

## **How to Answer a Child's Questions on Gender-Confusion**

Bible2School®'s mission is to teach Biblical truth and show children their unique value in Christ. Bible2School gives us unique circumstances for conversations to arise as we create emotionally and spiritually safe places for children to ask questions, and we can answer in light of Biblical truth.

We recognize that any conversation touching on gender, especially as it relates to identity issues, can be sensitive and have the potential to be misunderstood. Entering into such a conversation may seem daunting. Any misspoken word or question might be taken out of context in our present culture, and so we may be inclined to avoid the subject when it arises.

**God has given us truth, and we can be courageous when speaking Biblical truth clothed in sensitivity and love.**

This guide was designed to give a framework for thinking through how to approach a sensitive conversation, provide talking points, and give practical applications for situations that may arise when working with children.

***Above all, pray and listen to the Holy Spirit for guidance, as no two children or conversations are the same.***

**Prepare your heart and mind before any potential conversation arises**

Know Your Conversation Goals as a Follower of Christ

- Seek to glorify God
- Show love for others
- Hold to Biblical truth

Understand what Biblical Love for Others Looks Like in Your Life

- Be Sensitive to the Spirit
- Have Patience
- Think & Act in Humility
- Seek to understand
- Seek the best for someone else
- Point to the ultimate goal - a relationship with Christ

### Check Your Heart Posture

- Enter into conversation with a non-judgmental manner
- Recognize we all have brokenness and are in need of forgiveness
- Acknowledge not everyone comes from the same background

### Talking Points to help guide a discussion

#### Affirm them in asking the question

- “That’s a good question.”
- “I appreciate that you are thinking through this and asking a good question.”

#### Ask questions and listen

- “What do you believe about the Bible?”
- “What did we learn in the very beginning of the Bible about why God made us?”
- “What does God say about who we are?”

#### Reiterate the importance of the Bible and what God says in it

- “God gave us the Bible so we can know Him and how He wants us to think and act.”
- “God created us and loves us.”
- “God made us in His image and likeness and in the Bible, He said it was good.”
- “Sin entered the world and stained God’s creation, including our thoughts and actions.”
- “Sin tempts us to think or act in ways that break God’s laws.”
- “God tells us to listen to Him, not our hearts, since our hearts are often wrong.”
- “God loves us (His very good creation) but He doesn’t love our disobedience to His laws.”
- “Because of sin, we can’t keep God’s laws perfectly or be with Him, but He created a way for us to be with Him through Jesus.” (CBA tool is great to use along with this statement)

### End with offering to Pray for the Child as they work through this topic and thank them for talking with you

- That God would give them wisdom and understanding from His Word
- Talk to your parents or your pastor about it, if appropriate

## **Practical Applications:**

### **Child's Name** Core Value: Christ-Centered)

- Use the child's given name (on the registration form, or a nickname)

### **Pronoun Use** (Core Value: Christ-Centered)

- Avoid using a pronoun you don't agree with, or use the child's name instead.
- Avoid using 'them' in reference to an individual.

### **Bathroom use** (Core Value: Safety)

- Allow one student at a time in a bathroom facility
- Try to use school routines for a bathroom break

### **Conversations** (Core Value: Safety)

- Keep sensitive conversations to a one-to-one conversation, not a group discussion
- Keep in mind age appropriateness

## **Supporting Scripture**

Ephesians 4:15 *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*

Matthew 7:1-2 *Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.*

1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.*

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Romans 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*