

LESSON SIX

LANGUAGES OF GOD: HOW GOD TALKS

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...the one who prophesies speaks to people for
their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

1 Corinthians 14:3

Summary: This lesson focuses on three of the languages that God uses to talk to us. The characters from the first lesson will return again for another three-part skit in this lesson, and each of them will focus on one way that God talks to us. They will also remind the children why God talks to them for other people (the ABCD's).

For the three-part skit, the person who comes out to teach the intro will also become the character in the skit that receives the prophetic words from the other three characters. This lesson also contains some more activation time for the children, and because the characters will only focus on three of the ways God talks, we will activate the children in these three ways: hearing words, seeing pictures, and feeling what God feels. In order to do this effectively, you will need to write down every one of your children's names on a small piece of paper as they are entering your classroom, fold it in half, and put it in a bowl that you will bring back out at the end of the day.

Topics:

- God talks through seeing pictures
- God talks through hearing words
- God talks through feeling something

What You Need:

- Actors dressed as a construction worker, cheerleader, and sheep farmer
- Person to be prophesied over (*this person is also the teacher*)
- Small pieces of paper to write children's names on
- Bowl to put pieces of paper in
- Word Puzzle*: 1 per child (*appendix*)

TEACHING

INTRODUCTION

TEACHER: Last week we started learning about when God talks to us for other people. Do any of you remember what that's called? You're right! Prophecy. We also learned three reasons why God talks to us for other people. We call them the ABCD's of prophecy. Do you remember what those were? *(Allow the children to answer.)* Yes! You got it...

- Always
- Build-Up
- Cheer-Up
- Draw-Near

These are the reasons why God talks to us for other people, and today we are going to learn some of the languages God will use to talk to us. There are a lot of ways God will talk to us. Some of those ways are through words, pictures, movies, feelings, smells, sounds, tastes, scripture, thoughts, numbers, colors, dreams, and angels. Wow! In our lesson today, we are going to see three of these ways God talks to our characters, and I want you to watch really close to see if you can pick them out.

SKIT: PART 1

Item Needed:

- *Actor dressed as construction worker*

TEACHER: Let's pretend I just got out of school, and it was the worst day I've ever had. Some people are going to walk up, see me, and then they are going to prophecy over me using one of the languages of God. Ready to see which ones they use? Here we go!
(Sits down on the stage or in a chair and begin the skit as the "person.")

PERSON: Man, I can't believe today. What a joke. I failed my test again, and this time I even studied really hard. Those other children are so much smarter than I am, and they know it. They never leave me alone about it, and my teacher even told me I wasn't trying hard enough. Man, my teacher is so mean. I wish I were smarter. No, actually, I wish I wasn't even me anymore. I'd be a whole lot better if I could just be someone else.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER: *(Construction worker walks up looking at his papers)* Yep, I think this is the spot for our new construction. The crew of apprentices should be here any minute. Well, never mind, you're here early. Way to go young man! That's what I like to see in an apprentice. You're off to a good start!

PERSON: Um... apprentice?

WORKER: Yeah, ain't that why you're sitting here? For the ABC apprenticeship?

PERSON: I have no idea what you mean, sir. Plus, you wouldn't want me as an apprentice. I'm not smart enough for something like that.

WORKER: Well, you're smart enough to show up on time! But, really, if you ain't here for the apprenticeship, how come you're sitting here?

PERSON: I guess I was just trying to find a place to be by myself.

WORKER: By yourself? How come? Are you having a bad day?

PERSON: "Bad" isn't the word to describe it. More like, "the worst day ever."

WORKER: Was it something at school that happened?

PERSON: Yeah, something happened, but that's only the beginning.

WORKER: Oh I see... one of "those" days.

PERSON: You've probably never had one of "these."

WORKER: Sure I have. It's obvious what's been happening. You had something happen, and then the other children have been tearing you down. Even worse than that, it sounds to me like you've even been tearing yourself down too, haven't you?

PERSON: Um... I guess so.

WORKER: Well, I got a couple of minutes before my next apprenticeship begins, and actually, I'm going to teach them what I'm about to do for you.

PERSON: Do for me?

WORKER: Yep.

PERSON: What's that?

WORKER: God likes to show me things for people so He can build them up, and it seems like that's exactly what you need right now. Would you mind if I ask Him to show me something that will build you up?

PERSON: I guess so.

WORKER: Holy Spirit, will you show me something for my friend here, please? Something that will build him up. I got it! I can see Him picking up a wire that has a little cut in it, and the power isn't going through the wire right now. It's like the power just drains right out of the cut. I can see that the wire goes to a light, but because of that cut and no power, the light isn't on.

PERSON: That's supposed to build me up?

WORKER: Hold on... now Holy Spirit is putting His hand on the little cut, and now the cut is gone. There is power flowing again, and the light is on. I think He's showing me that you are that wire, and you make everything around you bright. He wants to heal your heart in the place where it hurts so you can shine again. Is it okay if I pray for Him to do that for you?

PERSON: Yeah, that would be great.

WORKER: Holy Spirit, will you come heal this young man's heart just like you showed me? So he doesn't feel like all his power is drained, and so he can light up everyone around him again. Thanks, Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen. Well, how you feeling now?

PERSON: I actually feel a lot better. I feel like what you said God showed you just happened to me. Thanks, I do feel built up!

WORKER: Well, it's my pleasure! I gotta get going now so I can go teach this to more young folks like yourself. God bless you. See you later.

(Teacher takes a brief break from character to check with the children to see if they noticed the language God used.)

TEACHER: Did you guys notice what language God used to speak to the construction worker? *(Allow children to answer.)* That's right! Using a picture.

(Teacher goes back into character and looks better than before but still a bit sad.)

SKIT: PART 2

Item Needed:

- *Actor dressed as cheerleader*

(Cheerleader skips on stage)

CHEERLEADER: Wow! What a great class of children! I think they all got it that we always cheer people up when we prophecy to them. *(Notices person who had a terrible day)* Oh, hi! Sorry, I didn't see you there. Are you here for my next class?

PERSON: Class? I'm not sure I'm quite ready for another class yet. They haven't been the best for me lately.

CHEERLEADER: Oh really? How come?

PERSON: Because no matter how hard I try, I can never do good enough.

CHEERLEADER: Oh, well my class is a class that anybody can be good enough in. In my class, I teach you how to cheer people up with God's words.

PERSON: Cheer me up? I thought He wanted to build me up? Besides, I'm not sure even God could cheer me up right now.

CHEERLEADER: Oh, now I see what's going on here. You don't want to cheer people up with me, because you need to be cheered up yourself. Well, guess what? Like I said before, I listen for God all the time, and sometimes He tells me words for other people just so He can cheer them up. Would you mind if I ask Him to tell me something that'll cheer you up?

PERSON: Well, you can try if you want to.

CHEERLEADER: *(Looking up a little and praying)* Holy Spirit, will you tell me something for my friend here that will cheer him up? *(Pauses for a few seconds.)* Oh, I got it!

PERSON: You do? Really? What'd He say?

CHEERLEADER: God just told me that He made you just the way you are, and He thinks you're pretty great. He loves how you think, because He made you really good at solving problems. He also said that with His help, you are going to solve some very big problems!

PERSON: Wow! I guess if that's what God said, then I'm going to figure out how to solve my problems I'm having at school.

CHEERLEADER: Yes, you are, and it looks to me like you're starting to cheer up. See, that's what God does when He tells me things for other people. He cheers them up. I gotta get going to my class now, but you can join me anytime, okay? See you later.

(Cheerleader bounces away. The teacher takes a brief break to check with the children to see if they saw which language God spoke to the cheerleader in and then goes back into character.)

SKIT: PART 3

Item Needed:

- Actor dressed as a farmer

(Sheep farmer walks up swinging his lasso and notices the person sitting there.)

SHEEP FARMER: Yee-haw! Well howdy, partner! Are you here to meet me to head back to the sheep farm?

PERSON: Well, I wasn't. I was just trying to get away from everybody at school.

SHEEP FARMER: Well shucks, how come?

PERSON: I had a really bad day earlier today, but now I'm feeling a whole lot better.

SHEEP FARMER: That's good. How'd you start feeling better?

PERSON: A couple of people came up to me. One of them had God showing them things for me, and the other had God telling them things for me. Now I'm feeling so much better.

SHEEP FARMER: Well, isn't that interesting?

PERSON: Yes, it sure is.

SHEEP FARMER: What I mean is, you had people come up and tell you things God was saying to them, and by golly, I love to tell people what God is saying, too.

PERSON: You do? Well, I'd love to hear more from Him.

SHEEP FARMER: Well, then just as I was walking up here, I could feel what God was feeling for you. I could feel all this joy inside me about to burst outta me. It was like what I imagine a seed must feel like when it's under the soil, and it's growing a plant. It's just about to push the dirt away and reach up for the sunshine for the first time. I bet seeds feel really great just about then.

PERSON: I bet they do, too. And you think God feels like that about me?

SHEEP FARMER: I don't think He does, I know it.

PERSON: Wow, God is really great. I never knew I could feel so good because of His words to me.

SHEEP FARMER: Well, why don't you come along with me then? I'm heading to His house right now.

PERSON: All right, let's go! Oh, I have one more thing I need to do. You go on ahead, and I'll catch up to you in a couple minutes. *(Sheep farmer exits stage and teacher turns to the children.)*

TEACHER: Did you see what languages God used to talk to those people? *(Allow children*

to answer.) You're right! They saw a picture of what God was showing them, they heard Him say words, and they felt what He was feeling. Since God talked to them for other people, and since the Bible says, "we may all prophesy" we are going to practice listening to God in those ways, too.

ACTIVATION: SEEING, HEARING, FEELING

Items Needed:

- *Small pieces of paper to write children's names on*
- *Bowl to put pieces of paper in*

Note to Teacher: *If possible, break into smaller groups. You may have some children who weren't in class the week before, and if so, you can quickly explain that prophecy is a free gift that God gives to those who want it. You can then pray a simple prayer for them about receiving the gift of prophecy. After that, have all the children break up into small groups to practice. The size of these groups will depend on the number of children and leaders you have. The ideal size would be five to six children per adult.*

If a child is having trouble seeing, hearing, or feeling God, one thing that could be happening is they are thinking they are making it up. As mentioned in the last activation, one rule we like to live by is, "If you ask God to talk to you, you aren't allowed to think you made it up."

Another thing that often happens is they may be trying too hard. Pray for the child again, and ask them what the first thing that comes to them is. For example, pray, "God show this young lady a picture for her friend," and immediately ask, "What's the first thing that came to your mind?" This will help them to simply recognize what they are seeing, and it won't let them work too hard for it.

SEEING

You'll need a bowl filled with each child's name in the small group. Sometimes it's easiest to have these done earlier in the day so they are ready to go for this station. Have all the children pick a name out of the bowl. Have the children ask God to show them a picture or video for this person on the paper they drew out of the bowl before you let them open the paper to see who's name they have. One by one, pick children to share what they saw for the name on their paper (without opening it yet). Then have that child open their paper to

say who that picture or video was for. All of them should pay close attention because any of those words could be for them.

HEARING

Have the leader sit in the middle of the group of children and have the children ask God to say something to them for their leader. Have them share one at a time.

FEELING

Choose one child who wants to go first. Have this child stand facing away from the others so that child can't see who is behind them. Pick another child to come up behind the first child, and put their hand on that first child's shoulder. As soon as the first child feels the hand on his/her shoulder have them ask God for a feeling for the person touching them. Then have him/her look to see who it was he/she got the feeling for.

Have the child who just received the feeling tell the other child what God was feeling towards him/her. Continue this way until all the children have had a turn to feel something from God for another child.

ACTIVATION OR GAME: HOW GOD TALKS

Item Needed:

- *Word Puzzle*: 1 per child (appendix)*

In the appendix, you will find a word puzzle for the children with different ways God talks. You may make copies and have the children complete it either as a second activation time during class or as a fun game they can take home to finish.

