

CHILDREN CHURCH LESSON

HEARING GOD III

TEXT John 10:1-10, Acts 10:30-33

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 – THE SENT ONES

After dinner, Mrs Akinwale shared an experience she had that day with her family. They were seated at different corners of the sitting room, but everyone was paying attention to what she had to say. Family time was one thing all of them enjoyed.

"I had an interesting experience today." Mrs Akinwale said. "I thank God for the Holy Spirit. I had not concluded on the type of microwave oven I wanted to buy. I also decided that if I wanted the type they sell at Dugbe, I would check my friend whose office is not too far from the shop. However, if I decided to buy the type they sell at Mokola, I would check on my friend another time.

"I felt that the type at Mokola would be a better product, but I really wanted to see my friend. During lunch break while discussing with a colleague of mine, I mentioned that I wanted to buy a microwave oven. Without mentioning the options I had in mind, she recommended the type that they sold at Mokola. She added that she had been using that make for a long time and that all her sisters have enjoyed that make. I took that as a confirmation from God. So after work I went to Mokola to buy the microwave oven."

"Yeah, we have a new microwave oven!" Segun shouted happily.

"God knows how he speaks to and encourages his children." Mr Akinwale added.

"That's not all." Mrs Akinwale said. "God also protected me and didn't allow me to lose the cash I had on me. I've not gotten the new ATM card so I had to take cash to buy the microwave. When I called my friend and told her that I had been thinking of coming over, she said that it was good that I had not gone. Around closing time thieves entered her office and stole a lot of things. A few members of staff were injured. If I had gone, I would have been there when the thing happened. They would have stolen my money and maybe injured me. God spoke to me and kept me safe."

"Praise God!" Ade said.

"Let us pray," Mr Akinwale said. "Let us thank God for this mighty deliverance." They prayed for a few minutes and even Bidemi, the last born, said Amen.

"I had a similar experience," Kemi said slowly, when they finished praying. Egun told me that I should be careful of the new friends I was making. I wasn't sure whether becoming friends with Christiana was a good idea, but I really wanted to become her friend because she had travelled so much and had done so many exciting things."

"So you listened to Egun because it was like a confirmation to what God had been telling you?" Mrs Akinwale asked.

Kemi hung her head. "No, I didn't listen. That's why I got in trouble in school. Although I did not write the bad notes or put them in a some of our

classmates' bags, I was with Christiana and two of her friends, when it happened. Among other things, I was caned because of it."

"Well, I believe you have learnt your lesson?" Mrs Akinwale asked.

"Yes, I have." Kemi replied.

"You have learnt your lesson and that is what matters now. God forgives us when we make mistakes, but he expects us to move on from there and become better people."

"I will become a better person."

Mr. Akinwale hugged Kemi as his wife gave her a big thumbs up.

QUESTIONS

1. God sometimes confirms his word through people, people he sends to us whether they know it or not. a) Who did God send to Mrs Akinwale? b) Who did God send to Kemi?
2. a) Had God spoken to Mrs Akinwale before he sent someone to her? b) Had God spoken to Kemi before he sent someone to her?
3. Did Mrs Akinwale listen to God's instructions? What happened after?
4. Did Kemi listen to God's instructions? What happened after?
5. In the text from the book of Acts, God prepared someone to speak to Cornelius. What was the person's name? What is the summary of the message? (One or two sentences.)

CONFESSION

I am a child of God. I listen to God. The Holy Spirit guides me. God uses me to speak to other people. God confirms his words with signs and wonders. I testify of God's goodness. He speaks to me and keeps me from evil. He speaks to me and provides for all my needs. He speaks to me because he cares about me. I listen and I obey for I have learnt to trust his word.

ACTIVITIES

1. **With younger children** Ask five different questions and give two answers for each question. Use your normal voice for the correct answer and a funny voice for the wrong answer. The questions can be on any topic. For example:
 - 1) *What is 2 + 3* → In your normal voice you will say 5. In your funny voice you will say 6.
 - 2) *What city are we living in?* In your funny voice you will say Lagos and in your normal voice you will say Ibadan.The idea is to get the children to know without telling them directly that the answer is said with your normal voice.
2. **With older children** This is similar to the one for younger children, but the correct answer will be preceded by a place in the Bible and the wrong answer by a place not in the Bible. Take note to ask a couple of questions towards the end that they can't ordinarily know the answer to. For example question 1 could be *What is half of a dozen?* → Bethlehem – 6; Ilorin – 24. Question 4 could be *What is the pedal that is found in manual cars but not in automatic cars?* → Argentina – clam, Mesopotamia – clutch.

