



# I've been meaning to ask...

a series for curiosity, courage, & connection

## Children's lessons

Written by Rev. Anna Strickland

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*Since the "I've been meaning to ask..." series is focused on connection and community, we have chosen to craft children's lessons in the form of a dialogue. Included for each week is a two-person script, questions to ask afterward, and a closing prayer.*

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### The scripts

You can adapt these scripts in many ways: as a puppet show, a short film, or acted out live by adults or children. Each script is between a minute and a minute and a half long in performance time. You are encouraged to adapt the scripts to fit your context, especially names and places. Italicized words are stage directions and not meant to be read aloud.

### The characters

We have kept the cast to only two people (named "Aleph" and "Bet" as placeholder names) for simplicity and brevity. You are encouraged to substitute names of people in your community, names of the actors, or names of characters the children know. Continuity of characters among the four scripts is not necessary—characters can change from week to week if you'd like.

### The questions

After the performance, you'll want to ask children some general questions about their reactions to what they saw, such as:

- What do you think?
- Have you been in a similar situation before?
- Which part was your favorite?
- Would you have done anything differently?

The themed reflection questions that follow each script can be asked in a discussion setting or given as journaling prompts to older children. They are not reliant on the script in case you would like to use the two pieces in separate contexts.

## Week 1 I've been meaning to ask... where are you from?

Genesis 2:4b-15 | John 1:35-51

### Script

*Bet is focused on a computer, book, or stack of papers and photos.*

**A:** What are you working on, Bet?

**B:** I'm researching my family history to learn where I come from. It turns out my family comes from lots of different places. A long time ago my family lived in Poland, but then they moved to New York. And now I live here! Where do you come from, Aleph?

**A:** I guess it depends on how far back you go. The Bible says that humans were first created out of the earth and placed in the garden of Eden. So in a way, that's where we're all from, isn't it?

**B:** That's true. And yet, we're all from different places that make us who we are. Like Jesus was from Nazareth, out in the sticks. People thought nothing good could come from Nazareth. Wow, were they wrong!

**A:** Sounds like where I'm from. Or at least where I was born. I don't really know much about where my family is from before that.

**B:** Do you think that's something we could learn about together? I'd love to help.

**A:** That sounds nice. I wonder what we'll find!

*End scene.*

### Reflection questions

- Do you know where your family came from? Where are you from now?
- What is good about people coming from different places?
- Why is it important to remember that we all come from the same place originally?

### Prayer

Dear God, we are all from different places and from the same place. Thank you for making us each different and special. Help us to see each person as part of our human family. Amen.

## Week 2 I've been meaning to ask... where does it hurt?

1 Samuel 1:1-18 | Mark 5:21-43

### Script

*Bet falls down (or falls off a bike, scooter, trampoline, etc.) and cries out.*

**A:** You're okay, Bet. Shake it off.

*Bet continues crying.*

**A:** Bet... are you hurt? Let me take a look.

*Bet nods while crying. Aleph bends down to check out Bet's injuries.*

**A:** I don't see anything. Where does it hurt?

**B:** *(Sniffing)* My leg hurts.

**A:** I think it's just a bruise. Anything else?

**B:** I... *(Sniffs)* I think my feelings are hurt, too. I fell and I thought my friend would see that I was hurt. Instead, it feels like you didn't see my pain.

**A:** Bet, I'm so sorry that I didn't see how hurt you were. Even if it's only a bruise, it's still painful. Can I get you an ice pack?

**B:** That would help a lot, thank you.

**A:** *(Bringing the ice pack)* You know, I'm thinking that maybe this is part of how Jesus healed people. Just by noticing people whose pain was ignored, I think Jesus helped them to feel a little better, even before their bodies were healed.

**B:** You might not be Jesus, but I sure appreciate you listening to me. And the ice pack!

*End scene.*

### Reflection questions

- What do you do when your friends and family are hurting?
- Why do you think we sometimes pretend we don't notice when someone is hurting?
- Who can you tell when you are hurt, either on the inside or the outside?

### Prayer

Dear God, we don't like to see others hurting. Help us not to ignore their pain or our own. Thank you for always noticing when we hurt and helping us heal. Amen.

## Week 3 I've been meaning to ask... what do you need?

Job 2:11-13 | 2 Timothy 4:9-18

### Script

*Aleph looks very sad. Bet enters with flowers.*

**B:** I brought you flowers, Aleph! I bet this cheers you up.

**A:** *(Sadly)* Thanks, Bet.

*Aleph continues looking sad. Bet leaves and enters again with a candy bar.*

**B:** Your favorite! No one can be sad when there's candy around!

**A:** *(Sighing)* Sure. Thanks.

*This cycle repeats with Bet bringing more and more items to cheer Aleph up, burying Aleph under a pile of presents. Each time, Bet looks frustrated and confused that Aleph is still sad.*

**B:** Okay, Aleph. I give up. What do you need??

**A:** I just need a friend to sit with me while I'm sad. Can you do that for me, Bet?

**B:** Of course. I'm sorry I didn't think to ask before.

*Aleph and Bet sit together in silence for a moment.*

**B:** You know, Aleph. This reminds me of something in the Bible. When Paul was in prison, he wrote to his friend Timothy. He didn't want Timothy to get revenge on the people who put him in prison. Paul just wanted his friend to come visit.

**A:** Yeah, or the story of Job. When he was sad, his friends came to sit with him. Job had been through a whole lot—sickness, storms, bad luck—and his friends didn't know what to say. So they sat with him and didn't say a word for a whole week. I feel like that right now.

**B:** I'm sorry you're sad, Aleph. I hope you're feeling better soon.

**A:** With you staying here with me, I bet I will. Thanks, Bet.

*End scene.*

### Reflection questions

- What can your friends and family do for you when you're feeling sad?
- How do you help your friends and family when *they're* sad?
- Do we all need the same things when we're sad?

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for friends that help us, even when that help is just being with us. Help us to remember to ask what others need instead of assuming we know. Amen.

## Week 4 I've been meaning to ask... where do we go from here?

Ruth 1:1-22 | Acts 10

### Script

*Aleph is packing moving boxes and sorting through some items to decide what to take.*

**A:** Bet, can you hand me that empty box?

**B:** Sure, Aleph. *(Handing the box)* What's all this?

**A:** I'm going to live with my aunt and cousins, so I have to pack up everything. I have to let go of some things, too, since there will be less space.

**B:** Wow, Aleph. That's a big change. How are you doing?

**A:** Okay, I guess. It's hard to know what life will be like after the move. It'll be so different at my aunt's house.

**B:** Yeah, I understand that. It's a good thing you have your new family, though. It's like Ruth and Naomi, starting their own family together. They loved each other so much that their differences didn't get in the way of them being family.

**A:** Or Peter and Cornelius. Cornelius opened his home to Peter even though they came from different places. God told Peter not to assume anything. Maybe I'll start by letting go of what I think will happen so I can have room in my heart for what God will do.

**B:** I think that's a good start. What are we packing up next?

*End scene.*

### Reflection questions

- What do you do when faced with a big change?
- Has there been a time when God changed your mind or heart about something or someone?
- Why is it important to be open to new things?

### Prayer

Dear God, we don't always know what's next, but we know you are with us. Thank you for the new people we will meet along the way. Help us to always keep an open mind. Amen.



## About the author

**Rev. Anna Strickland**, *Operations Support & Content Creator of A Sanctified Art*

Rev. Anna Strickland (*she/her*) looks for the Divine in the everyday like treasure in clay jars and first encountered God in the integration of her spiritual self and artistic self. She is a native Austinite and graduated from the University of Texas where she now works as a college minister, especially serving LGBTQ students.



**A Sanctified Art LLC** is a collective of artists in ministry who create resources for worshiping communities. The Sanctified Art team works collaboratively to bring scripture and theological themes to life through film, visual art, curriculum, coloring pages, liturgy, graphic designs, and more. Their mission is to empower churches with resources to inspire creativity in worship and beyond. Driven by the connective and prophetic power of art, they believe that art helps us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives, and our mess with our God. *Learn more about their work at [sanctifiedart.org](https://sanctifiedart.org).*