



CONFIDENCE | WEEK 4 | MAY 28, 2023

## 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Lesson

# All I Ask of You

**Monthly Virtue:** Confidence—Living like you believe God is with you.

**Bible Story:** All I Ask of You (Philip and the Man from Ethiopia) • *Acts 8:26-40*

**Key Question:** What questions do you have?

**Bottom Line:** God is with you even when you have questions.

**Basic Truth:** I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

**Memory Verse:** So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.”  
Hebrews 13:6a (NIV)

**KID CONNECT:  
5 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:  
25 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP  
25 MINUTES**

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*We might try to base our confidence on what we do well, or what someone might say about us. But true confidence should be built on something different. We think it's found in understanding how God is both big enough to create the universe, but also close enough to be right here with us. We know that we can trust God no matter what. We are created in God's image. And God loves us so much! Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when we trust Jesus with our life, the Holy Spirit is there to help us face whatever comes our way. We can respond to God's love and care with confidence!*

**Key Question: What questions do you have?** We hope that preteens can experience how church can be one of the safest places for them to ask hard questions about their faith. That's why, in Small Group, we'll get right to the heart of the matter. We pray that this question will allow kids in your church to be open about what confuses them about God, Jesus, and the Bible. We also hope it offers some comfort. After all, when you realize that everyone has questions about faith, you feel safer to ask your own. This could be a powerful week for your preteens.

We end the month in **Acts 8:26-40** and discover a Jesus-follower named Philip. An angel told Philip to travel toward the desert. On the way, Philip met an Ethiopian official who was reading the Jewish Scriptures. This man had questions, and he asked Philip to help him understand. Philip answered the man's questions and pointed him to Jesus. The man put his faith in Jesus and was baptized.

Bottom Line: **God is with you even when you have questions.** We'll never know everything there is to know, especially when it comes to our faith in God. In order to have confidence, sometimes we have to ask questions about what we don't know. We pray that kids will discover people in their life who they can trust with their hard questions about life and faith.

## KID CONNECT

### WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

*Play* intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

#### OPENING ACTIVITY:

(No Supplies)

During this time, concentrate on getting to know your group and building a relationship among you all. Create a place where they feel like someone knows them and that they belong. A great way to do that is to pull them into an activity (coloring, LEGOs, etc.) and ask them questions. Here are some suggestions:

- What are some highs/lows from your week?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- If you could ride on any animal, what would be the most fun/most difficult?
- Do you have any siblings/pets? What are their names?

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

*Show* the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins (9:35/11:20). While the countdown is happening, you are encouraging kids to clean up and engaging with the ones that are ready for large group.

**LGL:** "Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God's Word, the Bible.

"Before we play a game, just a few announcements...

**(SLIDE: MSM TOURS)** If you are in 5<sup>th</sup> grade going into 6<sup>th</sup>, you have a couple of opportunities to go over and check out the Middle School service before you move up. The first tour is TODAY! You and your small group leaders can head on over.



**(SLIDE: BAPTISM)** *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

## LARGE GROUP GAME

**(80-100 Cups, Snowball Launcher, 10 Indoor snowballs)**

**(SLIDE: VIRTUE)** Living like you believe God is with you!

**(SLIDE: THEME)**

“I think all of us could use some of THAT kind of confidence! We can take on tough challenges in life when we remember that God is there to help us and that we can trust God no matter what.

“This month, we’ve been playing some classic video games in the room. Today, we’re looking at a game that isn’t from quite so far back. This one is from the 2000s. It’s called Angry Birds!

**(SLIDE: ANGRY BIRDS)**

“The goal of the game is to launch the birds and knock down the towers. Let’s see if we can do that today, right at KidCity!

“First, we have two teams: this side and this side. *(Indicate two halves of the room. Be sure to have there be a decent amount of space (15-20 ft) between them. If you can split the room long-ways, that would be best.)* When I say, ‘Go,’ each team will have 60 seconds to stack cups to build the tallest tower you can on your side. Just start stacking the cups right where they are. *(Reference the cups on each side.)* Remember, if your tower gets super-tall and you can’t go any higher, then start to build out the sides.

*NOTE: If you have a lot of kids in your Large Group environment, simply have 2 boys and 2 girls come to the stage and build towers. Just be sure that there is a decent amount of space between them, so the wrong towers don’t get accidentally knocked down.*

“After we’re done building, each team will get to launch some ‘angry birds’ and try to knock down the other team’s cups. Whichever team has the most cups still standing at the end, wins. Are you ready to build? Sixty seconds on the clock. GO!

### **(VIDEO: 1 MINUTE COUNTDOWN)**

*(...when time’s up)* “All right! Nice work, everyone. Now I’ll choose one Small Group Leader from each team to do the launching.

*Choose an adult leader from each side. (Or you could have a different adult leader go each time.) Have each leader stand behind the tape line on their side of the room. Give each of them the same number of indoor snowballs (ideally, five). Encourage them to launch the balls with confidence!*

*Have the leaders take turns launching the balls, one at a time, toward the opposing team’s cup towers. After both teams have finished, count the remaining cups on each side that aren’t knocked down. The team with the most cups standing, wins.*

“Whoa! That was epic! You’re really good at playing Angry Birds. I could tell how confident you were! Now, let’s all get ready to sing, dance, and worship God together.”

## **WORSHIP**

### **(VIDEO: TOP OF MY LUNGS, WAVEWALKER)**

## **BIBLE STORY**

### **(No Supplies)**

We are continuing to learn about God’s Big Story. Right now, we are talking about the Early Church.

### **(SLIDE: TIMELINE)**

Let’s go back and look at where we’ve been. We saw how Jesus died on the cross, but He came back to life! That’s what we celebrated at Easter. For many days after that, Jesus appeared to His friends and followers. Then He returned to heaven.

“Just as Jesus promised, God sent the Holy Spirit to the believers, and the early church grew quickly. More and more people began to put their faith in Jesus and follow Him! In Jerusalem, the religious leaders tried to stop Jesus’ followers. Many of them were thrown in prison, and some were even killed! But that didn’t stop the new believers. They moved out from Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria. They took the news of Jesus everywhere they went.

“Today, we get to look at what happened next...”

### **(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY - 5 MIN)**

The official didn't understand what he was reading from Isaiah. I'm guessing that sometimes *you* don't understand what you read from the Bible. I mean, there are things I don't even understand in the Bible! So, what can we do in these situations?

"Find a trusted adult like a parent or family member or a Small Group Leader. Then ask your questions. We all need to remember that God welcomes our questions. When we're confused or uncertain about something, we don't need to hide it. We can ask. God is bigger than all of our questions put together!

"Honestly, you might not always get the answers you need. Sometimes the answers only make you ask more questions. Sometimes the only answer to our questions is 'I don't know.' And that's okay, too. The point is, though, to start asking. You can be confident that God will be right there with you, ready to help.

Remember this...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

God works all things for our good and His glory...that includes when and how we get answers to our questions! We can trust God to guide us through it all.

Before we pray, let's ask ourselves this question...

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** What questions do you have?

And remember: no questions are off limits. Do you want to know more about how Jesus did the things He did? Are there things you read in the Bible that are totally confusing? Bring your questions, and as you do, let's pray that God will help you find the answers we're looking for. Let's pray.

## PRAYER

"God, thank You so much for being with us through whatever challenges we might face in life. Thank You for this reminder that no matter what's happening in our lives, we can have confidence that You're there to help us. Please help us live with confidence just like Peter and John did. We thank You and praise You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

## DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS



## SMALL GROUP

**Monthly Virtue: Confidence—Living like you believe God is with you.**

**Bible Story: All I Ask of You (Philip and the Man from Ethiopia) • Acts 8:26-40**

**Key Question: What questions do you have?**

**Bottom Line: God is with you even when you have questions.**

**Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.**

**Memory Verse: So, we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” Hebrews 13:6a (NIV)**

In Middle School Ministry (MSM), small group time shifts from being more activity based (in KidCity) to being majority discussion based. In order to ease the transition for your rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders, take the time to lean more into the discussion questions during small group.

## MY BIG QUESTIONS

**(Post It Notes - 4-7 per kid, Pencils/Crayons/Markers, “Big Questions and Parent Note” activity page - double sided, 1 per kid to take home, “Door Note” - 1 per classroom to be posted on entrance door)**

### What You Do:

- Say, “We all have questions, big or small, that we would love to ask God. And you know what, we can ask God *anything!* He speaks to us through the Bible, through prayer, and through wise people who also know God.”
- Tell kids that you all are going to brainstorm questions that you can ask God. If needed, prompt the kids with example questions for God.
  - Why did You create some places to live that are hot and some places that are cold?
  - Why can’t my grandpa live forever?
  - Why did You create me with this kind of hair?
  - Why doesn’t my family look like the other families I know?
  - Why can’t I run as fast as my friend?
- Give every kid a few Post Its and a writing utensil.
- Encourage the kids to write down some questions they have for God that were not brainstormed.
- As they write a question, have them put the post its somewhere where everyone can see them (*Be sensitive if someone has written something that they don’t want to share. Don’t force them.*)
- Take a minute to read over the questions as a group. Reaffirm that “God is bigger than your questions.”
- Go ahead and answer some of the questions that the kids have. Remember, it’s ok to say, ‘I don’t know!’ Use the “Big Questions and Answers” activity page to help you and also send them home with the kids.
- If you have some kids that know the answers to some of the questions – let them answer!

## What You Say:

“I don’t know about you, but every time I write my questions for God, it feels so much better. Whether it’s a doubt I have about something or just a crazy question I have about how the world around me works, I like writing my questions because it makes them feel real and not silly.

“The awesome thing about writing your questions for God is that you can also go back and write in the answer once you get it! Remember, God may not always answer our questions right away, but Peter writes in the Bible that God has given us everything we need for a life following God. That means we can always trust God.

“This week, try to write down a question every day for God—no matter how big or small. Dive into the Bible and talk to the trusted adults in your life about these questions, too! Who knows, you may even learn something new together. *[Bottom Line]* **Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.**”

## DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- Can you think of a time when God found a way to answer a question you had?
- Who do you talk to when you have questions?
- Is it okay to question things we have always been taught?
- What questions do you have?
  - *(Do not be intimidated by this last question! As their Small Group Leader, you have a unique opportunity to give kids a safe place to ask questions that perhaps they would not feel comfortable asking a parent. Be aware of the potential open door for tricky discussion and be mindful of questions that should be answered with a temporary response of, “Let’s figure out a time to discuss that individually.” Also, remember this: you are not expected to have ALL the answers! Some things you might not know, and some questions actually don’t have definitive answers. It’s okay to tell kids exactly that.)*

## TRUE OR FALSE

(Floor Tape, “True or False Relay” Activity Page)

### What You Do:

- Put down a tape line.
- Designate one side “True” and the other side “False.”
- Direct the kids to stand on the tape line.
- Use the “True or False Relay” Activity Page to retell the Bible story, saying, “Go,” after every True/False statement. (Some statements will be true, and some statements will be false.)
- When you say, “Go,” instruct the kids to hop to the side they think is the answer.
- If the statement was false, invite the kids to give a factual statement.
- After each true or false statement, direct the kids to come back to stand on the line.
- Continue retelling the Bible story.

### What You Say:

“I loved playing ‘True or False’ with you all! We heard a lot about Philip and the official from Ethiopia who asked some big questions. When you listened to the story, maybe you were asking some questions, too! Here’s the great thing. **[Bottom Line]** **God is with you even when you have questions.** God can handle all of them! No question is too crazy or ‘out there’ for God!”

*[Make It Personal] (Share some kid-appropriate questions you might have experienced in your life—some that were able to be answered or some that have remained a mystery. For example: wondering how God’s Spirit took Philip away, why God makes the leaves change color in the fall, if God hears all of our prayers, etc. Encourage kids to realize that we won’t have the answer to some of our questions, and sometimes we’re not ready to receive some answers, and that’s okay! That’s the mystery of our faith.)*

## PRAY AND DISMISS

**(Preteen Devotionals - 1 per kid)**

### What You Say:

“God, thank You for everything You’ve done. Thank You for sending us Jesus who died on the cross for our sins. Thank You for sending us Your Holy Spirit who is our helper in every situation. Thank You for loving us, forgiving us, and letting us ask You any question in our hearts. Thank You for our church, our families, and for all the blessings You’ve given us. We love You, and we thank You. In Jesus’ name we ask these things, amen!”

Pass out the Devotionals to each kid. If there’s spare time, encourage kids to start looking over it and point out how it relates to today’s lesson.