

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

1. What is **church doctrine**?

2. Do you **agree** or **disagree** with this statement?

It doesn't matter what doctrine you believe as long as you're a Christian.

3. Put an X by the doctrines below that you think are based on the Bible.

Advent	Baptism	Inspiration	Pantheism	Reconciliation
Agnosticism	Creationism	Islam	Perseverance	Redemption
Amillennialism	Deism	Justification	Pessimism	Sanctification
Anarchy	Hedonism	Mysticism	Petrifaction	The Second
Angelology	Incarnation	Nihilism	Propitiation	The Trinity
Atonement				

4. Go back to question 3 and underline **three doctrines** that you'd like to know more about. Do you know about these or heard about them?

5. How do you think biblical doctrine can make a difference in your life?

6. Check out the following passages of the Bible—what do you think they have in common?

John 7:16, 17

Romans 6:17

Ephesians 4:14

1 Timothy 1:3-6

2 John 9, 10



THIS WEEK

Since teenagers have so many concerns and problems, youth workers often focus on topical studies of the Bible—like those in this book. Most spend relatively little time on doctrine, even though it is part of the foundation for spiritual maturity and stability. This TalkSheet examines the importance of biblical doctrine and helps your group identify the areas they would like to study.

OPENER

Are your kids familiar with any church doctrine? It's likely that some of your kids won't know the specifics of church doctrine. Others have had classes in church doctrine or catechism. Either way, some doctrines are hard to understand. You may want to explain to your group exactly what a doctrine is. Point out that by reading the Bible and doctrines, they can understand and discern false beliefs and teachings. With the Bible as back up for their faith and what they believe, they will be able to see false religious beliefs differently.

Off the top of their heads, ask your kids to make a list of all the doctrines that they are familiar with. Are they able to name any at all? Throw out a few suggestions to start them out, like redemption, sin, sanctification, or grace. If they seem clueless or lost, that's okay! Start in on the TalkSheet discussion.

THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Doctrine is the principle or principles of a belief system (it's also known as dogma). Biblical doctrine is a body of principles based on what the Bible teaches about God, salvation, his kingdom, and everything in it.
2. Engage the group in a debate regarding the importance of what people believe and how that affects their Christianity. It's important that our doctrine be based on the Bible because it is unchanging. Interpretations may vary, but God's Word stays the same. Christians should know what the Bible teaches.
3. You may want to have your group list the biblical doctrines. The following are all examples of biblical doctrine—amillennialism, angelology, atonement, baptism, creationism, incarnation, inspiration, justification, perseverance, propitiation, reconciliation, redemption, sanctification, the Second Advent, and the Trinity.
4. Which of these would your kids like to learn more about? Which ones don't they know about? You may want to go ahead and talk about these now or come back to this later.

5. How do beliefs affect the way people live? For example, if you believe in reincarnation, your outlook on life will be different than if you believe in a heaven and a hell.
6. What do these verses have in common? What do these say about church doctrines?

THE CLOSE

Wrap up the discussion by summarizing what was talked about during the TalkSheet. Are your kids more clear on doctrine? Do they still have more questions? Point out to the group that doctrines help Christians discern and protect themselves from false doctrines. By being familiar with doctrine—and having that as a solid foundation for their faith—they'll be able to stand up to deceptive teaching both in the world and in the church.

MORE

- You may want to have your kids do some research on the Internet for information on Christian doctrines—from the list in question 3. Some of these can be pretty heavy subjects—be sure not to overload them! You may want to make this a group effort and work with each other. Or you may want to have your senior pastor or someone else come in to explain these doctrines better.
- Do your kids know what a creed is? Do they have their own personal creed? Using the Apostle's Creed (or another one), have them write a creed—a statement of their personal beliefs. Encourage them to write a creed. put it in a visible place and read it when they start to doubt their beliefs or have people question what they believe and why.