



S1.Lesson 8: Asking

Middle School Lesson Plans

Supplies Needed: Journals; tv or laptop to show movie clip (movie clip link is available at rfour.org/curriculum.html);

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING ACTIVITY - 20 Questions

- We're going to play the game of 20 questions.
- I'll be the first person to be "it."
- I am thinking of a famous person, place or thing.
- As a class, you get 20 questions that I can answer with yes or no (or sometimes, unknown, irrelevant, doubtful or probably).
- Raise your hand if you have a question.
- If I call on you, then you get to ask.
- You might want to confer with your classmates before you ask a question.
- I'll keep track of how many questions you've asked as a class.
- When you ask "Is it so-and-so?" that counts as one question.
- OPTIONAL: The person to guess correctly gets to go next (NOTE: you might want the adults to be participating to keep the activity flowing).

TELL

- There's a saying that goes like this, "You haven't tried to understand what the other person is saying until you've asked that person 6 questions."
- In today's class, we'll be talking about two types of questions. The type of question we just practiced with "20 Questions" helps us to better understand what another person is thinking or saying. These are called "clarifying" questions.
- The other type of question we'll talk about is a request or a question that asks for help.

ASK

- Is it hard for you to ask questions?
- Why?
- Is one type of question harder for you to ask than the other type?
- Have you ever asked someone 6 questions about what they were saying?

TELL

- We're now going to watch a clip where one person asks even MORE than 6 questions.
- Try to identify the type of questions as requests or clarifying questions.

WATCH Who's on First

ASK

- What is the problem between the two people talking?
- Is there a question that you think could've been asked that would've helped their conversation?
- What would that question be?
- If you were the one asking the questions, would you do what Costello (the shorter man) does and keep asking questions or would you just give up?
 - If you would give up, why would you give up?
- Is Abott (the taller man) helpful in helping Costello understand?
- What could Abott have done to help Costello?

TELL

- We're now going to read a scripture story about asking questions

READ *Luke 11:5-13 (from the Message)*

5 Then Jesus said, "Imagine what would happen if you went to a neighbor in the middle of the night and said, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. 6 An old friend just showed up (he's traveling), and I don't have anything to offer him to eat.' 7 "The neighbor answers from his bed, 'Stop bothering me! The door's locked; my children are all sleeping; I'm not getting up for *your* friend! Come back tomorrow.

8 Jesus continued with his story, "But let me tell you, even if the neighbor won't get up because he's a friend, if you keep knocking and yelling and waking all the neighbors, he'll finally get up and get you whatever you need."

9 "Here's what I'm saying: Ask and you'll get; Seek and you'll find; Knock and the door will open.

10 "Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. 11 If your son, a little boy, asks for some fish to eat, do you scare him by giving him a live snake on his plate? 12 If your daughter, a little girl, asks you for an egg, do you trick her by giving her a spider? 13 Of course you don't! You wouldn't even *think* of doing such a thing to your own children. And don't you think that God, who loves you even more than you love your children, will give you the Holy Spirit when you ask God for it?"

TELL

- The type of asking that Jesus is talking about in this story is a request.
- If we ask someone this type of question (a request), then we make it possible for that person to say "no" to us.
- Having someone say "no" to us can sometimes hurt or disappoint us.
- But Jesus tells us to keep asking because God loves us more than parents love their children and just because we don't receive an answer right away, doesn't mean we should stop asking.

ASK

- When you ask God questions, what kind of questions do you ask God: Clarifying questions or requests?
- When you ask God clarifying questions from God, have you received answers? (there may not be many answers to this question...that's ok)

- When you request things from God, do you think you have received those things?
- In the last verse, what does Jesus say you will receive from God if you ask for it? (the Holy Spirit)
- Is the Holy Spirit something you ask God for over and over?

TELL

- It's ok if you don't or haven't asked God for the Holy Spirit over and over again.
- For some or most of us, we may not even have known it was something we **COULD** ask for!
- But now we *do* know that we can ask, and that is the Good News for today!

If there's time...

JOURNAL

--What are some clarifying questions (questions that help you to understand what is being communicated) that you'd like to ask God?

CLOSING PRAYER