



Session 11:

I am... a messenger



Aims For this session

- To listen to God's voice for the church
- To share what God says with the church



Memory Verse

'Do not say,
"I am too young."
You must go
to everyone I
send you to and
say whatever I
command you.'

Jeremiah 1:7

Catch Up

(10 mins)

Refer to the teaching notes for guidance on how to run this section.

God Spot

(5 mins)

Use your yellow mat. Ask the children what good things God has been doing in their life this week and ask them to come and share on the God spot while everyone else listens. (This is based on teaching from Session 6, Term 1 of the curriculum. If you haven't done this session then see the teaching notes.)

Last week we prayed for people who were sick to be healed. Did anyone pray for someone during the last week? What happened?

Healing

(5 mins)

(This is based on teaching from Session 9, Term 2 of the curriculum. If you haven't done this session then see the teaching notes.)

Is there something you would like healed? Or is there someone you know who is sick? If the answer is 'yes', just put your hand up. Can the people around them please pray.

Remember to remind them to: ask, tell it to go, wait, see what God did and pray again. Allow the children time to do this. Then ask what God did.

Game 1

(5 mins)

Resources:

- Paper
- Pen

Ask your group to sit down on the floor in a circle. Give the first player the following verse written on a piece of paper: Don't say you are too young, if I tell you to go and speak to someone, then go!

Have them whisper it in the ear of the person on their left. This person must then repeat the message in the ear of the person on their left. This continues till the message reaches the last person in the circle; this person must speak out the message.

Compare the result to what is on the original piece of paper.



Introduction

(3 mins)

Resource:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJUVULU7GDM>

Play the clip.

Wasn't it lovely the way all those sheep dogs got so close to the shepherd at the end of the clip. Every one of them wanted to lie as close as possible to the shepherd. So much so, they even laid on top of each other to be close to him. The job of the sheep dog is to listen to the shepherd's voice and then carry the messages he gives them to the sheep. That way, the sheep know which direction to go in. This means the shepherd can keep the sheep safe and out of danger.

Did you know that, in the Bible, Jesus described himself as a shepherd and us as the sheep?



Bible story

(5 mins)

Isaiah 9,11,40,50,53,55,60, recommended resource: The Jesus Storybook Bible DVD Operation 'No More Tears!' or pgs.144-151.



Talk

(5 mins)

8-7yrs

In John 10, Jesus describes Himself as a shepherd and us as His sheep. Jesus said we will recognise His voice when He speaks. He also said that His voice will show us which way to go.¹ When we are going in the wrong direction, God sends people, a bit like sheep dogs, to turn His people around and send them in the right direction. Those people carry messages from God and they share what they think God is saying. These words help people to decide if they need to change what they are doing.

In the Bible today, God had chosen Isaiah to carry a message to His people. God's people were making a huge mess of life. God was sad and angry because they were being greedy and dishonest. Everyone had stopped caring about each other.

God and Isaiah spent a lot of time chatting to each other. From these chats, God gave Isaiah messages for His people. Isaiah was very brave and took these messages to the people. Messengers are people who listen really well to God. They speak truth to the world.

God is still sending messages today. We can carry these messages to the church and the world. We can catch from God messages for the church. These messages might be pictures God gives us or words or Bible passages. They can help the church to know what it should be doing in the world.

¹John 10:4



Talk

(7 mins)

6-10yrs

In John 10, Jesus describes Himself as a shepherd and us as His sheep. Jesus said we will recognise His voice when He speaks. He also said that His voice will show us which way to go.² Did you know that sheep can tell the difference between different human voices? In Israel, right now, there are shepherds who have sheep who know their voice. There aren't any fences or walls to keep the sheep in and they will follow one shepherd's voice and come to him when he calls them.

When we are going in the wrong direction, God sends people, a bit like sheep dogs, to turn His people around and send them in the right direction. Those people carry messages from God and they share what they think God is saying. These words help people to decide if they need to change what they are doing.

In the Bible today, God had chosen Isaiah to carry a message to His people. God's people were making a huge mess of life. God was sad and angry because they were worshipping other gods. They were being greedy and dishonest. They were taking advantage of children and women who had no one to protect them. Everyone was out for themselves and they had stopped caring about each other.

God and Isaiah spent a lot of time chatting to each other. From these chats, God gave Isaiah messages for His people. Isaiah was very brave and took these messages to the people, again and again. Isaiah wasn't alone: throughout the Bible, God used different people to carry messages, including Jesus and His followers. Messengers are people who listen really well to God - they speak truth to the world.

God is still guiding His people today. He can use us to carry the messages He has for the world and the church. The message that we have for the world is that God loves people. God wants them to know Him and be His friends. We can also catch from God messages for the church. These messages might be pictures God gives us or words or Bible passages. They can help the church to know what it should be doing in the world. They can show the church the things they are getting right and things they may need to change.

Messengers can also help us draw closer to God. They do this by telling us how much God loves us, they tell us what things in our lives get between us and God and they share with us pictures and ideas of what God will do in the future.



²John 10:4



Testimony

(5 mins)

Ask a church leader to come and share a time when your church sensed God speaking and guiding the actions of the church.

Discuss

(5 mins)

8-10yrs

- *If God can help you make decisions, when would be a good time to ask for His help?*
- *How do you think it would feel to have someone tell you that you are making a mistake?*
- *What would it take for you to listen to them?*

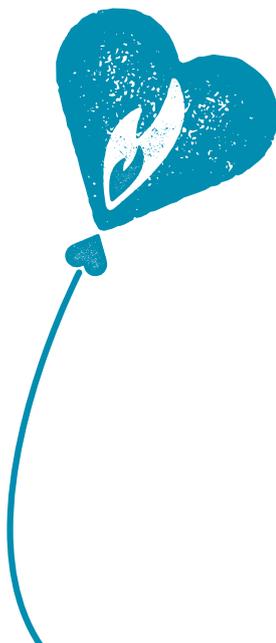
Response

(5 mins)

Let's try catching messages from God now (hand out paper and a pen). You can sit, lie, be wherever you are comfortable. It helps me to close my eyes but, sometimes, I open them too because then I can see things in the room God may use to help me catch, so it's up to you what you would like to try. Remember to use your whole body to catch, so be aware of all the different parts of your body. The question I'd like you to ask God in your head is, 'What would you like to show the people in our church'.

When He tells you or shows you, write it or draw it using the paper and pen you've been given. If anyone has trouble catching, after a while just put your hand up and one of the team will come over and help.

(If a young person is struggling to hear, reassure them that sometimes this takes practice. Even if they can't catch anything, God is still there in the room and sometimes it is just something we know in our heads. Sometimes though, there is a block, a reason why they aren't catching: ask the young person if you can pray for them. Ask God to show them a picture in their mind of what is getting in the way or to tell them. This is counter intuitive, I know, because the young person hasn't caught from God, but God overcomes the issue and in many cases shows them or identifies the block. Typical responses I have had to this prayer are: I see a wall - God says I'm trying too hard. I then ask the young person to picture the thing again. Then I ask Jesus to come into the picture and remove whatever it is. At this point they see Jesus do all sorts of things - melt the block, blow it up, make it disappear, etc. Then ask if you can pray again for them to catch from God. In the majority of cases they will now catch something from God. If that doesn't happen, remind them it's something that can take practice and reassure them God is still here and loves them very much. Tell them He loves all their ideas so, what do they think God would say to answer the question. Then have them write or draw that down. Many times what they have in their head is from God, they just don't realise it, so help them look at the picture after it's completed and think what God would like about their picture.)





Reflect and share

(5 mins)

Ask if anyone is happy to share what God showed them during the response.

Explain that all their pictures are going to be handed over to your church leader(s) so they can decide what messages to share with the church. Ideally have those messages shared at the start of a time in church where the children will be present.



Action

(10-15 mins)

Resource:

- Blank postcards

Have each young person ask God which postcard to choose and then to select one from those you have laid out on a table.

Then have them hold the postcard and ask God who they should give it to in your church. Have them write the name of the person on the card.

Then ask them to ask God in their head if there is a word or a picture He would like to give to the person He has shown them.

Have them write or draw on the back of the card and then supervise handing these over at the end of your service.



Game 2

(5 mins)

Resource:

- Appendix 1

Print off Appendix 1 and cut it up into sections. Hide the words all over your room. To start the game, explain to the children that today's memory verse is hidden in the room and they must find the words and reconstruct the message.



Resources for this session

Game 1:

- Paper and a pen

Introduction:

- Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJUVULU7GDM>

Action:

- Mixed pack of scenic postcards, potential supplier: http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/like/161230056165?limgh_lpsr=true&hlpv=2&ops=true&viphx=1&hlpht=true&lp_id=108&chn=ps&device=c&adtype=pla&crdt=0&ff3=1&ff11=ICEP3.0.0-L&ff12=67&ff13=80&ff14=108

Game 2:

- Appendix 1



Parental communication

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our theme this week was: 'I can... be a messenger'. We explored the idea that God can give us messages for others and the church through the story of Isaiah.

In our response time, the children asked God the question: 'What would you like to show the people in our church?' Then we used our whole body to catch what God was saying and we wrote it down or drew it. If you would like to explore this idea some more at home, then ask your child if they would like to join you in catching a message from God for your family.

Remind them to ask God in their head: 'What would you like to show our family, God?' Then to use their whole bodies, their minds, their skin, their feelings to catch what God is saying. Do exactly the same thing yourself at the same time as your child. Have pens and paper ready to write or draw what God says to each of you, then compare what He has said and share it with the rest of your family.

Next week, we will be thinking about how we can carry joy and the difference this can make to us and others through Acts 16:16-34; Paul and Silas in jail.

Love