



## Ask Away

**Bible Story:** Ask Away (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 that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me." *Psalms 119:105 (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.

### **Plug-In: (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story. *Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that you would be an open source of wisdom and godly knowledge for your few to turn to when they face hard things. Ask God to continually prepare your heart to be open to your kids as they learn more about who He is and how to follow Him.*

#### **1. Early Arriver Idea**

**What You Need:** Offering container, "Where's the Answer Cards" Activity Page; one set per small group, masking tape

#### **What You Do:**

- Welcome kids as they arrive and guide them to place their offering in the container.
- Chat about making wise choices—did anyone make a really wise choice this week in the face of temptations?
- After some time, stick the Find the Expert Cards on everyone's backs; half the kids will get questions and the others will get answers.
- They have to talk in yes/no questions to figure out what they have on their backs and who has the matching question/answer.
- If you have younger kids, tape the cards to their chests and make sure they know what they have—their game will be more focused on finding their match.
- Talk about the importance of asking the right questions and getting the right answers.

#### **2. Crack the Code**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### **What You Do:**

- Divide the group into teams and have each team's players sit in a line, one behind the other.

- Tell the group that one clap means “yes” and two means “no”.
- Then, ask the whole group some basic questions. The kid at the back of the line will decide the answer and clap once/twice. Then, the person in front of her will clap the same, and send the answer up the line. The front kid will hear the clap from behind him, stand, and give the answer.
- After the answer is given, if it’s correct, the front kid will go to the back and everyone moves up a spot.
- Some good questions: is the sky blue? Do 3 and 4 make 2? Is a basketball bigger than a softball, etc.

**What You Say:**

“Great answers! You had to know who to listen to in this game. **[Transition] Let’s go hear about someone else who needed answers, and who he decided to ask.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**1. Message Maze (application activity / review the Bible story)**

**What You Need:** Masking tape

**What You Do:**

- Beforehand, use the tape to make a large maze or labyrinth on your floor that kids can crawl along.
- Gather the group on one side of the maze and then have the kids crawl one by one along the maze to where you are standing on the other side. Each kid must ask, “What’s the Message?”
- Give each kid a portion of Jesus’ message to John, as their age can handle it: “Blind people receive sight. Disabled people walk. Those who have skin diseases are made ‘clean.’ Deaf people hear. Those who are dead are raised to life. And the good news is preached to those who are poor.”
- Kids must each take their portion of the message back through the maze to the group. When the whole message has been transmitted, let kids sit in the maze for discussion.

**What You Say:**

“John sent messengers to ask Jesus some important questions. He didn’t feel sad or scared that he didn’t know the answers, and he wasn’t afraid to ask Jesus right out if He was the One sent by God. John knew he could trust Jesus to answer and Jesus answered John in just the right way. Jesus showed John that He was truly sent by God because of what was being done through Him. John knew that **[Bottom Line] when you don’t know what God says, ask.** There are a lot of things that you may be not quite sure what God says about—how much screen time on the iPad you really should have, or how to know if this superhero movie is okay to watch or if you should skip it. The Bible doesn’t say “screen time”, or “Spider-man” anywhere, so how can you find out what God says about any of that? *(Allow for answers)* Yes! You can ask God to give you wisdom and show you what to do, or you can ask a trusted grown up what they think God says, and you can even look up what the Bible has to say about things like how to spend your time or what to let into your eyes and heart. ”

**2. This Is a Lamp (memory verse activity)**

**What You Need:** Bible, 2 small random objects

### What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle and read Psalm 119:105 out loud together. Then, help them learn this dialogue for the game.  
Person A: This is a lamp.  
Person B: A what?  
Person A: A lamp.
- Then, turn to the kid on your right and hand them the first random object. Say, “This is a lamp.” to which they should reply, “A what?,” and you say, “A lamp.”
- They should turn to the person on their right, hand them the object, and go through the dialogue again.
- Anyone who laughs, forgets their lines, or says what the object really is, must stand up, say the whole verse, and run around the circle before taking their seat and resuming the game.
- Encourage kids to do this as fast as possible to get the object all the way around the circle quickly.
- If you have older kids, while the first object is being passed to the right, turn to the kid on your left, hand them the second object and say, “This is a light”, starting another round of dialogue and sending the second object around the circle. At some point, the two objects will converge and the game will get really silly!

### What You Say:

“Great job keeping track of our lamp and light! When you first got the “lamp,” you had to ask what it was and then you got the answer again. It’s a funny game, but it reminds us that **[Bottom Line] when you don’t know what God says, ask.** Whether you want to know what God says about losing your best friend, or how much of your allowance you should spend on LEGO minifigs, you know that you can ask God for wisdom, look in the Bible for answers, and check with trusted friends to understand God’s heart.”

*If you lead mostly older kids, consider asking these discussion questions:*

- Have you ever thought you might know what God says about something, but you really don’t want to do it? Like you’re pretty sure God would want you to rake your neighbor’s yard, but your favorite movie just came on TV; or you know you should turn off that violent video game when your little cousin comes over, but maybe you can just send him to another room with a box of cookies. Look up James 4:17 and see what you think.
- Who can you talk to when you’re nervous to hear what God says? What if you’ve done something wrong, or you’ve made some unwise choices—do you have someone you can talk to who will tell you what God says and help you make things right?

## Pray and Dismiss

**What You Need:** Sticky notes, pens, Bible

### What You Do:

- Gather the group and help them get quiet and thoughtful.
- Pass out the sticky notes and pens.
- Let the kids brainstorm with each other things they would like to ask God, one situation where they want to know what He says that they don’t know yet.
- If you have younger kids, they can draw pictures of these things on their sticky note.
- As you pray, pass around the Bible and let kids slip their sticky notes inside.

**What You Say:**

“Dear God, thank You that You will give us wisdom if we ask. Thank You that we can learn what You say about so many things, and that You care about our lives and our thoughts. Please help us to learn more about You so we can follow You with all our hearts. Amen.”

Tell the kids that their questions won't go unanswered and remind them ***[Bottom Line] when you don't know what God says, ask.***”

Invite parents to check out the maze and hear ***[Bottom Line] when you don't know what God says, ask.***

Be sure this week to find answers for the questions your kids have left; if you're stumped or they are of a sensitive nature, *ask* your coach or pastor to help you. Write a note to each kid with Scripture references and a small explanation of how to understand them.