

# CREATING A CULTURE OF **CRITICAL THINKING** IN YOUR CLASSROOM

## **WHY CRITICAL THINKING?**

- We are called to love the Lord our God with our minds
  - Matthew 22:37- *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*
- Solidifies our faith and builds confidence
- Teaches children how to find what is true and share it with others
- Equips this generation of believers to think for themselves and have a biblical worldview that honors God

## **KEY WORLD VIEW TEACHINGS**

- **Absolute truth**
  - There is such thing as absolute truth - and we can know it!
  - Truth is an attribute of God
  - The Bible is the true and final authority
  - Not all religions can be true
- **Not all faith is blind faith**
  - Kids must be able to answer: *Why are you a Christian?*
  - We are not Christians because of tradition, we are Christians because it is true
- **There are reasons for everything**
  - Give reasons for doctrine & discipline
- **Questions are okay**
  - Do not shut down questions, but rather welcome them
- **We are called to engage the culture**
  - 3 R's:
    - Be ready
    - Be reasonable
    - Be respectful
  - 4 Qualifying Questions:
    - Why are you asking?
    - What do you believe?
    - Would you change your mind?
    - What would make you change your mind?

# QUICK TIPS

1

## GET ON THEIR LEVEL - MAKE LEARNING SIMPLE

- Explain big words
- Children simply lack vocabulary and life experience
- Use examples children understand

2

## CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR QUESTIONS

- Question Jar
- Don't shut down questions
- Ask open ended questions and give children room to think for themselves and even disagree

3

## IT IS OKAY TO NOT KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS

- Model what to do when you don't know the answer
- Tools to find answers:
  - [Gotquestions.org](http://Gotquestions.org)
  - [Answersingenesis.org](http://Answersingenesis.org)
  - *One Minute Answers to Skeptics* by Charlie Campbell
  - *Jaws Without Teeth* by Ray Comfort

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