

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



HOLY LISTENING

Acts 9:1-15 Saul is converted

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper

Start It

Give the children some thinking time for each question before sharing their thoughts.

Screen share:

- If you had a time machine that would only work once, what point in the future or in history would you visit?
- What's your favourite thing to do in the Summer?
- What is the hardest thing you have ever done?

Once everyone has shared, then ask the group some questions to see if they were listening. Example: Dan, what is Aleesha's favourite thing to do in the Summer?

Ask:

- How well do you think the group listened to each other?
- What do you find challenging about listening carefully to others?

Sing It

Our song for today tells us how we can hear God's voice when he speaks to us.

'God speaks' (with lyrics) by Emu Music (1 min 57 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5wRCWldvXU>

Tell It

- **Say:** Back in August one of the Explore It sessions looked at the story of Saul. Today we're going to revisit that story and discover more about a man who listened to God and did what he asked him to do. Nope, it wasn't Saul – it was Ananias.

Video

Paul's conversion (Acts 9:1-19) by Saddleback Kids (1 min 37 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLZ67inPx-4>

Screen share: Acts 9:1-2 (ICB)

'In Jerusalem Saul was still trying to frighten the followers of the Lord by saying he would kill them. So he went to the high priest and asked him to write letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Saul wanted the high priest to give him the authority to find people in Damascus who were followers of Christ's Way. If he found any there, men or women, he would arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem.'

Ask:

- Before he met Jesus, what kind of person was Saul?
- How do you think the followers of Jesus felt about Saul?

Screen share: Acts 9:10-15 (ICB)

'There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, "Ananias!"

Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord."

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. Saul has seen a vision. In it a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he sees again."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and the terrible things he did to your people in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest everyone who worships you."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to non-Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel!"

Discuss

- How do you think Ananias felt when God asked him to go and see Saul?
- How do you think you would have reacted if it was you?
- Why did Ananias decide it was OK to go and see Saul?
- How did Ananias show his love for God and others in this story?
- Not everyone gets to hear from God the way that Ananias did, but what other ways does God speak to us?
- How can we take time to make sure we are listening?

Action It

🗣️ **Say:** Today's session is all about the importance of listening.

Ask: How good are you at listening? Give yourself a rating on a scale of one (absolutely rubbish) to ten (the perfect listener).

🗣️ **Say:** We're going to watch a clip all about how to become a good, or even better, listener. See if you can remember the three top tips after you've watched the clip.

Video

People Skills: Listening by Crossroads Kids' Club (2 mins 40 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwWV2gfliik>

Discuss

- What were the three top tips given in the clip, to help us become good listeners?
- Discuss what warmth, respect and empathy mean and how we can show all three when we are listening.

Warmth: showing the other person that you care. We can do this by focusing on the other person instead of looking at our phone or watching the television while they are talking.

Respect: build trust by really listening. To do this we can make eye contact while we are listening and make sure that we don't interrupt.

Empathy: try your best to understand how someone else is feeling.

Ask: How is listening carefully to others a way of showing God's love to others?

Pray It

- **Say:** We live in a noisy world with lots of distractions, so we're going to have a time of peace and quiet where we can listen to God.

Ask the children to find a comfortable position before praying together.

Dear Jesus,

Help us to listen to you just now. Help our hearts and minds to be quiet so that we can hear you.

(Leave a period of silence for the children to listen)

Thank you that you listen to us, Jesus. Help us to show your love to others by listening carefully.

AMEN.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.