



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

THE QUESTIONS GAME



JOHN 20:19-31

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:27-28

This is a group game--everyone plays together. You will have a collection of objects as your props. With each prop, you will ask the whole group to guess what color it is, what it is like, what it is, etc. They will vote on a correct answer. After voting, one participant will experience the object in some additional way - seeing it, feeling it, shaking the box, etc. - and give a more educated guess. Another vote will be taken before the object is revealed to the group.

The purpose of the game is to demonstrate that, like Thomas, we all need information and experience in order to draw accurate conclusions. Sometimes we can't experience something for ourselves but, unlike Thomas, we can still believe it to be true because of other information we are given, our past experience, our trust in the source of information, and things we already know or believe to be true.

The game goes as follows:

- Hold the picture of a flower so the group can't see it. Tell the group you are holding a picture of a flower.

Ask the following:

- What color is it? Let the group vote if they agree with the color or colors that are said. (They can vote by agreeing with thumbs up or disagreeing with thumbs down. If they don't know they can turn their thumb sideways. If you have them do this right in front of their bodies with all facing you then they won't be waiting to see how their friend votes before they do.)
 - Have one participant come up and look at the flower. Tell them not to let anyone see it. Ask the participant, "What color is it?"
 - Next, have the other participants vote as to whether or not they believe the first participant. Then show the picture to the group.
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- Next do the same with the picture of another flower.
 - With the next 2 objects, place them one at a time in the box without letting the group see what they are. Have them guess what the object is without any clue. After 3 or 4 guesses, have them ask you questions to narrow it down (like the game Twenty Questions.) After a few questions have a participant come and let them feel the object and tell if it is smooth or rough, hard or soft, firm or squishy, etc. The group can guess, then vote to agree or disagree after each guess. You can then let the participant see the object. He or she can then tell the group what it is (or make up something to fool the group) and the group can vote to agree or disagree.

After you have played this 5 to 10 minutes ask the following:

- Which items were the easiest to guess? Answers will vary but generally they are the things they have seen or know about or have information from witnesses that they trust.
- Which items did you have to guess about without having any idea whether you were right? Answers will vary but the ones where there was not enough information to know the right answer, like the color of the flower or objects in a box, will probably be said.

End the game by saying: Some questions were easy because we knew more about the item or had experience that made us sure of our answers.

Application:

Say: The game was fun but it also showed us that sometimes we need experience to believe what we are told is true. Let's think about Thomas. Did he have the knowledge and experience he needed to believe Jesus was alive? (Accept any answer but be sure that it is stated that he did not believe Jesus could be alive because he knew he had died on the cross.)

Say: The only evidence Thomas had was the other disciples' word that Jesus was alive. I wonder why he didn't believe his good friends when they told him Jesus was alive? (Accept any answer; lead them to the fact that he needed to see for himself.)

Say: When you were playing the game, was it easier to make a decision when you were the one looking at or feeling the object, or when somebody else was looking or feeling and telling you about it? Did you ever NOT believe what the person said? Why or why not? (Accept all answers.)

Say: Sometimes, no matter what somebody tells us, we need to experience the evidence for ourselves, like Thomas. But sometimes we can believe something because we trust the person who tells us, or because we have other knowledge or experience that tells us something is true. Some people can believe that Jesus is alive because it's in the Bible. Some people need more knowledge and experience. We can't see Jesus, but by learning about him and trying to live the way he did and experiencing his love for us, we all can come to know Jesus. Jesus promises to make himself known to us. Do you remember what Thomas said when he realized it was Jesus? 'You are my Lord and my God.' Jesus is our Lord and our God, too."

Do you remember what Jesus said about all of us who WERE NOT in the room? (Blessed are those who have not seen, yet believe!) Why are we called "blessed"?