

Not the Voice of the Lord: Voices of threat and panic, boasting and bullying

Year B, Pentecost 5

By Beth Barnett

This is a Bible engagement for 1 Samuel 17 and Mark 4:35 - 42.
Use this resource whenever appropriate, or during Bible Reading times. .

You will need:

- Roving/cordless microphone
- Powerpoint (included in the Visions and Voices Resources Zip) or printed for distribution

Time required:

10 minutes

Introduction

We have been thinking about the Voice of the Lord, the ways that God speaks, and how we can listen for God in our lives.

We've seen some great parts of the Bible that show us God's surprising voice speaking to people. But today, our Bible Readings contain some voices that are NOT the voice of the Lord. This is a really important thing to remember, that not everything in the Bible shows us what God is like. Some of the texts of the Bible are here to show us what things are like when God's ways are ignored, when God doesn't get a say.

I am inviting 9 people to read some of the things that are voiced in our two readings - one, the story of Goliath and David fighting in the Old Testament from 1 Samuel 17, and the other, the story of Jesus' disciples in a boat in a storm.

I'm asking each person to read the thing that is said, not in their own voice, not in the voice that we recognise them. This is to remind us that the things we are hearing from the Bible are NOT the voice of God, and that we can learn to recognise the voice of God, and recognise when something is NOT the voice of God.



Display the lines from the text on the screen and pass the microphone around amongst the people you have arranged to 'voice' the quotes in fake voices. Following each voicing, ask "What kind of voice is this and why is it not the voice of the Lord?"

Enjoy the playfulness of people using not their real voice, perhaps even a silly voice, as well as the serious side of the content of each quote.

At the end of the 'voicings' and the suggestions and discussions about each one, display the second set of slides, following this pattern for each row:

*Your original reader voicing their lines again
You (or another leader) reads "The voice of..."
Everyone responds "not the voice of the Lord."*

**Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man,
that we may fight together.**

Voice that baits violence

All: NOT THE VOICE OF THE LORD!

Optional expansion:

When the time comes to read the text in your gathering, invite people to call out and identify the different types of voices as they come up in the reading.

Through the week Challenge

Offer the challenge for people to listen out for things that are said on the news, in public events, in our politics, and use the grid to evaluate how closely the person's voice might echo the voice of the Lord, or how it is NOT the voice of the Lord. Make space in your next gathering for examples of this to be shared, then turn them into prayers, by thinking about what the voice of God would say in the situation.



Intergen

www.intergen.org.au