

Yesterday. Today. Forever.

Module: Loving The Story

Lesson 1: SEEK

Objectives

- Students will learn that it's okay to ask questions in order to deepen their faith
- Students will learn that asking questions is crucial for the pursuit of God's wisdom.

Materials Needed

- ☐ 1 pen/pencil per student
- ☐ Strips of paper (min. 2 per student)
- ☐ 1 cardboard box
- ☐ 1 copy of Appendix 1 per 3-5 students

Minds On

Hand two slips of paper to each student. Have them write one question on each slip that they may be asking about God, or church, or youth group, etc. Encourage them to ask whatever is on their mind, and reassure them that the questions will remain anonymous (remind them not to write their names on it). Once they have written out their questions, instruct them to deposit their papers into the cardboard box.

Afterwards, have 1-2 leaders should draw one question from the box and try to answer it on the spot. (**Leader's note:** If the leader feels the question will take too long to respond to or they are not sure of the answer, they will research it and post an answer the following week.) In the following weeks, a leader will choose another 1-2 questions from the box and will prepare a 1-minute answer. (Leader's note: In some cases, the 1-minute answer may not be sufficient for some students. Encourage those students to individually approach the leader at another time to dig deeper into the subject.)

Action

Prompt: What compels you to believe in something? Experience? Conviction? If your best friend told you an outrageously ludicrous story, and reassured you by saying, 'I saw it with my own two eyes!' would that help compel you to believe?

Share an outrageous story that you once heard or read (it doesn't have to be true).

Afterwards, ask students to vote whether they believe the story is true by raising their left hand, or not by raising their right hand.

Read aloud Matthew 14:22-33.

Ask: What enabled Peter to believe? What caused things to change?

(He kept his eyes on Jesus...because he saw Him walking on water, Peter also believed he was capable of the same amazing feat. But when he took his eyes off him, and saw how rough the waters were, the smallest shred of doubt crept into his mind.)

Read John 20: 24-29.

Prompt: Thomas had to feel the holes in Jesus' hands before he was convinced of his resurrection. Sometimes, we need that physical, tangible evidence...but unlike Thomas, it is not always provided. This is where faith comes into play.

Ask: What does, or doesn't have them convinced that what the Bible says about Jesus is true? (Encourage them to be honest with their answers.)

If there are some who express things that cause them to have doubts, ask them what might it take to convince them. You can also ask whether a student or leader can share a personal experience where God has shown them his presence in a very real way. (Leader's note: Ensure you have someone selected ahead of time in case no one volunteers.)

Remind students that asking questions allow us to deepen our faith and discover truth. Leaders should encourage students to keep their minds open, and remember that, when answering questions, it is more important to answer them honestly than concretely.

Consolidate/Debrief

Gather in groups of 3-5 students. (If possible, have at least one adult leader in each group to listen to responds but not offer a response.) Distribute Appendix 1 to each group and ask them to answer those questions.

When you sense the groups have had enough time to work through the questions, call them back together. Invite them to share anything that came up in their discussions that would be helpful for the rest of the group to hear, particularly from question 3.

Conclude in prayer asking for God to deepen their faith and help them know that he is trustworthy!

Appendix 1

1. Has there ever been a time you were unsure of something, and something or someone managed to convince you to believe it? Tell us about it.
2. On the flipside, have you ever been convinced that something is so true, and you tried to convince others?
3. What sort of actions can you take to deepen your faith?
4. What is one question that you have about your own faith right now? (Encourage students to submit these questions into the drop box, or offer insight if you feel up to it.)