



CONNECTED

11-14yrs

Session 7:

PASS - LISTENING TO GOD FOR OTHERS



AIMS

- To extend Chat and Catch prayer skills
- To practise listening to God for others
- To speak words of encouragement to others

teaching notes:

This is an extension of Chat and Catch taught in Sessions 12 and 13 of the first term. You may find it helpful to read these sessions and the teachers' notes on Chat and Catch before you teach this session.



MEMORY VERSE

'BUT THE ONE WHO PROPHESES SPEAKS TO PEOPLE FOR THEIR STRENGTHENING, ENCOURAGING AND COMFORT. ANYONE WHO SPEAKS IN A TONGUE EDIFIES THEMSELVES, BUT THE ONE WHO PROPHESES EDIFIES THE CHURCH.'

1 CORINTHIANS 14:3-4 (NIV)



CATCH UP (10 mins)

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



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 for this term.)

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. Will 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 young people time to do this. Then ask what God did.



GOD SPOT (5 mins)

Have the young people talk about what they have seen God doing in their lives or the lives of others. They can also speak about things they are grateful for that have happened in their lives that week. (This is based on teaching from Session 6, Term 1 of Connected. If you haven't done this session then please read the teaching notes for this term.)



GAME 1 (5 mins)

Resource:

- A ball

Play a game of catch and speed up as you go. If the ball is dropped, the young person goes down on one knee, then if it is dropped a second time, two knees. If it is dropped a third time then they are out. Play until one person remains.



INTRODUCTION

(?? mins)

Resource:

- YouTube clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97YP9RsQsJ8>

This clip shows the difference a kind word can make. How much more of a difference would those words make to a person if they came from God?



BIBLE STORY

(5-10 mins)

Resource:

- An age-appropriate Bible

Read Joshua 1:1-9 together.

How do you think it felt for Joshua to hear God say these words to him?

Joshua is encouraged again and again by God. He faces the biggest challenge of his life: to lead an entire nation into the Promised Land. It's not easy, there are big battles ahead. For Joshua to be strong, to be a good leader he needs to hear God's voice in his life at that moment. If a person encourages you with kind words, that feels great - but if you know those words are from God because the person has been listening to Him, the level of encouragement you receive is so much greater.



DISCUSS

(5 mins)

- What situations do you face where you need encouragement?*
- What difference would being encouraged make to you?*
- If you were new to a group, how would you like to be encouraged?*



TESTIMONY

(5 mins)

Have someone come and share a time when God has spoken powerfully into their lives through a word another person has given them. Ask them to explain how this made them feel strong or encouraged them to go forward.



TALK

(?? mins)

We all need encouragement, however, we aren't good at asking others to encourage us. So what can happen when we're facing a tough situation, is that we hope someone will say something to encourage us. But when they don't, we just carry on or we feel hard done by because we haven't received what we needed. The reality is, if we asked, people would be happy to encourage and often help us with whatever we face. It's the same - but even more so - with God. He loves to encourage us when we face tough situations. If we ask others to listen to God for us then they can catch what He is saying and pass it on to us. All we need to do to encourage and comfort each other is to ask God for words and pictures that we can share. In 1 Corinthians 14 verses 1 and 3, Paul said the whole church would be helped when we wanted this gift. It's called prophecy; "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. The one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort."

So what's the difference between encouragement from God and encouragement that comes from another person? Well, when you are facing something big, people often see the problems rather than the solutions. God sees way beyond any human being; He can bring insight and knowledge through a word or a picture which He gives you that can transform a situation for

another person. Through you, God can bring hope or a new solution to a problem. Corallie Buchanan (an author) puts it this way; "You see limitations; God sees opportunities. You see faults; God sees growth. You see problems; God sees solutions. You see limitations; God sees possibilities. You see life; God sees eternity." ¹

God can also see inside a situation: He can know things about the other person and their life that no human being can - He can see inside their minds and their lives. For example, God can know that someone dreams of being able to dance but they have told no one of this dream. He could then give you a picture of this person dancing beautifully. You pass this picture to them and they know it can only be God because no one else has ever been told about their secret dream. This is great because it also means you don't have to know a person to encourage them. You can just let go and let God show you what He wants. Will we get it right every time? No, but that's ok. If we are careful and the words or pictures we share won't hurt the other person, then all we have done is encouraged in our human way and that's not a bad thing. For all the times we do hear God successfully, people will be blown away and feel a deep connection with God. It will bring great comfort to someone to know God cares about every small and large problem they face.

To do this, you chat to God in your head and say, 'God I want to help (Jane - for example); give me a word or a picture that will help her.' Then you just wait and let God show you whatever He wants. Remember you can catch with your whole body, so you may want to open your eyes to look at Jane or around the room to see if God highlights anything. Or you may have a thought in your mind or be reminded of a bit of the Bible; you may see a picture or think of a song. Whatever it is, no matter how strange it might seem, be brave enough to pass it to her/him.

We are going to set a rule to help us with this today. The rule is - don't pass anything you think could make a person feel bad. Remember, we said that the Bible tells us this gift is to encourage others, to help them and build them up. So we aren't going to share any words or pictures that are may hurt the person.



RESPONSE (15 mins)

Resource:

- Journals and pens

We are going to get into a group (or groups depending on the number of youth you have – roughly 5 in a group is good). Each person will have a turn and the rest of us will ask God in our heads to show us a word or a picture for the person in front of us. Then we will use our whole bodies to catch what God does and pass it to the person. Once we've done this, we will move on to the next person. Say the first thing that comes into your head. Remember - only nice things should be shared. Have a leader write a record in each person's journal what God says or the pictures the young person receives.

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 here 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,' or 'God says I'm trying too hard.' I then ask the young person to picture the thing again or to make a picture for the words they have heard. 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.



REFLECT AND SHARE (5 mins)

How did you find that? Was it easy or hard? Remember Catch and Pass is like learning to catch a ball. It can take practice, but once you learn it becomes easy and something you can do all the time. So don't worry if you didn't manage it this time just keep trying and you'll be able to Catch and Pass in no time at all.



ACTION (5 mins)

*This week we are going to ask God to bring someone into our lives who needs encouragement. When you meet that person, chat to God in your head and ask Him to give you a word or a picture to encourage that person. Then say to them, *While you were talking I was praying; I think God may be saying to you ... and share what He has given you. If you don't get a word or a picture then think of something to say that will encourage the person. Then share with us next week what happens. Father God bring someone into each of our lives this week who needs to be encouraged. Help me catch with my whole body when that happens so I can share what you have for them.**



GAME 2: (5 mins)

Resources:

- Balls

Divide your youth into two teams. Place the balls in a line in the middle of the room. When you shout 'go' each team must race for the balls then pick them up and roll them, aiming to hit the other team members below the knee. If someone is hit they are out. The youth play till one team has no one left in and the remaining team is then the winner.



RESOURCES

GAME 1:

- A ball

INTRODUCTION:

- YouTube clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97YP9RsQsJ8>

BIBLE STORY:

- An age-appropriate Bible

RESPONSE:

- Journals and pens

GAME 2:

- Balls

