

## Communication Assembly

### Intro:

Today we are going to talk about communication. Who can tell me some ways we communicate? Talking face to face, sign language (come here, I'm tired, I'm hungry), post a letter or card, phone, text, email, skype. Perhaps when you were little you played with these, cups with string. Message in a bottle. People have been rescued at sea by finding a message in a bottle. There's a way of communicating using dots and dashes with sound or light, does anyone know what it is called? Morse code. In 1830 it took 5-8 months to get a message from England to India, but after the invention of Morse code and the use of the telegraph system it took 5 hours in 1879. There is also a communication system using flags. Does anyone know what it is called? Semaphore. Flags have also been used in the past on ships. e.g. yellow or black flags mean the ship had sickness. In World Wars 1 & 2 carrier pigeons were used to carry messages during battles.

There are lots of different ways to communicate.

Sometimes communication is difficult for example if the person speaks another language or has a hearing problem. We can ask someone who speaks both our language and theirs to help to translate what we are saying. If someone is hard of hearing we may want to speak clearly and not too fast and make sure we are looking at them when we speak as lots of people with hearing difficulties lip read.

In the old days in Roman times and when Jesus was around, there was no technology so news spread through letters or by messenger or as people travelled around e.g. soldiers or traders.

I'm going to need 4 volunteers. One is blindfolded, the other is going to give instructions and two are going to hold a rope for the child to pass under. Once the child is blindfolded build a simple obstacle course i.e. (put a few chairs in the way and have a hoop to crawl through etc.) ask the guide to lead them through.

But good communication is about listening well to what someone is saying and we need to be clear. In the obstacle course, we could send someone the wrong way if we're not careful, and even cause them some damage! So, we need to be able to understand one another - it's a 2-way thing.

As well as being clear in what we say, and listening to others we need to be careful what we say, as it is very easy to hurt people's feelings and we also need to think about our tone and attitude when we say things. Sometimes when we have said thanks or sorry, we may not sound like we mean it. It is nice when we can say things to make people laugh (joke), to encourage them (well done, you did that really well) and to comfort them when they are sad.

Show the children some of the forms of communication that you have brought. Ask what is good and bad about each one. For example, a mobile phone is a great way of communicating with people even when they are not at home; however, it can be easily lost, and there are times when it needs to be switched off, making the owner not contactable. It may need charging or have no money on it. An email is a good way to contact someone if you don't want to disturb them at a busy time, but some people may not check their emails for days on end.

Explain that all forms of communication have their good and bad points but none of them gives immediate access to someone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Christians believe that God is available for us to talk to him at all times. They believe that there will never be a moment when God is not listening to us. This can bring people great comfort as they feel that they are never really alone. Psalm 121 verse 4 tells us: 'He who watches over you will never slumber or sleep.'

**Prayer:**

Dear God,

Thank you that we can communicate with each other in so many different ways.

Help us to say kind things and to encourage and help each other rather than to say things that are unkind.

Help us to remember to listen as well as we talk.

Thank you we can talk to you at any time or in any place and that you are always willing to listen and care for us.

Amen.