

Come, see, hear

John 1.43-51 Epiphany 2

Today we hear about two friends who have an unexpected encounter with Jesus and initially react in very different ways. Nathanael is surprised that Jesus knows about him and knows more than just his name. Together, Philip and Nathanael help each other to understand who Jesus is and they begin a journey that will redefine who they are.

This week we explore how we help each other hear God.

Prepare your young people's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

Have you ever had an experience of being brought to Jesus? Have you ever felt that you are chosen by God? If so, how have these experiences changed your life?

The young people may have their own stories of who has brought them to the group and to know Jesus. Many young people may also want to ask Jesus, 'How do you know me?'

Find more ideas opposite. Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for links, templates, images, tracks.

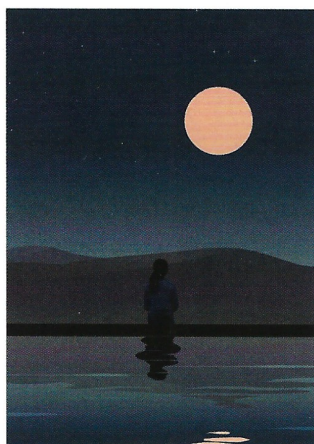
GATHER

Communication games 5 mins E

- Ask the group to arrange themselves in order, in a line, according to the following instructions but without talking: shortest to tallest, birthdays (Jan – Dec), number of letters in their full name (least to most).
- Talk with the young people about how they managed to communicate and what methods they used. Ask the group how they helped each other to complete the task.
- In order to hear each other and God, we must first be quiet. Ask: How good are you at listening? Who do you listen to? How do we listen to God?

First Impressions [WEB](#)

You could also use the image and following questions to help introduce the theme.



- What circumstances or environment help you to see or hear God?

SHARE THE WORD

RCL Epiphany 2 Year B: 1 Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139.1-5, 12-17; 1 Corinthians 6.12-20; **John 1.43-51**

Listen and repeat 10 mins W E

- Divide the young people into two groups. Give one group copies of the passage and ask them to read it out – either all together or divide it up. Ask the other group to listen, and when the first group reads out anything that a character in the Bible says, they are to repeat it back, word for word.
- Discuss whether listening in a new way to the passage helped the young people to hear God's Word in a new way.

EXPLORE AND RESPOND

Grab the keys game 10 mins E

Consider how good we are at listening

You will need: blindfold, chair, set of noisy keys.

- Gather the young people into a circle and ask for one volunteer to be blindfolded. Invite them to sit on a chair in the centre of the circle with a set of keys underneath. Another member of the group must try to silently sneak forward and take the keys before the person on the chair points at them.

- Play a couple of rounds and then talk about how it is through listening that we can respond to the call of Jesus.

Who am I? 10 mins W E

Discuss how we see ourselves

You will need: pens and paper.

- Ask the young people to write down all the different forms of who they are, e.g. son, daughter, brother/sister, friend, cousin. Talk about any nicknames that they might be known by, or any characters you've ever 'played' in a production or other pseudonyms.
 - «» Play the track 'Draw Near', Bethel Music on *The Loft Sessions*, as you continue the discussion.
- Ask: Which person do you like to be the most? Are you the same person in the way you behave in every circumstance? If someone brought you to meet Jesus, which person would you like to be, for him?

Encouraging messages 5 mins E S A

Support one another in prayer

You will need: pens and paper.

- Give each young person a piece of paper and ask them to write their name on it.
 - «» Play the track 'Abide', Housefires, on *Housefires III*, during the activity.
- During a time of quiet, pass the pieces of paper around and ask everyone to write something encouraging about the person named on each piece of paper.
- Invite the young people to take these messages about themselves home.

[WEB](#) Check-in: Connecting faith with everyday, real-life issues.

GO WITH GOD

Consider together what you have explored, what that means for each of you and how it might influence your daily lives.

- Encourage the group to consider that faith is a gift that we receive and also give away. Give each member of the group a coin to represent this.
- Ask them to hold the coin in their right hand and pray, giving thanks for someone who has helped them to follow Jesus. Then ask everyone to transfer the coin to their left hand and pray for someone who they could help to follow Jesus.

Go with God 24/7

Spend time in silence this week and ask Jesus to be with you. What do you hear? How does it feel? Can you sense the presence of God? **E S**