

# Kids' Ministry Training Video 5: Answering Questions

As Kids' Ministry leaders, we need to be ready to answer kids' questions as they come up. Cheryl Clendinning at GodSpace offers these awesome tips for answering questions:

## Types of Questions

Children ask different types of questions for a range of reasons. Sometimes it's to get factual information, or to get your opinion and test theirs. Sometimes a question will spring from a burning issue, or be a cautious exploration. Occasionally, children might ask questions to impress, distract or seek attention.

## Tips for Answering Questions

- ❑ **Assess:** Treat all questions seriously, but assess the situation. An "attention seeking/let's have fun" question needs a light-hearted answer.
- ❑ **Reason:** Try and find out the reason for the question. Ask the child if they are wondering for themselves or for someone else.
- ❑ **Question:** Ask the child what they think. It sometimes helps you understand where they're coming from, and gives you time to think.
- ❑ **Brief:** Try to keep your initial answer simple and brief. See if it satisfies the question being asked.
- ❑ **Language:** Make sure you use everyday language. Don't get technical without explaining yourself.
- ❑ **Concrete:** Keep answers as concrete as possible, and veer away from abstract answers.
- ❑ **Truthfulness:** Don't be afraid to say that you don't know, or that you used to wonder about that too.
- ❑ **Accuracy:** Never say something that is wrong, just to satisfy a child. Your answer must be accurate.
- ❑ **Trust:** Convey your own trust in God, despite things that are unknown or unknowable.
- ❑ **Affirm:** Let the child know that it's good to seek out answers. Let them know that you still have plenty of questions, but you're discovering more all the time.

## Steps to Answering Questions

- ❑ **Understand the question.** Consider the context – what have you been doing or talking about? Consider the person asking – what might be going on for them?
- ❑ **Get the appropriate answer.** Draw on your own knowledge and experience, and involve others who are present. If it needs further exploration and follow up, make a plan to do so.
- ❑ **Deliver the answer in an appropriate way.** Decide whether the question needs to be answered with all children present, or individually to one or two. How much time is it worth? Is it worth exploring further?

## Questions for Your Team

- What types of questions do kids in our group typically ask and why?
- How can we get appropriate answers for the children in our group? Do we need to involve others?
- How do we typically answer questions? Individually or with the whole group? Do we answer them immediately, or do we answer them at a designated time? Is this working?
- Do we affirm children's questions, and encourage them to ask questions and explore?