

# WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

1. Meesha goes to church almost every Sunday with her parents. She doesn't always understand the sermons, but she likes the singing. She doesn't attend the youth group meetings. At school, she's a good student and doesn't give anyone any trouble. She has lots of friends.

Do you think Meesha is a Christian?

2. Check the following that are necessary for being a Christian.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be baptized.               | <input type="checkbox"/> Belong to the right kind of church. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be confirmed.              | <input type="checkbox"/> Repent of your sins.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ask Jesus into your heart. | <input type="checkbox"/> Love God and love others.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Believe the Bible is true. | <input type="checkbox"/> Act like a Christian.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be a church member.        | <input type="checkbox"/> Give money to the church.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stop committing sins.      | <input type="checkbox"/> Read the Bible and pray every day.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be born again.             | <input type="checkbox"/> Join the church choir.              |

3. What's the best reason to become a Christian? **Circle one.**

To go to heaven.

To have a better life on earth.

To experience the love of God in my life.

To get everything I want.

4. One thing I don't understand about the **Christian faith** is—

5. Match the following Bible verses with the words in the right-hand column.

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Matthew 6:33        | a. Love others        |
| 2. Matthew 16:24       | b. Follow Christ      |
| 3. Matthew 22:37       | c. Glorify God        |
| 4. Matthew 22:39       | d. Love God           |
| 5. Romans 12:1-2       | e. Seek God's kingdom |
| 6. 1 Corinthians 10:31 | f. Do God's will      |



# WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? [basic Christianity]

## THIS WEEK

This TalkSheet is designed to help explore some of the basic ideas about Christianity. Some of your kids will be on different levels—you may have to add ideas or questions based on your group. You may also want to emphasize specific beliefs or doctrines within the context of this TalkSheet.

Make sure that you do your homework for this discussion. Be prepared for those student who won't understand Christian concepts such as "born again", "be confirmed", or "ask Jesus in your heart". Don't assume that your kids will understand all these! You'll probably have to explain a few or all of these.

## OPENER

Are your kids listening? How much do they know? Check it out by asking an adult member of your church, a youth sponsor, or your senior pastor to prepare a five-minute message. It should contain some subtle half-truths that aren't biblically correct. You may want to prep your kids before hand—maybe have them write down any ideas they disagree with. Then see if they picked up any questionable ideas from the sermon.

Or play Bible Trivia—you may be surprised what they do or don't know! You can either pick out some questions before hand or check out [www.Biblequizzes.com](http://www.Biblequizzes.com) or [www.bible-trivia.com](http://www.bible-trivia.com). Split the group up into teams and take turns asking questions. The team with the most points wins the game.

## THE DISCUSSION, BY THE NUMBERS

1. This tension-getter was designed to help your kids think about what it means to be a Christian. You might add more information about Meesha, a little at a time. Mention some extra facts—she was baptized as an infant, she doubts the Bible is the Word of God, she went forward to receive Christ at a youth conference, she sometimes swears, she has started smoking cigarettes, and so on. The main point is that it's not easy to know whether not people are genuinely Christians or not.
2. What statements on this list are necessary in order to be a Christian? Discuss each of these—you may want to have some verses to help the discussion. Focus on what the cores of Christian beliefs are and which ones are most important
3. Communicate that the Christian faith requires a relationship with God. You may want or need to read some verses or explain the death and resurrection of Christ. Again, don't assume that your

kids understand everything about being a Christian. Encourage them to ask questions and remind them that you'll be there to talk with them one-on-one later.

4. Now's the time to try to clear up any misunderstandings that the kids might have about the Christian life. Before you take over answering, encourage them to share their views and understandings with each other.
5. After the kids have completed matching up the verses with the statements, choose one or two to discuss with them. Ask them if they have questions or any ideas about what the verses say about Christians.

## THE CLOSE

Explain, encourage, and invite! You may have kids who need some one-on-one answers about being a Christian. This is an open door for presenting the gospel and salvation through Jesus. Assure them that no question is stupid—they don't have to understand everything about the Christian faith! The Christian life is a journey.

Encourage your kids to grow in the Christian faith, to get reading their Bibles and in conversation with God through prayer. As a Christian, they have a gift to give—the message of God's love and salvation. If they want to understand Christianity better, they need to get to know God better. Encourage them and provide them with ways to learn more about the faith. Recommend a devotional or Bible reading program, organize a small group Bible study—you need to jumpstart them and encourage their walk with God.

## MORE

- Do your kids know what a creed is? Do they have their own personal creed—a statement of their personal beliefs? Have them write one. Encourage them to put it in a visible place and read it when they start to doubt their beliefs or when people question what they believe and why.
- Or have each of your youth write a letter stating their spiritual goals and how they want to grow as Christians. Give them envelopes, which they will address to themselves and seal. Mail the letters to them anywhere from six months to a year.
- You may want to have your kids do some research on the Internet for information on Christian doctrines—sanctification, conversion, grace, justification, or creation. Some of these can be pretty heavy subjects—be sure not to overload them! You may want to make this a group effort and work with each other.