



Branch Ministry Information





ASK CBS

ASK is a Student CBS class for elementary school age children which meets “after school” in a local church.

ASK CBS is very similar to every other CBS class in that there is a Large Group time for snacks and fellowship as well as Core Groups for digging deeper into God’s truths in a relational setting. ASK delivers age-appropriate messages, while not shying away from the Truth that Christ died for our sins.

What ages come to ASK CBS? ASK is for elementary school children, including kindergarten through 6th grade, or whichever grades the local school district defines as “elementary school.”

How is ASK CBS different from the other Branches in Student CBS? In addition to the “talk” each week, ASK CBS has a video that accompanies every lesson. The videos have a running theme, which have proven to be very effective in helping impart the lesson/moral for the week. At the end of the semester, the children are given a DVD with the videos to take home and share with friends. Students are also given a Bible, a backpack and a t-shirt. The Triplets in ASK may all be female because the classes meet during the day. All Leaders must know and sign the CBS Child Protection Policy in addition to the SSMA. Two Leaders are required in each room, with at least one leader bring 18 or older.

How many weeks does ASK meet? ASK meets 10 weeks per semester, with separate registration for each semester. (Bibles and back packs are a one time gift for the students.)

What lessons does ASK use? Student CBS has produced lessons and videos specifically for ASK.

How long do the lessons take to complete? ASK lessons take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

We encourage parents to help the children with their lessons.

How do you get this age to attend? ASK is experiencing tremendous growth, mostly by word of mouth. Parents want their children in the Truth and so are excited to register when they hear about it.

Is there parent involvement? Parents are always welcome to help and there is always a need. Parents serve as greeters, snack helpers, and Core Leaders. As some of the children are too young to read, we encourage parental help with the lesson. At times a question in the lesson will say to, “Ask your parent...”

What happens on a typical afternoon? Children get dropped off by their parents and are welcomed at the curb by greeters. They are given a nametag and have snacks and play outside (weather permitting) until the beginning of the Large Group. After singing, praying, hearing a talk, watching the video, doing the Bible cheer and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the students break into Core Groups for 45 minutes.

Food: Snacks are served from 3:30-4:00. This is also a time for the students to play and expend energy and have fellowship with the Leaders. We try to have food associated with the lesson or the video for the day, (i.e. Jesus calls us to be fishers of men, so we’ll serve goldfish as part of the snack).

Large Group Time: Very High energy! We do the Bible cheer and Pledge of Allegiance pulling students on stage whenever possible to lead their peers.

Praise music: The first two songs are very fast and high energy with yelling, jumping and arm motions. After the talk and video, we then sing a slower song. Students may help lead the songs, and in unique situations play an instrument in the worship band, though this is not the usual practice.

Talk: Talks are 5-8 minutes and the TD and ATD do their best to include a few visual illustrations, whether it is a picture, skit, or an object that the children can see.

Core Group: Core Groups are separated by age and gender and meet for 45 minutes. 45 minutes can be challenging for younger children, but ASK CBS provides drawings that can be passed out for the younger children to color if their attention begins to fade. For the older students, the Core Group is a time to grow closer to the Lord and each other and to experience true fellowship - sometimes for the very first time. Some students know a lot about the Word and others are having their first exposure to the Word. The leaders try to get participation from everyone and maintain a loving and safe environment.

ASK is a caring, in-depth Bible study that God has used in mighty ways to bring children and their families closer to Himself.



eTeen CBS

This is a Student CBS class for early teens, ages 11-14, typically 6-8th graders or however your community breaks out Middle Schools.

To sum up this age group...

CHANGE - physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually

PACKS - friends and popularity are very important to them; desperately want to fit in

BOUNCING BALLS - they are all over the place; can't control their emotions, aren't always thinking clearly

SPONGES - they are soaking everything up; crucial time to reach them for Christ

What ages come to eTeen CBS? eTeen is for early teens (typically 6th, 7th and 8th graders) - or however your city breaks out junior high/middle school students.

How is eTeen CBS different from Teen CBS? At eTeen there is more energy, more participation, and more noise – BUT IT IS SO FUN!

How many weeks does eTeen meet? Classes meet during the school year for 20 weeks plus a kick-off night. Usually, classes do not have scheduled class nights in December, April, May and Summer months.

What lessons does eTeen use? eTeen has its own curriculum, written specifically for CBS Middle School students and include many application questions. The lessons also have memory verses and a dictionary.

How long do the lessons take to complete? eTeen CBS homework questions generally require 30 – 45 minutes to complete before class night.

How do you get this age to attend? Every year there is a new, built-in, group that is excited about attending a junior high event! This age likes to arrive in groups - so you will always have visitors and many that do not go to church. Many will come early. Many will come after other practices or activities.

Is there parent involvement? Many parents are nervous about their child entering junior high and want to help, so there are always parents wanting to help. We encourage them to get a carpool of their child's friends together! We also have had many parents join Leadership as greeters, kitchen helpers, and Core Leaders!

What happens on a typical night?

Dinner: Served each week from 6:30 – 7:00, dinner is always a simple meal including freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. This age group usually arrives early and the majority of them eat dinner.

Large Group Time: This age group loves to participate, so leaders find creative ways to include them. Many early teens need to be shown how to praise and worship through music. They might need 1 or 2 faster, more upbeat songs at first to get them all involved and then 1 or 2 slower songs. They like hand motions. Large Group time also includes announcements, prayer, prizes, the Bible Cheer, Memory Verse, and often a game, skit, or activity that involves the students. Most Middle School students have a short attention span, so the talk needs to be only about 7-10 minutes. The teens must be challenged to listen in creative ways.

Core Groups: Core group time is structured the same as most classes, 45 minutes. There are 8–12 members of the same sex from various schools and churches. Some classes have 6th grade only groups but have different schools and churches represented. Facilitating core groups of middle school students, especially boys, can be challenging but at the same time these students are open, vulnerable and searching for truth.

eTeen classes are EXCITING, HIGH ENERGY, CHALLENGING, FUN and SO REWARDING!

TEEN CBS

A Student CBS class for High School,
grades 9-12, ages 14-18



To sum up this age group...

Adjusting - physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually

Camaraderie - Friends are very important to them; they desperately want to fit in.

Maturity – acute awareness of adulthood, at times feeling overwhelmed by the future, still reveling in remnants of childhood

Decision makers – able to draw from life's experience thus far coupled with guidance to gradually become independent thinkers and doers

What ages come to Teen CBS? High school students attend Teen CBS. Some home school students may be younger than 14, but mature enough to comfortably fit into a teen class.

How is Teen CBS unique? High School students are growing up and do not want to be around the middle school aged teens, thus we generally do not mix eTeen and Teen classes.

How many weeks does Teen meet? Classes meet during the school year for 26 weeks plus a kick-off night and sharing night. Usually, classes do not have scheduled class nights in December and May.

What lessons does Teen use? Student Boxed Format lessons are used, either by being bound as a book or printed each week and secured in a three ring binder.

How long do the lessons generally take to complete? Teen CBS homework questions generally require 45 minutes to an hour to complete before class night.

How do you get this age to attend? Having an eTeen CBS class near by naturally provides the progression of teens as they grow out of middle school. Grabbing freshman and their parents immediately gives the class the stability for years to come. Eventually students start driving and parental involvement lessens. With driving also come conflicts in schedules: work, extracurricular activities galore and some times even "ditching" TCBS.

Is there parent involvement? There are always parents who want to help, including parents whose students do not attend. Sometimes older teens don't want their parents around on their "turf," though many do. Because of students coming on their own, there can be a drop off in registration donations as parents are less involved. Sending out a "parent letter" with pertinent details is essential.

What happens on a typical night? Dinner is served each week from 6:30 – 7:00 and includes a simple meal and freshly baked chocolate chip cookies or other homemade dessert. This busy age group arrives at various times depending on their outside activities. Each class has a different flavor. Most students are quite committed to the class and study, but don't be surprised if some driving teens show up to eat and then leave. Hormones can also act up in this age group, so watch for "couples" sneaking away either in dark corners or driving away throughout the evening.

Large Group Time: Student-led worship is a hit!! Teens love being led in worship by their peers!!!

Worship is followed by any of the following: announcements, games, skits, student testimonies and the "talk"... all teen friendly! High school students have had a rigorous academic day of listening to teachers lecture, so it is essential that the Talk is no more than 10 minutes. Teens must be challenged to listen in creative and visual ways, and can be either quiet and respectful or rowdy and disruptive, depending on the class.

Core Group: Core Groups meet for 45 minutes. High School students are more conscience of their answers and can be uncomfortable with sharing from the heart. Trust must be won as the Core Leader sets a tone of safety in sharing. There must be freedom to ask hard questions and share doubts. Cores are gender specific with ages and backgrounds mixed as much as possible, though some groups stick to grade.

Closing: Class ends at 8:30 pm which is when high schoolers start to come alive! Driving teens must be politely chased off the campus to other "hang outs" so church property is secure.

It is an amazing privilege to serve in a Teen class. Seeing young students grow into strong young adults through the study of HIS WORD is a delight and a blessing!!

CAPSTONE

COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

CAPstone CBS (College And Professional) is for young adults who are out of high school and in college, graduate school or the workforce.

Like all CBS age groups, CAPstone CBS is a Bible study. We believe that God uses His Word to transform lives. Learning how to dig into the Word on our own is a crucial step in maturing spiritually. There are many ways to engage in community, especially on college campuses, but there is no substitute for engaging personally with God through His Word. We are committed every week to meeting with God through the study of His Word.

What ages come to CAPstone CBS? We have young people who are out of high school and working, college students, graduate students and even some who have graduated college and are out working or married.

How is CAPstone CBS different from Teen CBS? In CAPstone CBS there is in general, a more laid back atmosphere to the evening. A more intense discussion usually takes place in the Core Groups as these students of the Word are beginning to contemplate real life issues. The classes in each community look very different from each other while each class maintains the CBS model. Flexibility is key!

How many weeks does CAPstone CBS meet? Classes meet during the school year, September to May, for 26 weeks, working around the college vacation schedule.

What lessons does CAPstone use? Student CBS Box Format Lessons.

How do you get this age to attend? College and Professionals come to CBS because they want to study the Word. There is no parental or peer pressure. They are looking for answers for their lives. Getting the word out is different for each community, but it is no easy task because of the transient and independent nature of this age-group. Also keep in mind that you might have a totally different group from semester to semester or year to year, depending on school, jobs and families.

Is there parent involvement? There is little or no parental involvement as most young adults are living on their own rather than at home.

What happens on a typical night?

Food: Simple snack foods including drinks and freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Coffee is very popular.

Worship: The worship time is a different length in each class. Some classes have simply one unplugged guitar and others have a full band. Generally the worship time is less vivacious and active than Teen or eTeen but very heart felt. Some classes may choose to have no worship with this age group. Flexibility is key!

Opening: This time includes announcements and in the spring the students are given the opportunity to give their testimonies to the group or tell what God is currently doing in their lives.

Talk: The talk is 10-15 minutes. The students rarely take their eyes off of the speaker. They listen intently and there is almost never any disruptive talking.

Core Group: Core group time is structured the same as any class – 45 minutes; however, some classes meet in Core Groups for an hour. This age group really likes deep discussions. They are not satisfied with “pat” answers therefore Core Leaders need to think outside the box and be VERY prepared each week. This means that the TD and ATD need to model “thinking outside the box” discussion in Leaders Council. Core groups are generally 6-8 people.

CAPstone CBS is an in-depth Bible study that focuses on building relationships through candid discussion concerning real-life issues from a biblical point of view...