

SHEPHERD'S VOICE

"...his sheep follow him because they know his voice."
John 10:4

Activity

Play a game of animal sounds on an empty field or meadow: pair people up and give each pair an animal that makes a recognisable sound (for extra challenge or an older group, make each pair a different kind of bird).

Put a blindfold on one partner in each pair, and ask all the blindfolded people to stand together. Quietly scatter all the non-blindfolded people equal distance away, leaving the blindfolded people in a huddle in the middle. On the count of three, allow the pairs to start communicating, using only the noises of the animal they were given. First pair to reunite wins!

Talk about what was difficult and what was easy about the game. Did you find each other because you listened to the animal sound, or did some of you recognise your friends' voices?

Jesus says that he is our shepherd, and he keeps us safe because we can recognise his voice.

Why is it important for us, like sheep with the shepherd, to know Jesus' voice? What are some ways we can hear the voice of Jesus - through the Bible; a sense in our heart; through the words of a friend...?

You will need

A large field or meadow to play in

Going Deeper

Talk about your experiences of trying to hear the voice of God. What gets in the way? What is helpful?

Share stories of listening to God.



Worship Response

Spend some time lying down on the grass in silence, and ask God to speak a word of encouragement to each of you. Give enough time, then get back together to share.

CLOUD SPOTTING

*"The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge."
Psalm 19:1-2*



You will need

A day with just enough clouds
A cloud spotting guide or app
A blanket
Binoculars (not essential)

Going Deeper

Get hold of a cloud spotter's guide, print a guide out from the Internet or download a cloud spotting app. Engage in some serious analysis of the sky - can you tell a Cirrus cloud apart from a Cumulus one?

Psalm 19 is a wonderfully creative song about how the sky gives glory to God, showing his nature. Why not have a go at re-writing the psalm in your own words, using your experience of looking up at the clouds? You could do it as a rhyming or free poem, a rap, a song, or in any other format!

Activity

Spend some lazy time on your back, looking at clouds. Talk to each other about what you think the clouds look like. Ask questions like: which is the smallest cloud I can see? Which is the largest? Which cloud looks angriest? Which looks happiest? Or whatever questions you can think of to stir up imagination.

Worship Response

Psalm 19 says that the heavens declare the glory of the Lord - talk about what in particular might be glorious about the sky on this particular day. Ask everyone to look out for an image in the cloud that reminds them of something about God, and have a moment's silence. Then, as an act of worship, encourage everyone to share what they have been reminded of.