

CHILDREN CHURCH LESSON

HEARING GOD I

TEXT John 10:1-10, Psalm 23

MEMORY VERSE John 10:4 "When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice."

Or

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

STORY – FOLLOW THE LEADER

When the rain stopped, Mr Akinwale told his children to follow him as they left the restaurant where they had gone to eat that Sunday afternoon. Mrs Akinwale carried the baby, Bidemi, and walked at the back. Kemi, Segun and Ade followed their father in a straight line. As usual they had enjoyed their special Sunday lunch which they had once a month.

The restaurant wasn't far from where they stayed so they always walked. There was no problem as there were not too many cars on the road. A couple of times Mr Akinwale would stop to let a car pass before he continued walking. They had almost reached home when Ade decided that he didn't want to follow the path his father was taking. All of a sudden there was a splash! What happened? Ade had stepped into a pot hole and he had gotten himself wet. Not only wet, but his Sunday wear was now very dirty.

"Oh no!" Ade shouted.

"Ade!" his mother shouted. "Are you okay?"

When Mr Akinwale heard the shout he stopped and turned around. When he saw Ade he didn't know whether to laugh or be angry. After a couple of seconds he said, "Ade, I told you to follow me. It was for a reason. Well you will have to manage like that until we get home. Thank God we're almost home."

Kemi and Segun who had been trying not to laugh, couldn't help themselves again and burst out into laughter.

"That's what you get for not following Daddy properly." Kemi said.

"You forgot that we are to listen and obey Daddy's instructions." Segun added.

Mrs Akinwale didn't say anything. She knew that she would have to take Ade's clothes to the washroom immediately, but she was happy that Ade was not hurt.

The family continued their walk home with a sober Ade walking directly behind his father. He was a sight, but fortunately for him not too many people were around that evening.

When they reached home, Ade went straight to the bathroom and took his bath. He felt much better as he wore clean clothes. He then joined his siblings in the sitting room for story telling time.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the names of the four children in the story?
2. Which child did not follow his father's instructions when they were almost home?
3. Where was the Akinwale family coming from?

4. How did Mr Akinwale feel at first when Ade stepped into the pothole? Why do you think he felt that way?
5. Why was there water in the pothole?
6. What did Segun say that Ade was supposed to have done?
7. What did Ade do when he got home?
8. What was to take place in the sitting room that evening?

CONFESSION

I am a child of God. God speaks to me and I listen to his voice. God tells me what to do and I obey him. I will not listen to a stranger's voice. My God will lead me to where there is a lot of good things for me. He will provide for me. He will protect me. My God loves me and I love him.

ACTIVITIES

1. ***With younger children***
 - 1) *Play Follow the Leader*
 - 2) The child will be blindfolded or will face the wall (*Be sensitive to your child's reaction to this. It should not be a fearful or painful experience for the child.*)
Someone should say something and the child is to guess who spoke.
2. ***With older children***
 - 1) *Play Follow the Leader*
 - 2) Blindfold the child and get the child to follow you around the house by just following your voice. Ensure that there are no obstacles in the way.