

CHILDREN CHURCH LESSON

HEARING GOD IV

TEXT John 10:1-10, Matthew 2:12, 13; Genesis 37:5-11, 42:6-9a

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 – I HAVE A DREAM

Segun was very thoughtful when he woke up that Saturday morning. He had dreamt about himself. He was a little puzzled. This was the fourth time that he was having a similar dream. What could it mean?

He was late getting to the breakfast table, but his father noticing the way he looked did not say anything immediately. Mr. Akinwale prayed and they all ate breakfast of oat and *akara*.

"Segun," Mr Akinwale said while Kemi helped her mother to clear the table. "What are you thinking about? Do you want to share it with me?"

Segun was quiet for a moment. Bidemi was sitting in his high chair and Ade was playing with him. Segun didn't want to look silly before his father, but he really wanted to talk about his dreams. He took a deep breath and started. "I had a dream and I don't understand it. Actually, I had four similar dreams."

"What happened in the dreams?"

"In the first one, I was running a race. The hill was very steep and I almost gave up, but I didn't. I managed to get to the top and to the finish line. People started clapping for me."

"That's a nice dream with victory at the end. How about the other dreams?"

"In the second dream I was writing a test. I was almost done, but there was one question that I couldn't answer and the time was almost up. I prayed and I remembered what one of my classmates taught me. I was able to answer the question before the time was up. In the third dream, I was being chased by a dog. I ran as fast as I could but then I tripped. Just before I was about to fall down, it seemed as if a hand out of nowhere grabbed me and carried me into a house." Segun paused as he remembered his narrow escape in the dream.

"How about the fourth dream?" Mr Akinwale asked softly.

"Today I dreamed that I was swimming in a race. It was a very long race. I started out slowly and most of the other swimmers were far ahead of me. However, as I continued, I realized I became stronger and faster and I felt good. When I came out at the end of the race, I was given a trophy."

"Hmm. Victory at last." Mr Akinwale said slowly. "I believe God wants to encourage you. It seems as if there is a competition that you are going to be a part of. It is not going to be an easy competition. You will have to work hard and you will have to pray. There will be somethings that will try to discourage you, but God is saying that there is help for you. If you can stay strong and faithful, you will have the victory."

"God sometimes speaks to us through dreams. He spoke to Joseph, son of Jacob, that one day his brothers will bow before him and although it took many

years, Joseph held on to that dream and it came to pass. God also warned another Joseph through a dream. He told Joseph, father of Jesus, to take his baby and leave that place because Herod wanted to kill him. God also spoke to the wise men that they should not return home the way they came. I believe it is God speaking to you.”

Segun nodded and was quiet for a moment. “I think you’re right Daddy. There is a competition at school that I have not told you about. I don’t have to participate, but I am thinking about it. When we were told what we need to do, it seems very difficult. Also, one of my classmates was boasting that he was going to win and that he wasn’t going to allow anyone or anything to keep him from getting the prize.”

“Hmm. The dream makes more sense now,” Mr Akinwale said slowly. “I believe God wants you to participate in the competition. I’ll support you in whichever way I can. We’ll talk more about it later.”

“Thanks Daddy.” Segun smiled for the first time since morning and then he went to join Ade and Bidemi.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was Segun thoughtful that Saturday morning?
2. What did Kemi and her mother do after breakfast?
3. How many dreams did Segun share with his father?
4. Summarize the dreams that Segun shared with his father.
5. What was the interpretation of the dreams?
6. How did Segun feel after his discussion with his father?
7. Mention one or two people in the Bible who God spoke to through dreams.

CONFESSION

I am a child in God’s kingdom. I pray every day. I read my Bible every day. I speak God’s word every day. I am getting better and better, stronger and stronger. I hear God’s voice when I listen to the word of God. I hear God speaking to me through other people. I sometimes hear God’s voice through dreams. I hear God’s voice and I obey.

ACTIVITIES

1. **With younger children** Play *I Spy* (I spy with my little eye, something that is colour ... (you will mention the colour of something in the room where you are, and your child or children will try to guess the object. You can do it five times.
2. **With older children** Play *I Spy* (I spy with my little eye, something that begins with ... (you will mention the first letter of something in the room where you are, and your child or children will try to guess the object. You can do it five times.