

Bible background

Mark 7:31-37

Aim of lesson

- (a) To appreciate God's gift to us of hearing and speech.
- (b) To see Jesus' power and compassion.

Preparation required

Make one glove puppet from your activity book before class. You will need colouring materials and sellotape.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children what sound a duck makes, or a cat, a dog, a cow, a bird. Ask who has heard each of these sounds. What did they hear with? You may like to include here a prayer to thank God for being able to hear all these things.
2. Ask the children what things they would not be able to hear if they were deaf. Include talking, singing, music as well as cars and aeroplanes and animal noises. Explain that if a baby is born deaf, he will never hear anyone speak and will not learn to speak himself.
3. Introduce your glove puppet of the deaf and dumb man, showing the sad side. Ask why he is sad - because he cannot talk to his friends or hear what they say, because he cannot hear the birds etc.

Tell how his friends brought him to Jesus; how Jesus took him aside and healed him. At each step ask how the man felt and what he was thinking. Draw out how confusing it would be not to know what was happening. He might have been frightened. Show how Jesus helped him not to be frightened. He touched his tongue and ears to explain what he was doing and he took him away from the crowd so that the noise would not be so loud and possibly frightening when suddenly he could hear.
4. Tell the children the rhyme turning the puppet round in the middle.
5. Have the class colour and tape their own glove puppet and say the rhyme with you as they turn it round.

Alternative activities

1. Play a listening game. have some different items that make a noise hidden in a box under the table or behind a screen or board. The children close their eyes while you make a noise and then they have to say what they heard. You could rattle pan lids, bells or coins; scrunch paper; tip rice or dried peas from one pot into another; shake liquid about in a bottle or pour it into a cup; play some music or switch on a radio or ring an alarm clock or kitchen timer.
2. Circle game. 'I went for a walk and I heard..... each person adds a new object and its sound effect e.g. '...and I heard a cow going moo.' 'I went for a walk and I heard a cow going moo and a car going brrrrmm' and so on around the circle.
3. Make a sounds collage with the title, 'Thank you God that we can hear...' Provide the children with lots of pictures to stick of animals, musical instruments, people, the sea, birds etc.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they are glad they can hear. What sounds do they most enjoy hearing? Ask each to thank God that they can hear those things.

Prayer

Each can thank God for hearing or say a prayer they think the man would have said that night.

Verse

'He even makes the deaf hear and dumb speak.' Mark 7:37.

Rhyme

I am a sad man
Who can't hear a thing
Now I'm a glad man
I can hear the birds sing.