

# Lesson: WHY? or WHYning?

## Lesson

### **Say:**

- “Why?” is an important question.

**Ask:** *Allow time for answers.*

- Can you tell my why it is an important question?

### **Say:**

- If we ask someone who knows the answer to our question, we may learn something new and become smarter and maybe wiser.
- We may also understand the importance of doing or not doing certain things.

**Ask:** *Allow time for discussions.*

- Can you think of a great “why” question?
- Can we always know “why” about everything?
- Have you ever asked your parents why they want you to do something?
- Do your parents say you need to do things that you don’t want to do?
- Have you ever asked someone (maybe a parent) *why?* just because you didn’t want to do something?
- When you do this, are you WHYning?

### **Say:**

- Sometimes we find out that we need to do something for God, and we wonder “why?”
- Other times we know that there are things that we should not do and we wonder “why?”

**Ask:** *Allow time for answers and discussions.*

- Does the Bible tell us that we must understand everything that God tells us to do or not to do?
- Does the Bible tell us that we must like everything that God does or that He allows to happen?

### **Say:**

- God does not expect us to understand or like everything, but He wants us to accept it.

**Ask:** *Allow time for discussions.*

- What is something that God might allow to happen that you might not like?
- What is something that God says to do that you might not understand?

### **Say:**

- When these things happen, God really does care and wants us to praise Him, thank Him, and love Him.
- He still knows what is best, even when we don’t know why things are happening or when we don’t like it.
- We know that God knows what is best and we are supposed to thank Him and be joyful in all things, because He does know what is best for us.

**Read:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV) “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

### **Say:**

- It may not always seem that what is happening is best, but God knows what He is doing.
- The Bible tells us that everything works out for the good of those who love Him.

**Read:** Romans 8:28 (NIV) “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

### **Say:**

- It all comes down to trusting Him.
- We need to trust Him.

**Read:** Psalm 62:8 (NIV) “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.”

### **Say:**

- Remember that God loves us so much that He made a way for us to live with Him forever.
- He sent Jesus to die for us so we can have eternal life.
- He also loves us enough to take care of us.

**Final Thought:** There are times in everyone’s life when we don’t like things that happen or we don’t understand why God allows things to happen. We just need to trust Him, thank Him, and love Him. He really does know what He is doing, even when we don’t understand or like it.

# Activities: WHY? or WHYning?

## Craft: Stick Puppets

### Items Needed:

- General: Craft Sticks, Crayons or Markers, Glue, Construction Paper, Decorations
- Per Child: 2 Craft Sticks, 1 Index Card

### Instructions:

- Tell the children that they are going to create two stick puppets to play with and pretend to answer “why” questions.
- Give each child two craft sticks and one index card.
- Tell the children to cut their index cards in half, cutting the longest sides.
- Have them each cut an oval out of each half of the index card. (They will be the faces of the puppets.)
- Have them decorate the faces.
- The remainder of the index card can be used for ears and hair.
- After they decorate the faces, they will glue the faces onto the sticks.
- They can then decorate the sticks in whatever way they choose with the construction paper and other decorations.



## Indoor Activity: Why?

### Instructions:

- Have the children sit in a circle.
- Tell one child to start the game by telling a sentence or two about something to the other children.
- The child to his or her right will ask, “why?”
- The next child in the circle will answer the question with a silly answer.
- The next child in the circle will ask, “why?”
- The child next to him or her will answer the question with a silly answer.
- Example: A man went to the grocery store. Why? To buy a gorilla. Why? So he could give him a bath. Why? Because he was in the ice cream aisle and got it all over him. Why? He was living in the store at night and got hungry.

## Outdoor Activity: Why You?

### Items Needed:

- 1 Beanbag

### Instructions:

- Have the children stand in a circle with their hands cupped behind their backs.
- Choose one child to be “it.”
- The child who is “it” will walk around the circle and pat each child on the back and say “why” until he or she gets to the child that he or she chooses, drops the beanbag in that child’s hands, and says, “you.”
- The child who now has the beanbag in his or her hands will pass it to the person on his or her right and run around the circle.
- The children will continue to pass the beanbag around the circle to the right.
- The child’s goal is to make it back to his or her spot before the beanbag makes it to that spot.
- If the child is able to run around the circle and return to his or her spot to receive the beanbag that is being passed around, he or she is the new “it” and the child who was “it” is out.
- If the child can’t make it around the circle before the beanbag is passed around the circle, he or she is out and the child who was “it” continues to be “it.”
- Encourage “it” to choose children who have not been able to participate.