Session 5: Connecting with God & One Another

The Father is sending a great Helper, the Holy Spirit, in My name to teach you everything and to remind you of all I have said to you. John 14:26 (Voice)

Discover and Response Questions

Asking the questions and the discussion that follows is critical in the storying process! We are accustomed to teaching the facts about a story without talking about what feelings are generated. To have a relationship with Jesus, we MUST get the children to know Jesus at a heart level and not just information in their minds. A leader should move the group from remembering some of the facts in the story to how it makes them feel. This allows the Holy Spirit to do His work and change a person's life so they are becoming more like Jesus Christ. Jesus himself always asked questions to move people to a deeper understanding and a transformation of the heart.

Facilitating discussions helps children discover the treasures in the Bible and gets the Bible into their hearts. We want the Spirit to speak to each person for the application that is personal to them. Most curriculum have one application that the lesson is driving towards. It is different with storying. It will not be uncommon to have many different responses from your group members. This is good! Follow-up in the weeks to come to see how each person is doing in their obedience to what God said.

When you ask questions, people start discovering God's truths for themselves; it's not just told to them. It then sinks deeper into their hearts and lives. It's not about what you know, it's about them discovering God's truths for themselves! DISCOVER QUESTIONS build an interactive discussion around these areas:



Head (facts) These questions help us to remember "what" happened in the story



Heart (feelings) Spend a considerable amount of time allowing people to experience the different feelings the story has produced in them and answer "**so what**" or "**why**." Be sensitive and follow the Holy Spirit's leading when to dig deeper into people's responses. Don't always be satisfied with the first response.



The discussion then ends with a couple of **RESPONSE QUESTIONS** for each person to make a personal response. Here the Holy Spirit is showing up and speaking to each person in your group. It will probably be different for each person. This is good as it is the Holy Spirit at work.

Sometimes you may be addressing a **specific topic or concern** by using a Bible story through the storying method. Here it might be good to direct certain questions to lead in this way but not necessarily forcing a certain answer. Review and follow-up are important. See **how** each person is doing in their obedience to what God has said. These questions deal with:



Hands (implications) – "now what"

It is important to have questions prepared prior to your group meeting but it is not a check-list of questions to go through. It is a discovery of what the Holy Spirit is wanting to do in a person's heart and life. You are striving for each child to have an encounter with Jesus, not to just get through your lesson plan!



Discipleship happens when you follow up in the following weeks to see if the children actually did what they sensed the Holy Spirit was telling them. Your lesson was successful when the children are trusting and obeying, not you just teaching a lesson.

Blessing

A good practice is to end your time by blessing and praying over your children. One Bible verse that many pray over their children is Numbers 6:24-26 NLT:

> 'May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.'



Ask Yourself

- 1. Next time you teach a lesson, check to see how much time you are talking and how much time is allowed for the children to talk. Are you doing more facilitating or talking?
- 2. Are you discipling the children by following up on their Hand responses from prior weeks?

Join us for Session 6 as we discover a simple way to share the Gospel Message.

For more information on Kids Around the World, go to: <u>katw.org</u>

