



**Leading Life- Changing  
Discussions with a  
Small Group of Kids**

**With Susan Shadid**

**Promiseland Conference  
March 14- 16, 2001**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Session Speaker and Goal .....	3
I. Know Your Kids.....	4
II. Create a Safe Environment for Group Discussion.....	5
III. Strategies for Asking Questions, Responding to Answers, Promoting Thought.....	7
Appendix: Stages of Faith.....	12
Book and Resource Recommendations .....	16

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## SESSION SPEAKER & GOAL



### **Susan Shadid**

Being part of a team and providing quality Christian education for kids are definitely two of Susan's top passions. The daughter of missionaries, Susan graduated from Olivet Nazarene and the University of Illinois, and spent 22 years teaching in public schools. She joined the WCCC Promiseland staff full time in 1996 as Director of Curriculum and Training. Active as a presenter of staff development programs, her knowledge and experiences have enabled her to integrate educational research, design and development into curriculum.

A world traveler, Susan is always eager to jump in a car, hop on a plane or a camel to explore different places and meet new people. She has visited 25 countries, sometimes serving, sometimes teaching but always learning. She has a keen eye for antiques in alleys and treasures in attics to add to her 100-year-old Victorian home. Entertaining family and friends or interacting with her nephews and nieces are some of her greatest pleasures.

### **Goal**

To enable participants to create a safe learning environment in which kids are eager to seek and share information and to explore strategies that motivate kids to think critically and grow spiritually.



## I. Know Your Kids

A. Be A \_\_\_\_\_ and A \_\_\_\_\_.

Prayer, "What new thing can I discover about each child that will help him/her be connected to God?"

What is the quality of your presence?

B. Be Mindful of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The spiritual life begins at conception, the spiritual quest begins at birth.

"Spiritual Growth of Children" by Trent, Osborne and Bruner  
(see appendix)

Knowing: Shows truths kids are ready to learn about their faith,  
God and what He has done

Loving: Shows how kids are developing in their relationship with God

Living: Shows how kids are living out their person/actions and who  
God wants them to be

Ages 0-4: Lays the \_\_\_\_\_ for horizontal and vertical  
relationships with God and others.

Ages 5-6: Establishes and \_\_\_\_\_ about relationships with  
God and others.

Ages 7-9: Begins to give kids \_\_\_\_\_ for their faith.

Ages 10-12: Helps kids to \_\_\_\_\_ that they have choices.



## II. Create a Safe Environment for Group Discussion

### A. The Power of Discussion

Creates \_\_\_\_\_ Learning and Application

"Memory is affected by how deeply we process new knowledge. Simply listening to or repeating something is likely to be stored in a way that we have difficulty finding it when we want to remember it. **If we elaborate our learning by thinking about its relationships to other things we already know or by talking about it - explaining, summarizing, and questioning - we are more likely to remember it when we need to use it later."**

*Teaching Tips* by Wilbert J. McKeachie

When kids \_\_\_\_\_ about what they are hearing and learning they \_\_\_\_\_ it, and then they are more likely to remember it when they need it later.

### B. Provide A Safety Net

Emotionally - "They are \_\_\_\_\_ by God and by you."

"Free from \_\_\_\_\_."

Socially - "To know and \_\_\_\_\_ known."

Intellectually - "Learning process requires \_\_\_\_\_."

Spiritually - The Holy Spirit does the \_\_\_\_\_. When kids are asking questions it is an indication they are \_\_\_\_\_.



Power of P\_\_\_\_\_ Phrasing

Power of Positive Non-Verbals

S

O

F

T

E

N



### III. Strategies for Asking Questions, Responding to Answers and Promoting Thought

#### A. Question and Answer Sequence: Think Time

1. Leader asks the whole group the question

**Pause 3 seconds**

Benefits:

2. Leader calls on kid

**Kid thinks/pauses for 3 seconds**

Benefits:

3. Kid responds

**Pause 5 seconds after the answer**

Benefits:

4. Teacher responds



**B. Gathering Responses**

1. Call on kids at \_\_\_\_\_
2. Raising \_\_\_\_\_
3. Pair and \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Signal Response
5. Private \_\_\_\_\_
6. Choral \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIVILEGE: Option to Pass**

**C. Responding to Answers**

1. Correct Answers

Vary your \_\_\_\_\_

Use n\_\_\_\_\_

Probe/Invite - "and then ....., "tell me more..."





2. Incorrect Answers

Use safety net: P\_\_\_\_\_h\_\_\_\_\_d\_\_\_\_\_

"That's an answer to the question I'll be asking in a moment."

"That's the answer to the question....."

Give \_\_\_\_\_

Accept the \_\_\_\_\_

If partially \_\_\_\_\_, affirm that part

3. Evasive/Non - Answer

What keeps kids from answering questions?

4. Including Everyone

Use \_\_\_\_\_ box or container

Use one \_\_\_\_\_ to pass

Secret \_\_\_\_\_

Give \_\_\_\_\_ an object

Benefits: Avoids monopolizer

(Remember to acknowledge the answer, and avoid repeating the answers)



**D. Probing Questions for Deeper Thought**

Open-Ended Question:

Close-Ended Question:

Wonder Question:

Application Question:

Comprehension Question:

"If the language of religion can be associated with the creative process, it can help with one's life pilgrimage. If religious language is learned in a way that links it to raw authority, shame, guilt, fear, or some other destructive association it can cripple us and stop religious growth in its tracks."

*Godly Play* by Jerome Berryman



**Insights Gained...**

**Ways I'll Use This...**

**I'm Wondering About...**

# APPENDIX



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## BOOK & RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



*Joining Children on their Spiritual Journey* by Catherine Stonehouse  
Baker Books, 1998

*Spiritual Growth of Children* by John Trent, Rick Osborne, Kurt Bruner  
Tyndale House, 2000

*Stages of Faith* by James Fowler  
San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1981

*The Faith of a Child* by Art Murphy (Includes signs that your child is ready to become a Christian, sharing your faith with a child, and taking your child's spiritual temperature.)  
Moody Press, 2000

*The Spiritual Life of Children* by Robert Coles  
Houghton Mifflin, 1990

*Godly Play* by Jerome W. Berryman  
Augsburg, 1991

*201 Great Questions for Parents and Children* by Jerry D. Jones  
NavPress, 1999

*Mister God This Is Anna* by Fynn (This is a true story of a little girl and her very insightful view of God. She had an astonishing ability to ask and answer-life's largest questions. A story you will always remember.☺)  
Ballantine Books, 1974

*Getting Your Kids to Talk* by Dave Veerman, Tyndale House, 1994.

*Teaching Tips* by Wilbert J. McKeachie, Heath, 1994.