

### 3. SPEAK TO ME (1)



#### Games

##### Telephone numbers

Using 20 blank postcards / old Christmas cards, write one number on each card – 0, 1, 2, 3,.....9, TWICE. Divide Juniors into two teams. (If there are not 20 children, allocate some children two cards, or use a limited range of digits and restrict the telephone number.) Each child holds one number card. Leader calls out a telephone number e.g. 368. The three children with these numbers have to run to the front of their team and stand in order, holding up their number. The team who correctly displays the number first, gains a point / prize. Repeat.

##### Chinese Whispers

Juniors sit in their teams, or in one long line if there are not many children. The first child whispers a message to the person next to him/ her. S/he then passes on the message as s/he heard it to the person next to him/her. Listen carefully as the message must not be repeated. When the message has gone right down the line, the end person announces to everyone the message he/she received. Compare this with the original message.

##### Discussion

1. How do you use a telephone/ mobile telephone?
2. What can go wrong?
3. What is a telephone used for? (pass on good and bad news, to get information, make appointment, invitations etc.)
4. Who do you like talking to on the telephone?
5. How could we talk to God?

##### Sing

JP 180 Oh, oh, oh, oh how good is the Lord

(Substitute words like 'He gives me ..... food, my friends, my health etc. if words like salvation, blessings, healing etc. are not meaningful to the Juniors.)

JP 11 Ask, ask, ask

JP 448 Prayer is like a telephone (Spring Harvest)

##### Think

Think about all the good things God has done for us and has made for us to enjoy. Ask Juniors for ideas. These will vary according to their understanding. Don't worry! If they can give a personal answer as to what they think God can be thanked for, that is better than a 'copied' answer that is not understood.

Give each child a small piece of paper and a pencil. Tell each child to write on it an item they could thank God for. Ask: 'How can we thank God for what He has given us?' 'How do we talk to God?' Prayer is talking to God. He will listen to us anywhere at anytime, even although we cannot see Him.

##### Read

Matthew 6: 6-8 What advice does Jesus give us here about praying? (a quiet, private place; use words which are meaningful)

## **Chain Prayer**

Now each child is going to thank God for something. Refer to the pieces of paper. A chain is made up of many links. 'We are going to link all our little prayers together.' Decide on a 'route': whether you are sitting in a circle or in rows, choose a beginning and an end person who is linked up by consecutive children. Ask each child to simply say, "Thank you, God, for .....(slip of paper)". This may take a lot of courage for some if they have not spoken in public before. Encourage them, but if they feel they cannot take part, ask them to listen to the other prayers. Each child is expected to listen to each other's prayers so that they are all involved in the prayer together.

## **Sing**

Sometimes songs are really prayers put to music. Sing a prayer together now. You may want to talk about the words of the song first. e.g. JP 43 Father lead me day by day.

## **Pray**

Thank you, God, for what we have learned today..... Please be with us as we travel home and stay with us there. Amen.

## **FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Everyone** bring a Bible and a favourite book of their own. (Leader do this too, as sometimes they forget!)

Choose Juniors to prepare

- **Bible Reading**

Allocate the passage to a child to practise at home and come prepared.

Matthew 4 : 1-11

- **Chain prayer**

Give a child a small notebook which will be your Group's "Chain Prayer" book. Ask him/her to write in it three items for prayer. This will help the others next week. S/he will read out the ideas, others can be discussed and then they all have their time of chain prayer together. This book can be handed from child to child as a prompt that it is his/her turn when they pray together in "chain prayer".

- **Lead the singing of songs**

Select a child who would be willing to lead the singing from the front. Ask the child to choose two of his/her own favourites. Next week this child can announce the first song of his own choice, then ask the other Juniors for their favourites (about three in total) and then conclude the session with the second personal choice.