



GLOSSARY

ASK: Ask a question that will help them to think about how this information makes a difference in the life.

SHARE: Talk about your own experience as a disciple of Jesus.

EXPLAIN: This is a piece of information that will help to explain the topic.

How can God understand so many different languages?

‘There are many different languages in the world, and every language has meaning.’
1 Corinthians 14:10 (NLT)

Chat

- ASK:** Do you know anyone who can speak a different language to you?
- SHARE:** If you speak another language, share about this. If not, share about a time when you have heard someone speaking another language.
- EXPLAIN:** There are over 6,500 different languages spoken in the world. And some people can speak many different languages.
- ASK:** What language do you think God speaks?
- EXPLAIN:** The Bible tells us that God created many different languages (Genesis 11) and gave different languages to different people. Sometimes God even gives people a different language at a special time! “The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.” (Acts 2:4 CEV)
We can be sure that if God created all of these languages, then he must understand them.

ASK: Can you think of any other ways that people use to communicate without speaking?

EXPLAIN: God has given us lots of different types of language, like sign language, facial expressions, body language and emotions.

Activity

Write some simple actions/objects/feelings on cards and use these to play a game of miming, to show that we can communicate even without using words. You can use the cards provided in the attachment or create your own.

ASK: Can you remember a time when someone communicated with you without using any spoken words? What did they do? How did you understand?

SHARE: Share about a time when you have encountered someone who didn't speak your language and how you communicated with them.

EXPLAIN: Bible tells us that God doesn't only understand our words, but he also understands our thoughts and feelings. Even if we can't find the words to explain how we are feeling.

"In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words." (Romans 8:26 CEV)

Whether we are happy or sad, need help or want to praise God, we can use any words or thoughts or actions - and he will understand.

"All of our thoughts are known to God. He can understand what is in the mind of the Spirit, as the Spirit prays for God's people." Romans 8:27 (CEV)

You, Lord, know every one of my deepest desires, and my noisy groans are no secret to you. Psalm 38:9 (CEV)

ASK: Can you think of time when you couldn't find the words to explain how you were feeling? How does it feel to know that God understands us even when we feel like that?

SHARE: Share about a time when you communicated with God without using spoken words (eg artwork, music, thinking, crying, an act of service).

EXPLAIN: The Bible tells us that God's love is for everyone, so it's important that he is able to communicate with everyone, in a way that makes sense to them.

Activity

[If you speak another language, this will be easy for you. If you don't you might like to record someone else speaking another language, or look up some simple phrases online. Don't worry if you are unsure about how to pronounce the words. The point will be made even if you say the words incorrectly!].

French:

Bonjour, comment allez-vous ? Hello, how are you? Tu t'appelles comment? What is your name?

<http://ielanguages.com/frenchphrases.html>

German:

Guten Morgen, wie geht es Ihnen? Good morning, how are you? Wie heißt du? What's your name?

<http://ielanguages.com/German1.html>

Speak a few sentences in a language the child does not understand.

ASK: How do you feel not being able to understand what is being said? How would it be if God couldn't understand us, or if we couldn't understand God?

Now repeat what was previously spoken, but in the child's language.

ASK: How do you feel now that you can understand what is being said? God can always understand us no matter what language we use - he understood what was said both times!

Activity

(Simon Says) Play a game of Simon Says. Give the first few instructions ("Simon says...") in the child's language. Then give the next instruction in another language.

ASK: Why didn't you do what I asked that time? (Answer will be "I didn't understand you" or similar). We don't need to worry about God communicating with us in another language - he always speaks to us in a way we can understand.

Application

It doesn't matter what language we speak - God understands!

Prayer

What would you like to talk to Jesus about?

What are you happy about?

Is there anything that is making you feel sad?

What can you thank Jesus for?

Is there anything that you are sorry about?

Is there something you would like Jesus to help you with?

What would you like to pray for?

Prayer

[Invite the child to dance/ act/ Kung-fu out this prayer as you say it]

Dear God, Thank you that you always understand what I am saying and thinking and feeling. Thankyou for giving me so many different ways to communicate with you, and that you understand all of these. Help me to always listen to your voice as you speak to me in different ways. Amen

Journal

Draw a picture that communicates a prayer to God asking for something. Draw another picture thanking God for something. You can be sure that God will understand exactly what these mean, even though there are no words.

Little Chats - How can God understand so many different languages

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Prayer

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Dear God, Thank you for always being with me and always ready to listen when I talk to you. I know that I can tell you the good stuff and the stuff that worries me. Help me to listen for your voice too. Amen

Miming Activity

You can use these cards or create your own.

HAPPY	A CHAIR	DRIVING THE CAR
PLAYING WITH THE DOG	ANGRY	READING A BOOK
BATH	BED	WORRIED