

MAIN GOAL
LIMITING FACTORS
STRATEGIES
TYPES OF ENGAGING QUESTIONS

MAIN GOAL

Want children to know and understand God, experience his love and power, and obediently trust him
Vs. mere moral teaching, Bible memorization

LIMITING FACTORS

Teaching about abstract God to concrete thinkers

- Risk confusing kids, formation of foundationally wrong views of God

Teaching to those with short-attention spans

- Risk boring kids with God or worse, having tense disciplinary times studying the Bible

STRATEGIES

#1: Spend dedicated time teaching children about God through the Gospel narratives

WHY? He made himself **concretely** manifest in the person of Jesus (Hebrews 1:1-3)

- not just his teachings, but also his interactions with others
- Not only are they concrete, they tap into children’s creativity and enjoyment of narrative

#2: utilize engaging questions to help children connect with the narrative and apply it today.

- Utilizing a child’s **creativity and ability to relate to others experiences** to place themselves within the concepts of the story
- Utilizing a child’s enjoyment of **relational interaction and praise** as we let them talk and validate what they say.

Minor strategies:

- Intersperse discussion throughout narrative to maintain attention (not just at end)
- Some recitational questions are ok w/ kids (vs. adults), but not if they’re too easy
- Silly questions stir enjoyment
- Lead them to way they can act on who Jesus is **RIGHT NOW (STOP)** – prayer most common
- Share about your own story describing your faith
- Short chunks – leave them wanting more

TYPES OF ENGAGING QUESTIONS

Have you been through a similar circumstance? – to relate them to story

Why did they respond that way to Jesus? – elicits what person may have seen Jesus do before

How could Jesus do that? – showing that he must / be God

Are there ways Jesus could help you in the same way? – connecting them to source of their needs

Can you relate to the struggle of the audience with Jesus? – talk through problems w/ God

What does this mean? – explain confusing or theological claims.

Devil’s advocate? – isn’t it wrong of Jesus to do this?

What would you do if you were there? – utilize their imagination to put them in same scenario