

Speaking Teach Kids How to Overcome the World's Hot Topics

Teach Kids How to Overcome the World's Hot Topics: Learn how to address with kids the hard topics the world is throwing at them. Topics include: Do what makes you happy. You can be whatever you want to be. Love is ...

WELCOME

Today's kids are bombarded with ½ truths, topics, situations that you and I did not think about until late middle school or early high school. Would you agree?

What are some hot topics that you've seen kids experience, be exposed to and has become part of their world? Get with your partner and create a list of 3 or 4 things.

- They see and experience gender confusion.
- They are exposed to pornography.
- They are not sure what a family is supposed to look like.

This year's VBS equips us to teach kid God's truth in spite of what other people tell us. In this session, I want to encourage and equip you to handle hot topics at your church!

Let's take a little facts test. Work with your partner to determine your answers.

- At what age does a person's worldview start developing? (15-18 months old)
- At what age is a child worldview deeply formed and rarely endures significant change? (13 years old)
- At what age do most Americans accept Christ? (before the age of 13)
- What percentage of adults are still trying to identify the meaning and purpose in their life? (2 out of every 3, 67%)

*** Statistics from Raising Spiritual Champions by George Barna***

Go over questions:

It is during a person's first dozen years on Earth that they amass the knowledge relationships, experiences, and wisdom that shape their lifelong perspectives on how the world works, their place in the world and how they will carry out their vision of self and life for the duration of their stay on the planet.

The more biblically prepared a child is to address life, the more likely they are to embrace a Christlike approach to daily challenges. The less biblically trained a child is, the less likely it is that they will ever become a genuine disciple of Jesus.

Your chief purpose in life – and the pathway to joy, fulfillment, meaning and flourishing – happiness- is to know, love and serve God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength Mark 12:29-30 The answer is JESUS!! Why is it so important that adults know the purpose and

meaning in life? They are raising the next generation!!! - the children we teach and disciple each week!

You do what you believe.

How do we do it?

1. We teach the Bible!

Don't be afraid to teach what God's word says!

Teach the truth.

Don't get into arguments or debates. Listen and then say, wow, the Bible says....

You don't have to agree or disagree with what a child is saying, you simply teach the Bible.

Most kids want to be heard! They want help figuring out the truth, what's right and what's wrong, what's best, and how do we do that?

Take them to the BIBLE!!

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Reference Ages and Stages / LOBL – Teach this starting with your babies all the way through pre-teen. Show them how it progresses in a spiritually developmentally appropriate way!

Promise today that you will commit to talk to kids about the hard topics and tell them what the Bible says

Let's walk through a few of these topics together.

1. IDENTITY!

I was talking to a girl at a nearby elementary school and she said, "I can be anything I want to be." Do you believe that statement? I can be anything I want to be?

Yes – thumbs up

No - thumbs down

I told her you can't be anything you want to be. She said yes I can and I said I'm sorry but you can't. So we did a little activity together. Let's try it.

Invite a volunteer to join you.

Ask the volunteer to be an elephant. Encourage them to walk like an elephant, act like an elephant.

Excellent. Ask the audience, "Is she an elephant?"

If you act like an elephant does that make you an elephant?

I know, "Talk like an elephant." Invite the volunteer to make elephant sounds. That makes her an elephant, right?

Maybe if we dress her like an elephant that will make her an elephant. Put elephant ears on her and an elephant trunk. Does that make her an elephant?

You said she can be anything she wants to be but if you..

Act like an elephant does that make you an elephant?

Talk like an elephant does that make you an elephant?

Dress like an elephant does that make you an elephant?

Can you really be anything you want to be? You can't be anything you want to be. You can be who God created you to be!!

Turn in your Bibles or phone to Psalm 139:13. Read it to your partner.
For you formed my inward parts. You knit me together in my mother's womb.

God created you before you were born to be you.

When God created the world, he made the sun, the moon, the stars, all of the animals on land, in the sea, in the air and THEN he created humans!

He created your inward parts in your mother's womb so before you were born, he made a male or a female a boy or a girl, not an elephant, not a cat, not a tree.

God created me.

Before I was born.

Let's go back to Psalm 138:14

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made

Here that word wonderfully – that means unique and special.

There is no other you! You are made to be you!! Just like you are.

And then the verse says

My soul knows it very well.

That means I know it. I know it very well. If you try to be something else, your soul says NO this is not what I'm created to be. Like when we say, "You are an elephant," you laugh because your soul knows it full well.

If I say you can pick what you want to be, cat, dog, elephant, you laugh because your soul knows that silly!

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Repeat after me:
God made me.
Before I was born
Like him
I am wonderfully made.
My soul knows it full well

Who made you?
When did he make you?
Like who?
How are you made?
Who knows it?

So the next time someone comes to you and says, You can be anything you want to be. You smile and say thank you but I can't.
God made me.
Before I was born
Like him
To be me just like I am.
And my soul knows it full well.

Let's practice with our partners! Oldest person say, "You can be anything you want to be."
Youngest partner, "Tell them the truth."

2. Family

How do we address family today? We teach the BIBLE!
They are going to see it, hear it and encounter many types of families so what do we do? Tell them God's plan for families. I want to help you know how to address this topic from God's word.

Around the table share any encounters or situations you've had where you have had to address this topic with your kids.

I learned a fingerplay when I first started teaching kids

Here is the mommy.
Here is the daddy.
Here is the brother tall.
Here is the sister
Here is the baby.
Oh, how God loves them all.

Say it with me.

That's what most families looked like back then, but now families look very different.

Here is the mommy. Here is the mommy.

Here is the daddy. Here is the daddy.

Here is the grandma.

Here is the stepmom or stepdad.

Here is the adopted mom or foster dad.

Families come in all forms.

This is what we know.

Let's do the fingerplay one more time.

What does the last line say? GOD LOVES THEM ALL!

God loves families. God loves people.

John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved what ? THE WORLD"

How do we address family today? We teach the BIBLE!

They are going to see it, hear it and encounter many types of families so what do we do? Tell them God's plan for families. I want to help you know how to address this topic from God's word.

So what was God's original plan?

Let's see what the Bible says. This is how we know it's true!

Picture of each thing God made on screen with Gen 1:1 find each thing as I'm talking about it quickly.

Genesis 1: 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Day 1 Light – Day and Night vs 3-5

Day 2 Sky – vs 8

Day 3 Land & Seas – Earth vs 10, Trees. Vegetables – Food vs 11

Day 4 Sun & Moon - vs 16

Day 5 Birds & Water Animals – vs 21

Day 6 Land Animals – vs 25

Day 6 PEOPLE

Genesis 1: 27 God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him. Male and Female he created them.

How did God create us? Male and female! How did he do that?

Read Genesis 2:7

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

(Have brown playdough and try to form it, Breathe into it.) And the man became a living creature.

Can you imagine what that was like? I imagine when Ariel got legs and she was trying to walk or a little animal learning to walk. https://youtu.be/4TMypFkRGM0?si=4S-ryw_BaBg6toIN

I wonder if Adam did that when he first tried to walk!

What did God do with this man he created?

Gen 2:15

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to (Play Video Games. Kid yes!! NO) work it and keep it.

God created us to work! That was God's plan from the beginning.

When I teach this to kids, I say God put him in the garden to play video games. They say NOOO! To sit around and watch TV? NOOOO Then what are you doing? Get to work. God created you to work!

God noticed something.

Gen 2:18

Then the Lord God said, "it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him.

Adam needed a helper, a helper that was fit for him! Adam didn't need to be alone. Side note: It is not good for you to be alone. Isolation cures nothing.

Gen 2:21

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

Explain this in detail for fun!

Share the gospel when you say you can't wait to meet Adam in heaven and ask to see where the rib was taken out. Tell kids how you know you'll be in heaven.

Gen 2:22

And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to him [Picture of human Rib on screen](#)

Gen 2:23-24

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Notice he said bone of my bones. Why did Adam say that? How was she taken out of Man?

This is why Mr. Rick sometimes calls me his RiB.

I'm not advocating calling your wife Rib but we are your helpers.

I realized if he calls me rib, I guess I can call him dirt. LOL

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

I tell the kids, leave your momma. You don't need to live in their house forever.

This is God's plan for family! A man and a woman. They leave their father and mother and they become one. They become another family! Sometimes the man and woman have children and then children are part of their family!

God's plan for family is a man and woman, then sometimes they have children.

Children may realize their family may not look like this.

When they say, my family doesn't look like this or ask questions.

Your #1 response is LISTEN!

Let them process and talk through all of their thoughts!!

Then say, how do you want your family to be when you grow up?

Listen and let them process.

This is what we know... God loves families! God loves people! God loves their family and this is God's plan.