

Children and family talk for 30th January 2022

Good morning everyone!

I've brought along Stan today who's going to be helping me.

Sandy: Do you sometimes find it difficult to get across to people what you want to say? Perhaps they don't seem as if they are listening, or even want to listen. Sometimes people are not very good at listening to others voices, are they? Sometimes we can't find the right words that we want either, and it's not until later that we remember what we really wanted to say, and then its too late.

(Throughout this Stan is trying to get a word in, but doesn't manage it).

Oh, I'm sorry Stan, were you trying to say something?

Listening to others is a skill that takes practise, just as being able to have the right words when you want them is a talent. But more about this later. Today we are reading from the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah was a prophet which means God spoke to him and then Jeremiah told the people what God had said, what God wanted, and what would happen if they ignored God. In this reading we hear about the first time God gave Jeremiah a message.

Let's read our bible verses together, from

Jeremiah 1 verses 4 -10.

God Calls Jeremiah

⁴The Lord spoke these words to me:

⁵“Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you.
Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work.
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

⁶Then I said, “But Lord God, I don't know how to speak. I am only a boy.”

⁷But the Lord said to me, “Don't say, 'I am only a boy.' You must go everywhere that I send you. You must say everything I tell you to say. ⁸Don't be afraid of anyone, because I am with you. I will protect you,” says the Lord.

⁹Then the Lord reached out with his hand and touched my mouth. He said to me, “See, I am putting my words in your mouth. ¹⁰Today I have put you in charge of nations and kingdoms. You will pull up and tear down, destroy and overthrow. You will build up and plant.”

Wow, what powerful words! God really had a difficult job for Jeremiah, didn't he? Jeremiah was still a young man, possibly about 17, although we don't know for sure. But listen to

what God says to him: “Before I made you in your mother’s womb, I chose you.

Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work.”

And listen to Jeremiah’s response: “But Lord God, I don’t know how to speak. I am only a boy”.

God tells him Jeremiah how special he is, how God made him and chose him for this special job – but Jeremiah isn’t listening. So, God reassures him, God will be with him and protect him throughout. Not only that, but God then actually puts the words into Jeremiah’s mouth! Wow!

Jeremiah heard the difficult part of the job, but at first failed to hear the rest. He jumped in with excuses as to why he couldn’t do what God wanted. But God is patient and reassures Jeremiah.

When we talk to God in prayer it’s important to listen too. Sometimes the answers we are looking for are right in front of us, but we don’t feel capable for the task, and we’re not listening to the reassuring voice of God, who says; I will be with you and I will protect you always. When we need the right words, God can provide them if we trust.

Let’s talk to God now;

Lord God,

You are our friend in trouble, our protector when we are afraid,

Thankyou for your promise to be always with us and help us to remember this.

Help us to listen to you and to find the right words to say when we need them.

Amen.

Let’s finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for a children’s song about talking to God: <https://youtu.be/uFSYPP0ENKs>

Here is the link for the activity sheet from Roots. [activity-sheet-30-january-2022.pdf](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-30-january-2022.pdf)
([rootsontheweb.com](https://www.rootsontheweb.com))