

Let the Little Children Come

Lesson 8. LISTENING FOR THE CALL

- Purpose:
- a) To introduce the “sixth day” of Creation, when God created the land animals and Mankind; and then He brought each animal to the man and whatever he called it, that was its name.
 - b) To allow the child to realize that “names” are sounds that have been given to each of us.
 - c) To make the child aware that not all sounds are loud ones.
 - d) To acquire an atmosphere that is conducive to listening for the quiet sounds.
 - e) To begin the concept of listening for their own “quiet calling.”

Materials: A poster board with a variety of land animals pasted on;
A blindfold and a number of objects that make sounds that the children can guess at (for example, water pouring from a pitcher into a glass, the rustle of newspaper, the crunch of biting an apple, a bell, etc.).

If possible, some toy animals that they can take home as a surprise for “hearing their name” when it’s time to leave.

- Presentation:
- 1) Show the children the poster board with the land animals on it, and tell them that on the “sixth day” God made these kinds of animals...but they didn’t have any names.
 - 2) Tell them that then God made Man; and He brought all the animals to Man, and whatever Man called each one, that was its name.
 - 3) Point to one of the animals and ask the children if they can guess what Man called it.
 - 4) Point to another and repeat the game for awhile.
 - 5) Tell them that we have been giving names to new and wonder things ever since.
 - 6) Ask each child what his/her name is.
 - 7) Tell them that they were given those names when they were brand new...when they were born...and that is what they have been called by, ever since, too.

Let the Little Children Come

- 8) Tell them that if we didn't have names, we wouldn't know who was being "called."
- 9) Mumble some indistinguishable name and ask that person to come here.

When no one comes, ask the children why no one came. Ask a particular child why he/she didn't come. (If the child doesn't know, as surprised and ask, "Wasn't that your name?!")

- 10) Let the children know that the person who is doing the "calling" has to first know who they "are."

(For the adult: This is the first stage of learning that only God knows the part of each of us that is "of God"...i.e., our real name...for God is "I AM"

- 11) Ask the children what would happen if I told a little tiny baby to "Come here." Lead them into understanding that the child must know who he, himself, is
- 12) Tell the children, "In other words, the person who is calling us must know who we are...and the person who is being called must know who he/she is...and must be old enough to walk to the person who is doing the calling.
- 13) Tell them that sometimes we are called very loudly. Ask them what they think it means when they are called in this way. (Warn them not to be afraid...just to listen). Then call them as if you are fearful...and wondering where they are.
- 14) Tell them that sometimes we are called very softly. Give them examples of this kind of calling (e.g., questioning, lovingly, let's play tones) and ask them what these different tones mean.
- 15) Now, ask them which is easier to hear...when we are called loudly or softly.
- 16) Tell them that sometimes we don't hear the softest calling of our own name and it is usually then that we miss the nicest reasons why we are being called.

Let the Little Children Come

- 17) "So, today, we are going to play a game that will help us to listen better. It's called the "silence game."
- 18) Show the children how to sit quietly...without movement. Tell them they are "making silence."
- 19) Now, blindfold one of them and make a sound (like pouring water from a pitcher) and ask the child what he/she hears.
- 20) Do this with each child, changing the sound each time.
- 21) Explain to the children that when Sunday School ends, we are going to do something different today: When they hear the bell, they are to quietly put their things away and go and sit at the table. Then the you (the teacher) will call each one of them by name...very, very quietly. When each hears his/her own name, they are to come to you.

(You may stand at the door...and may like to give them something to take home.)

Activity: The "Silence Game," already mentioned above.

Song: **The Creation Song**, verses 6 and 7:

6. The next day God decreed
A new and different breed
But cattle He made first upon the earth,
And other creeping things.
The sixth day was at hand,
He brought forth all the beasts upon the land.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, hallelujah.
7. And on that very day,
God had some more to say,
For by His word He then created Man
In male and female for,
In His own image; so
That God saw it was very good, you know
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.