverbs 2:6.
- Get two teams of equal number kids together, give each team two dice
- Arrange the paper plates in the shape of a question mark with the words underneath and numbers facing up.
- Guide each team to sit in a circle around their question mark.
- Each member of the team will take their turn rolling both dice, and turn over the corresponding plate (roll an eleven, turn over plate 11). If the next person rolls a number already taken, they pass the dice to the next person, etc.
- Once there are only single digit plates left, the team can call out UNO and roll one dice to get the remaining plates.
- Team who has all the plates turned over and in verse order wins.

What You Say:

“Who gives wisdom? *(Pause.)* Yes, God gives wisdom! He gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. How can we get the wisdom that God gives us? *(We can read the Bible; we can ask others who love Him; we can ask Him.)* Those are all great ways to learn about the wisdom God gives.

[Bottom Line] **If you don’t understand something about God, ask.”**

4. Do You Know It?

What You Need: Bibles, Proverbs 2:6 Sheet (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Look up and review Proverbs 2:6 as a group.
- **Pair up with another small group.**
- Gather the two groups of kids on one side of the room with the Small Group Leaders on the other.
- One kid from each team will run to his/her leader and repeat the verse from memory.
- If it’s correct, the Leader sends the kid back to tag the next person in line and sit down.
- If it’s incorrect, the Leader gives a hint or says which words they missed. You can use the Proverbs 2:6 Sheet as a helper. Then they send them back to tag the next person in line and get in line themselves.
- Remind kids that it’s okay if they are incorrect the first time. They can always try again. The goal isn’t to get it right the first time. It’s to practice until they can say it from memory.
- Play until every kid has said the verse and is seated.

What You Say:

“All knowledge comes from who? *(Pause.)* Yes, from God. I’m so thankful that God didn’t just create us and leave us on our own to figure things out for ourselves. He’s given us His Word, He’s given us our families and other adults who trust Him, and He’s given us this group where we can talk and learn about God together. Just as you ask questions at school to learn something new, I want you to know that you can always ask questions in our group! **[Bottom Line]** **If you don’t understand something about God, ask.”**

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Dry erase board/marker/eraser

What You Do:

- Give the kids a few minutes to share questions they may have about God. You may have some of your own to add.
- Write them on the board.
- Remind the kids that questions are good because asking questions is one way we learn and grow.
- Pray for the questions shared—that God would help us find the answers we need as we follow Him.

What You Say:

“These questions are great! Remember, you can read God’s Word, you can ask a trusted adult who follows God, and you can always bring your questions to our small group. Knowledge is learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do. I hope that you’ll always ask questions so you can learn something new about God! ***[Bottom Line]*** **When you have questions about God, ask.** Let’s pray.

“Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the ability to learn new things and gain more knowledge. When we have questions like those shared today, help us to have the courage to ask! We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!