

God's Good Answers to Kids' Tough Questions

Why Children Ask Questions

- ▶ Asking questions is a way that children learn.
 - The pre-school child (age 4-5) is a questioner.
 - The primary age child (age 6-8) learns by observing and watching.
 - The junior age child (age 9-11) is an investigator.
 - The young teen (age 12-14) is beginning to establish his or her belief system.
- ▶ Children ask questions because they are curious.
- ▶ People often asked Jesus questions.

Guidelines for Answering Questions

- ▶ Seek the Lord's wisdom and guidance before answering a child's question.
 - Say a quick prayer for God's wisdom and understanding as the child is asking you a question.
 - Answer the question in your first sentence.
 - Follow the answer with a brief explanation backed with Scripture.
This gives the child the biblical backing and authority of the answer.
 - If you don't know the answer, tell the child that his question is important and you will try to find the answer.
- ▶ Answer the child's question in a simple and honest way.
 - Treat each child's question in a serious manner.
 - After answering the child's question, ask him an open-ended question about the topic.
 - Never embarrass a child about a question he has asked.

- ▶ Listen carefully to each child who talks with you.
 - Careful listening shows the child you care.
 - When children know you care they are more apt to be honest in the future regarding other needs and problems.
- ▶ Remember the child's age when answering a question.
 - Children ask questions from their own limited understanding so avoid giving *adult* answers.
 - Answer the question in a way that will satisfy the child's understanding yet is the truth.
- ▶ Seek advice and help from other sources if necessary.
 - Your pastor
 - Mature Christians
 - Resource books and other tools

Possible resources:

Bible commentaries, Bible dictionaries and concordances are very helpful.

Teach Kids!™

Teach Kids! essentials

Teach Kids! curriculum club

Teach Kids! forum

The Wonder Book from CEF Press® is another good resource that's designed in a question and answer format.

Some Tough Questions Kids May Ask

Question 1: What does God look like?

Question 2: What does God do anyway?

Question 3: What language did Adam and Eve speak?

Question 4: If God didn't want us to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, why did He make it?

Question 5: Why do we need to give God money?

Question 6: Why can't I hear God speaking to me?

Question 7: Do real Christians kill themselves?

Question 8: What does the Easter bunny have to do with the Easter story?

Question 9: What makes Christianity different from other religions?

Question 10: What happens to people who die and have never heard of Jesus?

Question 11: My parents are separating, my dog was put to sleep and my best friend is moving. Is God punishing me for something?

Question 12: Why does God allow bad things to happen to Christians?

Question 13: What color will I be in Heaven?

Question 14: Since God is love does He love Satan?

Question 15: Who is the maker of Hell, God or Satan?