

CITY SG- January 28th/29th

Bible Story: John the Baptist in prison • *Matthew 11:1-6 (Supporting: James 1:5)*

Bottom Line: When you don't know what God says, ask.

Memory Verse: "Your word is like a lamp for my feet. A light on my path." *Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*

Life App: Knowledge—learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Looks Just Like It

What You Need: Paper, markers/color pencils.

What You Do:

- Give a piece of paper and pen to each person, including you.
- Without anyone being able to see what you are drawing, draw a quick picture on your piece of paper. (It can be anything; a flower, a tree, some clouds, a house, etc. Tell kids what you're doing but don't tell them what you're drawing!)
- Then tell kids they are going to try to draw a picture that looks exactly like yours.
- Tell them they can ask as many questions as they want about the picture, but you aren't going to show them the picture until the end.
- Begin the game and answer any questions they have about the picture.
- When all the kids have finished their pictures, show them what yours looks like and see whose picture looks closest to the real thing.

What You Say:

- What was hard about this game? (You didn't know what I was drawing).
- How is our game like the Bible? (We didn't know what the picture looked like, but when we asked questions, we could get a better idea)
- Is there anyone who knows everything about God or Heaven? If so, who? (No one, but Jesus. NOT EVEN ADULTS).
- What are some things that you have heard about Jesus? What are some questions that you have for Jesus?
- What is something we can do when we have really big questions for Jesus? (Pray, ask a leader, read the Bible, come to church). **[Make It Personal]** Share something(s) you do when you run into a question about the Bible or God.
- **[Bottom Line]** When you don't know what God says, ask."

Note: If this activity prompts kids to start asking questions, spend some time answering as many as you have time for. And remember: "I don't know" is a perfectly fine answer! It's good for kids to know their leaders don't have all the answers and are themselves still learning. If there's something you're unsure about how to answer, ask your children's ministry staff. Be sure to follow up with the kids who asked those questions!

True or False

What You Need: 2 baskets, "Yes" and "No" signs, "true or false" cards, Ping Pong balls (one per kid), tape.

What You Do:

- Have all of the kids listen to the question and decide if what you said is part of the story or not.
 - If they think the statement is true, they may toss the ball into the “true” bucket.
 - If they think the statement is false, they may toss the ball into the “false” bucket.
- Once everyone has tossed their ball into a bucket, you can reveal the answer and award points to the children with the correct answer.
- The child with the most points wins the game.

What You Say:

- Are all questions in life “true” or “false” questions? Why or why not?
- Why do you think John had questions for Jesus? (He was confused and unsure if Jesus was who he really was).
- What do you think Jesus answer means? (Jesus was saying that everything John had seen was true).
- How do we ask Jesus questions, even though we can’t do it face-to-face? (Prayer)
- How do you pray? (We ask God to help guide us toward the right answers and God will not always respond right away).
- **[Bottom Line] When you don’t know what God says, ask.”**

Pray

What You Need: paper, pens

What You Do:

- Hand each kid another piece of paper. Have them write down every question they might have for Jesus. Maybe there were questions we didn’t have time to answer or they still really want an answer for.
- Start the prayer and have any of the kids that would like to pray for a BIG question pray that God would answer their question.
- When all kids have spoken, close with the prayer below.
- Have them hold onto the paper as a reminder to keep praying that God would answer their questions.

What You Say:

“Today we learned that it’s important to ask when we don’t know what God says. No one is expected to know everything, so we need to ask other people when we have questions about something so they can help us. John the Baptist even asked Jesus questions, and he was Jesus’ cousin! We should never be embarrassed or shy to ask something we don’t know. Anyone who’s been following Jesus longer than you have would love to answer your questions about God! Let’s pray.

“God, please hear these prayer requests and be with each of these people and situations. Help us to remember this week to follow Your light; guide us to do what You want us to do in every situation we face. We thank You for giving us people in our lives who can answer our questions about You and about the Bible. Please give us the courage to ask our questions whenever they come up.”

EXTRA ACTIVITY

Scrambled Verses

What You Need: “Scrambled Verses” Activity Pages, scissors

What You Do:

- Divide kids into pairs or let them choose a partner.
- Give each pair an Activity Page and instruct kids to cut out the words, mix them up, and put them face up on the table or on the floor in front of them.
- Have one person in the pair close their eyes.
- Tell kids that the partner closing their eyes is going to be picking out the correct words from the pile to make a full verse. The partner who can see should not touch the words at all; he can only give verbal directions to his blindfolded partner.
- If you have a few kids who don’t know Psalm 119:105 by memory yet, write it out and place it where everyone can see.
- When you say, “Go,” start the timer and let kids begin.
- After two minutes, have partners switch roles.
- Then they will continue building the verse out of the words with the newly sighted person leading the one who can’t see one with their voice.
- When each pair has completed the verse, they can open their eyes and then wait for everyone else to finish.

What You Say:

- Do you think this would be easier if your eyes were open or closed?
- How is God’s word like a lamp for our feet? (It shows us where to go when we don’t know)
- How can you learn more about God this week?
- ***[Bottom Line]*** When you don’t know what God says, ask!