

Gifts of the Spirit

Kids Church - Lesson 10

Date:

Lesson 10: What is the gift of discernment?

Learning Objective/s:

Children will learn that:

1. Discernment is a gift of the spirit
2. Discernment is when people can distinguish between God's truth and a lie of the enemy
3. People with the gift of discernment help to protect the church from lies that destroy God's people

Equipment:

- Weekly overview board and lesson timetable board (see *series overview for more info*)
- Speaker and device to play the song
- 4/5 boxes/bags with a selection of objects inside
- Top Trumps card (on card and pre-cut) and pens
- memory verse cards
- device to record song and memory verse (optional)
- Parent cards

Parent Card:

At the end of the lesson, hand out the **parent cards** to the children so that they can continue reflecting on this week's lesson at home.

Welcome Time:

Before starting the lesson, sit the children down and ask each one about their week, not forgetting to share about yours too. This is a great chance to build relationship with each other and to teach the children important skills like communication and listening.

Ice Breaker: What's in the box?

Preparation: prepare 4/5 boxes or bags with a selection of random objects placed inside.

Ask for volunteers to take part. Give each volunteer a box/bag (make sure nobody else can see inside) and tell them they have to either: tell everybody the truth about what's inside and list the items OR lie about what is inside and make up a list of different items. The other children must try and guess if they are lying or telling the truth. Repeat this for all the boxes/bags

Ice Breaker: What's in the box continued...

Learning point question: How did you know if the person was telling the truth or lying? Was it obvious or hard to work out?

Then ask the children, considering what they have just done, what they think the word discernment means.

Listen to their answers and tell them that the gift of discernment is when God gives people the ability to see if a person is telling God's truth or not. When people intentionally spread lies it can hurt God's people. Those who have the gift of discernment help to protect the church and stand up for God's truth.

Song: *Gifts of the Spirit, whispering Hope*

The children have now learned all the actions, so play through the song and see what they can remember. If there's part of the song they can't remember so well, then revise this part with them.

Or, if you are filming, they are going to record the song to present to the adults in the main church!

Object Lesson and craft: Top Trumps

Give the children a Top Trumps worksheet to complete as you are doing the lesson. Tell the children that together they are going to learn about 6 different people in the Bible who may or may not have had the gift of discernment and that they are going to make a set of top trumps cards for them.

Remind the children that discernment is all about knowing if God's truth is being spoken or not.

For rules of how to play Tops Trumps, click the following link:

[https://toptrumps.com/pages/how-to-play-top-trumps?
srstid=AfmBOoqT7IkjQgk1VzP30VJybBUhYyHGLfxgMK0Ikmk1ZQ07U0hX_R0](https://toptrumps.com/pages/how-to-play-top-trumps?srstid=AfmBOoqT7IkjQgk1VzP30VJybBUhYyHGLfxgMK0Ikmk1ZQ07U0hX_R0)

1. Jesus

Read the fact file about Jesus and get the children to draw His picture in the blank box as you are reading it out. Then get the children to fill in the numbers they want to give him in each box (0 being the worst and 100 being the best). Ask the children the following questions to help them with picking the right number:

Truth teller: Does your person tell the truth or do they tell lies?

Lie Detector: Is your person good at finding lies when people aren't telling the truth?

Object Lesson and craft: Top Trumps continued...

Power to protect: Does your person speak out to protect the church? Do they hear a lie and destroy it with the truth?

Power to destroy: Does your person speak lies with an aim to destroy people's lives and take away their confidence in God?

2. Paul

Read the fact file about Paul and get the children to draw His picture in the blank box as you are reading it out. Then get the children to fill in the numbers they want to give him in each box (0 being the worst and 100 being the best). Ask the children the following questions to help them with picking the best number:

Truth teller: Does your person tell the truth or do they tell lies?

Lie Detector: Is your person good at finding lies when people aren't telling the truth?

Power to protect: Does your person speak out to protect the church? Do they hear a lie and destroy it with the truth?

Power to destroy: Does your person speak lies with an aim to destroy people's lives and take away their confidence in God?

3. Sapphira

Read the fact file about Sapphira and get the children to draw her picture in the blank box as you are reading it out. Then get the children to fill in the numbers they want to give her in each box (0 being the worst and 100 being the best). Ask the children the following questions to help them with picking the best number:

Truth teller: Does your person tell the truth or do they tell lies?

Lie Detector: Is your person good at finding lies when people aren't telling the truth?

Power to protect: Does your person speak out to protect the church? Do they hear a lie and destroy it with the truth?

Power to destroy: Does your person speak lies with an aim to destroy people's lives and take away their confidence in God?

4. False Prophets

Read the fact file about the false prophets and get the children to draw their picture in the blank box as you are reading it out. Then get the children to fill in the numbers they want to give them in each box (0 being the worst and 100 being the best). Ask the children the following questions to help them with picking the best number:

Object Lesson and craft: Top Trumps continued...

Truth teller: Does your person tell the truth or do they tell lies?

Lie Detector: Is your person good at finding lies when people aren't telling the truth?

Power to protect: Does your person speak out to protect the church? Do they hear a lie and destroy it with the truth?

Power to destroy: Does your person speak lies with an aim to destroy people's lives and take away their confidence in God?

5. Ananias

Read the fact file about Ananias and get the children to draw his picture in the blank box as you are reading it out. Then get the children to fill in the numbers they want to give him in each box (0 being the worst and 100 being the best). Ask the children the following questions to help them with picking the best number:

Truth teller: Does your person tell the truth or do they tell lies?

Lie Detector: Is your person good at finding lies when people aren't telling the truth?

Power to protect: Does your person speak out to protect the church? Do they hear a lie and destroy it with the truth?

Power to destroy: Does your person speak lies with an aim to destroy people's lives and take away their confidence in God?

6. Eve

Read the fact file about Eve and get the children to draw her picture in the blank box as you are reading it out. Then get the children to fill in the numbers they want to give her in each box (0 being the worst and 100 being the best). Ask the children the following questions to help them with picking the best number:

Truth teller: Does your person tell the truth or do they tell lies?

Lie Detector: Is your person good at finding lies when people aren't telling the truth?

Power to protect: Does your person speak out to protect the church? Do they hear a lie and destroy it with the truth?

Power to destroy: Does your person speak lies with an aim to destroy people's lives and take away their confidence in God?

Now tell the children that Jesus, Paul, Peter and Ananias all had the gift of discernment because they could tell if someone's heart was for God or against God - they could listen and see if a lie was present. They spoke out God's truth to destroy lies and anything that might destroy the church and God's people.

Object Lesson and craft: Top Trumps continued...

Now get the children to play a game of top trumps for a few minutes, using the cards they have made, talking to them about the people on their cards and how they either spoke God's truth and protected the church or created lies that tried to destroy people's lives.

Optional Memory Verse: Words of Knowledge

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God..." 1 John 4:1

Place the words from the memory verse at the end of the room. Have the children stand in a line at the opposite side. One at a time, have them do different actions as they go and retrieve a word and bring it back - i.e. - walk backwards, hop on one leg, sing a song, pretend to be walking a dog, etc...

When the children have brought all the words back, they will realise some of the cards have two words on them. They have to decide which word fits and which word doesn't (crossing out the wrong word).

Read out the verse together when they have got the words in the right order. Then say, just like you had to decide which word was correct, we have to decide (or discern) what is from God and what is a lie.

Ask the children when they might come across lies in their daily life and have to ask God for the gift of discernment to see his truth? (answers could include: when talking to their friends - i.e. gossip and rumours; when learning things at school - i.e theories on the creation of the world; or when pressured by others to cheat or lie themselves).

Series memory verse: 1 Corinthians 14:7

'Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, to help everyone.'
(ICB) 1 Corinthians 12:7

Remembering: This is the final opportunity for the children to remember the Makaton signs. See if anyone can remember without any prompts!

(This could also be shown to the adults in addition to the song)

Optional Prayer:

Ask the children to think in their head about one time this week when they want God to help them discern his truth - whether this is at school, home, at an after school club, or when watching the TV. Ask them to keep this in their head as you pray, and then invite them to say AMEN together at the end.

Dear God,

Thank you that you have given us the gift of discernment so we can spy out lies and know what is your truth. This week, help me to see your truth when I am [invite the children to quietly fill in the blank here with whatever they have been thinking about] AMEN!

Thinking Time:

Get the children to sit down. Tell them this is a time for them to think about what they have been taught today.

Question: Why is it important that we don't believe a lie over God's truth?

Tell the children that earlier on they were taught that the gift of discernment is when God gives people the ability to see if a person is telling God's truth or not. When people intentionally spread lies it can hurt God's people. Those who have the gift of discernment help to protect the church and stand up for God's truth.

Next week: Explain to the children that next week they will be discovering about the final gift, the gift of faith and learning what happens when God helps us to completely trust in Him.

Optional Game: What's the time Mr Wolf

Line the children up at one end of the room. Choose one of the children to be "Mr Wolf" and send them to the other end of the room.

The remaining children then shout out, "What's the time, Mr Wolf?" Mr Wolf will then respond by shouting out the time, "one o'clock," or "four o'clock", etc. Once Mr Wolf has shouted out the time, the children will then take that many steps forward.

This is repeated until Mr Wolf decides to shout out, "dinnertime!" He will then chase after the children, trying to catch someone to be the new Mr Wolf. If a child is tagged they become the new Mr Wolf, but if nobody is tagged, then the player being Mr Wolf must remain as the wolf and try again.

Jesus

Paul

Fact File:

Jesus could DISCERN a person's thoughts. When he spoke about having to die on the cross, Peter took Jesus to one side and told him this would never happen! Jesus saw the work of the enemy and spoke out at once, saying that Peter needed to see things from God's viewpoint - He wasn't going to let anything stop him from rescuing the world from their sins.

Truth Teller

Lie Detector

Power to Protect

Power to Destroy

Fact File:

One day Paul met a sorcerer called Elymas. Elymas was whispering lies to the governor who led the people in Rome. Paul spoke out and told Elymas he was full of dishonesty and that his sight would be taken away for the lies he had spoken against God. Immediately Elymas became blind! The governor was astonished and saw all the lies Elymas

had spoken- he turned immediately to God and put his trust in him.

Truth Teller

Lie Detector

Power to Protect

Power to Destroy

Sapphira

False Prophets

Fact File:

After Jesus had risen, those who followed him sold what they owned and gave the money they received to the poor. But Sapphira and her husband decided they would keep some of the money for themselves and lied to the apostles, saying that they had given everything they'd earned to the poor. Peter knew they were lying and told her husband, "How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God."

Truth Teller

Lie Detector

Power to Protect

Power to Destroy

Fact File:

False prophets are people who say they have heard from God but they haven't, they twist God's truth and try to convince people their ideas are better. There were many false prophets in the Bible. Jesus warns us that they appear like harmless sheep but are really wild and fierce wolves. If you don't spot the lie, they will lead you away from God and his truth.

Truth Teller

Lie Detector

Power to Protect

Power to Destroy

Ananias

Fact File:

Ananias was a disciple after Jesus had returned to heaven. God told him to find Saul and heal him - for Saul had been made blind. Ananias knew Saul killed Christians like himself and questioned if he should go. But Ananias believed he'd discerned God voice and went to Saul, whose sight immediately was restored and was baptised. Saul then became Paul, who wrote much of the new testament and whose faith in Jesus helped to grow the early church.

Truth Teller

Lie Detector

Power to Protect

Power to Destroy

Eve

Fact File:

Eve is the first woman in the Bible. When she was created with Adam, everything in the world was perfect. But then one day a serpent came along and told Eve that she could eat the one fruit that God had told them NOT to eat. Eve believed the serpent, ate the apple and allowed the knowledge of good and evil into the world. Everything was no longer perfect.

Truth Teller

Lie Detector

Power to Protect

Power to Destroy

Do

not/always

believe

every

spirit,

but

test/welcome

the

spirits

to

see

whether

they

are

from

God/your school teacher.

1 John

4:1

Parent Card

What I've learned in Kids Church today

Date:

Lesson 10: What is the gift of discernment?

We're so glad your child has joined us today!

During our session we learned about the gift of discernment. This is when God gives people the ability to see if a person is telling God's truth or not. When people intentionally spread lies it can hurt God's people. Those who have the gift of discernment help to protect the church and stand up for God's truth.

Key phrase for your child to know:

Discernment reveals God's truth.

The song we are practicing:

Gifts of the Spirit, by whispering Hope

The memory verse we are learning:

'Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, to help everyone.'
(ICB) 1 Corinthians 12:7

We also looked at:

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God..." 1 John 4:1

Talk together:

Over the next few weeks the children will be learning about the gifts of the spirit.

Have you heard any lies recently? Ask your family what lies they have heard and if they knew straight away it wasn't the truth.

Decide together what you could do to help you discern if something is God's truth or not.

Pray together:

Dear God,

Thank you that you have given us the gift of discernment so we can spy out lies and know what is your truth.

This week, help me to see your truth when I am...

AMEN

See you next time!