Facilitators Guide – Inviting & Answering Questions

This workshop is designed with participants from kids, youth and SRE ministry spaces in mind. The video presentation has opportunities throughout to pause and work together. At the end of the video is space for people to work on preparing an answer to some of the questions children and young people might ask.

Resources:
- Download video from website.
- Questions for groups Print page and cut into individual cards have multiple sets of questions so groups do not have to be too large and 1 copy of the tips for facilitators
- PRINT 2-page Handout at the end of this document 1/ participant.

Workshop Outline - 1 hour (could be condensed and run for 45 minutes)

- **Your intro:** let people know this is a workshop about inviting and answering questions with children and young people. There is a space to pause and chat part way through and then at the end of the video there will be time for us to work together to practice answering questions. Everyone will receive a link to the video to watch the workshop again and share with their team. **(max 2minutes)**

- **Activity** Ask participants to move to stand somewhere "on a line" representing how they feel about questions - do they love questions in their ministry space or do they dislike them. Ask a couple of people along the line closer to the dislike end why they picked that spot. **(max 2minutes)**

Play Video
Section 1
Questions are good
Why they are asked
How to create space and encourage questions

Pause & chat video time 12:30 (3 minutes)
What ways have you created space for questions?
Are there other resources to add to this list - particularly tik tok, insta or youtube channels?

Section 2
How to answer questions

o Assess including asking questions	o Be honest - if you don't know say so
o Start with a brief answer and then invite further questions	o Affirm the asking
o Use conversational language	o Connect with family (where possible)

Activity til end of workshop time
Have people work in groups from similar ministry areas to answer the different questions. One question per group (have 2-3 copies of the questions so group sizes don't need to be too large)

- Give groups **10 minutes** to think through how they would answer the question they could use some of the links listed in their handout if they wanted to.
- Have groups share their answers with the whole group. Use the top tips sheet to add helpful suggestions/ comments if necessary.
- If there is not enough time for everyone to share have groups answering similar questions to share their answers with one another.

When I die will I become an angel? (Primary SRE)	Is God magic? (Primary SRE)	What if this is all made up? Is God real?
Why do bad things happen/ why doesn't God stop bad things?	Why are the bible and science in conflict?	How do we know the bible can be trusted?

TIPS FORQUESTIONS FOR FACILITATOR

When I die will I become an angel?

When we die, the bodies that we have now will change, but we won't turn into angels. God created both people and angels to serve him, but he made them different. Angels live in heaven with God, coming to earth when God directs them, to help and protect humans. When we go to heaven we'll serve God as humans, not angels.

from Godspace resources

Is God magic?

God is powerful
Magic involves special effects and tricks, but God has power over the whole universe and can make anything happen. When God uses his power we call it a miracle.

from Godspace resources

Why are the bible and science in conflict?

Science aims to tell us how, but the bible is talking about who and why that doesn't mean they have to be in conflict. Many scientists have been and are Jesus followers.

See other resources for questions around evolution and creation.

What if this is all made up? Is God real?

There's a lot of evidence for the content of the bible similar to questions below about can the Bible be trusted.

What else points to it being true ... eg creation
This question in the end is a question of faith. As you answer think about what is it about your own personal experience and billions of others that would make you say the same as Peter "where else would we go Jesus only you have the words of eternal life"

Why do bad things happen/ why doesn't God stop bad things?

Ask what made you ask that question or are you thinking about something in particular.

The world is broken
God cares and is with us
Good things can happen alongside bad things
Ask how they & you can help

NEVER SAY everything happens for a reason

How do we know the bible can be trusted?

The number of copies and the age of the earliest copies and the degree of accuracy between these copies is high. Higher than many other documents we accept as reliable and accurate. This gives us confidence that what is written in the bible is what was originally written.

There is much evidence for Jesus existence from outside the bible.

INVITING & ANSWERING QUESTIONS

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Questioning is part of the human experience - God has made us curious

INVITING QUESTIONS

- Welcome questions
- Provide the opportunity to ask questions
- Answer questions WITH children and young people
- Curate resources for answering questions

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

- Assess
- Ask further questions
- Start with a brief answer and then invite further questions
- Use conversational language
- Be honest
- Affirm the asking
- Connect with family (where possible)

NOTES

RESOURCES

Premier NexGen
premiernexgen.com/awkward-questions
Aimed at Christian parents but relevant for youth and children's workers

Biologos
biologos.org
an exploration of the Bible, science and evolution

Undeceptions
undeceptions.com/podcast/
search for questions

Be Thinking:
bethinking.org

GodPods:
sptc.htb.org/godpod
These podcasts cover a range of different topics and are less than 40 mins long

Parenting for Faith podcast
soundcloud.com/parentingforfaith-brf/s6-ep3-asking-questions
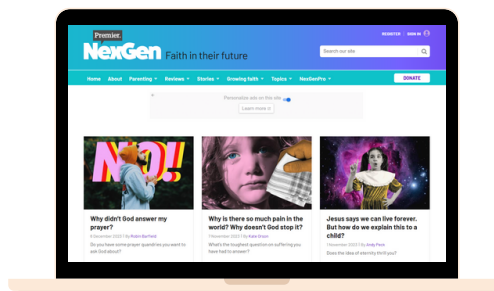
Unbelievable?
premierunbelievable.com
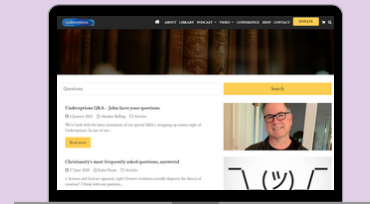Believer vs nonbeliever debate available as a podcast plus a range of articles

Can I Ask That?
A discussion guide for teens - 2 volumes from Fuller Youth

Godspace
see the free resources section - for answering questions in the SRE space but give helpful developmentally appropriate language

www.undeceptions.com

CAN I ASK THAT FULLER YOUTH RESOURCES

GODSPACE - RESOURCES

Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT

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