



SERIES OVERVIEW

The Big Questions

We're convinced that life's biggest questions deserve better answers. So we teamed up with Orange to create this very special four-week curriculum series.

For the book [3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager](#), our FYI team collected hundreds of hours of research from teenagers, churches, and student-focused organizations across several cultures, as well as answers from students of varying races, socioeconomic backgrounds, and genders. Our research revealed huge opportunities for the church to walk with a generation as they ask "Who am I?", "Where do I fit in", and "Do I matter?". We've taken the insights from the book and developed an all-new curriculum for your ministry! This series will spark new discipleship conversations as you help teens discover Jesus-centered answers to their biggest questions of identity, belonging, and purpose.

We can't wait for your teenagers to discover the practical ways that following Jesus helps answer life's biggest questions. Enjoy this series and be sure to check out the good work happening over at thinkorange.com.

Bottom Line: Our biggest questions deserve better answers.

SAMPLE

RELATIONSHIP

Love God, Self, & Others

RESPONSE

Authentic Faith, Healthy Relationships, & Serving Others

WEEK ONE

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:18-20 NLT

BOTTOM LINE

Knowing Jesus changes everything.

WEEK TWO

SCRIPTURE

John 6:1-15 CEB
Ephesians 2:10 NIV

BOTTOM LINE

You don't have to prove you're enough.

WEEK THREE

SCRIPTURE

Acts 16:13-15 NLT
Acts 16:40 NLT
Galatians 3:26-28 NIV

BOTTOM LINE

You belong here.

WEEK FOUR

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 3:5 NLT
1 Corinthians 3:7-9 NLT

BOTTOM LINE

You matter more than you think.

REMEMBER THIS

FOR WE ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE. HE HAS CREATED US ANEW IN CHRIST JESUS, SO WE CAN DO THE GOOD THINGS HE PLANNED FOR US LONG AGO.

EPHESIANS 2:10 NLT



SERIES OVERVIEW

EVERY SESSION INCLUDES

- Teaching script
- Slides, video and audio files, and graphics to enhance your teaching
- Small group leader guide
- Worship leader guide
- Parent communications
- Printable daily devotionals for students
- Social media guide and graphics
- Suggestions for digital and socially distanced options

SAMPLE



COMMUNICATOR GUIDE

The Big Questions / Week 1

[PRELUDE](#)

[SOCIAL](#)

[WORSHIP](#)

[STORY](#)

[GROUPS](#)

[HOME](#)

SERIES SUMMARY

A 4-week series about identity, belonging, and purpose.

SERIES BOTTOM LINE: Our biggest questions deserve better answers.

WEEK 1: Knowing Jesus changes everything.

WEEK 2: You don't have to prove you're enough.

WEEK 3: You belong here.

WEEK 4: You matter more than you think.

SCRIPTURE

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him (Matthew 4:18-20 NLT).

TEACHING SLIDES

*All scripture, bottom lines, and prompts that are bolded in this script are also provided as teaching slides.

OPTIONAL MEDIA

- The Big Questions Countdown Video (10 minutes)
- The Big Questions Teaching Video – Week 1

TEACHING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

- Middle schoolers ask the best questions!
- Sometimes the questions we have are simple. *[Give examples relevant to your students.]*
- Sometimes the questions are more difficult to answer. *[Give examples like, “Is God really real?” and “What does it mean to follow Jesus?”, etc.]*
- A lot of us have wondered what exactly it means to follow Jesus, and people have many different answers to that question. That can make figuring out what it means to follow Jesus confusing.

TENSION

- Maybe for you, following Jesus means...
- Showing up at church every week or participating in small group.
- Journaling, praying, reading your Bible, or listening to worship music every day.
- Following the rules.
- Choosing to believe in Jesus.
- We’ve heard that Jesus is a life-changing, history-making, miracle-worker, so is following Jesus just a list of dos and don’ts?
- When it comes to our biggest questions, we need better answers.

TRUTH

- For a long time, people have been wondering what exactly it means to follow Jesus.
- Some of the first people to think about what following Jesus means were Jesus’ disciples, or followers.
- We read in Matthew, a historical account found in the Bible, about Peter and Andrew, fisherman who were Jesus’ disciples.
- A lot of what Matthew wrote down helps us figure out how knowing Jesus changes everything.
- *One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him (Matthew 4:18-20 NLT).*
- At this time in history, disciples would literally follow religious leaders called Rabbis, so Peter and Andrew may have wondered if that’s what Jesus meant. But following Jesus ended up being so much more.
- When Jesus asked Andrew and Peter to follow Him, Jesus didn’t just ask them to follow rules or do specific actions. Jesus just asked them to trust Him, come as they were, and follow Him on a journey.
- *[Give highlights of all the things that happened on Andrew and Peter’s journey following Jesus.]*
- When Jesus asked Andrew and Peter to follow Him, Jesus had more in mind for...
 - Who Andrew and Peter would become.
 - The relationships Andrew and Peter would have.
 - How much Andrew and Peter would matter in the world.
- Even though Andrew and Peter didn’t know exactly what to expect when they followed Jesus, they trusted Jesus to lead them. And it changed everything in their lives. The same can be true for us.

- Following Jesus isn't about knowing all the answers or having things figured out. It's about simply saying, "yes," to go with Jesus and trust Him to lead you as you go.
- When you do, you'll experience how knowing Jesus changes everything.

APPLICATION

- Knowing Jesus changes everything as you follow Jesus.
- This week, try this:
 - Think about what it means to follow Jesus and consider that it might mean something bigger than you imagine.
 - Talk about what it means to follow Jesus with your small group and Jesus Himself. Be open to how Jesus might be asking you to follow Him to help you find some answers.

LANDING

- Knowing Jesus changes everything.
- What does following Jesus mean to you?

THINK ABOUT THIS

Pay attention to the way your students engage in your talk this week. It will give you an idea of where they are when it comes to following Jesus in their own lives right now. Remember also to talk about the disciples and Jesus as real people—because they are! Humanizing the disciples, especially for your middle schoolers, will help them understand that these were real people, with real struggles, who had to make a real decision to follow Jesus. In other words, they were a lot like us! An important thing to note as well is that the disciples were invited to follow Jesus before they even really believed or knew Jesus. And the good news is the same is true for us! It's important for your middle schoolers to know that they can ask questions, learn about, and get to know Jesus before they believe. They can belong in your ministry before they have a faith of their own.

INTERACTIVE: HOW MANY QUESTIONS?

OVERVIEW

For this Interactive, you'll introduce this series on big questions we have about our faith by challenging small groups to write down as many questions as they can think of in one minute. (*This will take place right before your talk.*)

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- All of your middle schoolers
- All of your small group leaders
- Candy for the winning small group
- A timer
- The note-taking app on each small group leader's phone (Pen and paper would also work!)

HOW-TO

- Before your talk, instruct your small group leaders to round up their students into their groups as they enter your environment.
- Ask leaders to pull up their note-taking app on their phones or use pen and paper to write down students' questions when the Interactive begins.

*Note: In your Teaching Script, you'll be prompted to ask students to stand as part of this Interactive. If you have students who are in wheelchairs, this prompt can be easily adapted. Simply have all students sit down and raise their hands instead of stand.

SAMPLE



TEACHING SCRIPT

The Big Questions / Week 1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

BOTTOM LINE

KNOWING JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

INTRODUCTION

4 MINUTES

INTERACTIVE: How Many Questions?

To introduce this series on big questions we have about our faith, you'll challenge small groups to write down as many questions they can think of in one minute. (This will take place right before your talk.)

Welcome everyone! We're so glad you're here!

As you came in today, you were challenged to write down as many questions as you could think of in one minute. Before we get started today, let's see who the winning group is! I want everyone to stand up! *[See Interactive note to adapt this activity for students in wheelchairs.]* If your small group came up with 5 questions, keep standing. The rest of you can sit down. What about 15 questions? If so, keep standing! Did any groups make it to 25 questions? Then keep standing! The rest of you can sit down. *[Continue calling out numbers until one group is left standing.]* Let's give it up for *[winning group]* who came up with *[number]* questions! *[Give the winning group a candy shower.]*

The more I hang out with middle schoolers, the more I realize one thing is true: You ask the BEST questions!

Sometimes, the questions are simple.

Are we there yet?

Where's the food?

Can I borrow \$3?

Will you make a TikTok with me?

[Insert any other random questions that will resonate with your students.]

And sometimes, the questions are a little more difficult to answer.

Is God really real?

*What about dinosaurs?
Will my Grandma know it's me when I see her in heaven?
What does it actually mean to follow Jesus?
[Insert any other questions your students may be asking.]*

Honestly, that last question is one I've asked before myself. It's one I think most of us have thought about a time or two. Maybe it's one you've been thinking about today as you showed up here at church.

What does it actually mean to follow Jesus? It's pretty big question, right? And I bet if you asked ten different people here, you'd get about 10 different answers! And that can make figuring out what it really means to follow Jesus kind of confusing.

[Click here to purchase this curriculum and access the full teaching script.](#)



TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS

SAMPLE