

I will speak up



The boy who listened

Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Once upon a time there was a boy who lived in the place where people went to worship God. He helped the person in charge, who was called Eli, and only saw his family once a year. One night, the boy was woken up by a noise, it was someone calling his name. He thought it was Eli and went to see if he needed any help. Eli said it wasn't him, so the boy went back to bed. The same thing happened again, and then again. Each time Eli said it wasn't him. The boy was puzzled - who could be calling his name in the middle of the night? Eli said he thought it might be God. The boy went back to bed and again heard someone calling him. It was God, and God had something important to tell the boy about some very sad things that were going to happen to Eli's family. In the morning, the boy felt scared to tell Eli what he had seen and heard and wanted to keep it a secret, but Eli said it was very important that he told him the truth. The boy spoke up and told Eli everything, and Eli listened. Sadly, it did all come true, but because the boy spoke up, and people saw that what he said came true, when he grew up, he became someone very important in his country who God used to do some amazing things.

Questions:

Ask the children: What do you think the boy might have been feeling living away from his family and only getting to see them once a year? Why do you think the boy was scared to tell Eli, the man in charge, what he had seen and heard? Can you think of any secrets it is good to keep e.g. surprise presents or parties. What sort of secrets is it not good to keep? Do you think the boy was brave for speaking up? Why do you think that? What might you have done?

The girl who cared

Based on 2 Kings 5:1-19

Once upon a time there was a girl who was taken from her family and her home to a country far away. She went to live with a man and woman who she didn't know. They were very important people, but she had to work for them in their house as a servant. The man, called Naaman, was in charge of a very large army of soldiers and worked for the King of his country. But Naaman had a secret problem, he was very poorly. He had an illness called leprosy that back then no one was able to make better. Having leprosy meant that Naaman probably wouldn't be able to stay in charge of the army anymore, and may have to leave his job, his home, and even his family. The girl saw that Naaman was in trouble and needed help. She came from a place where people believed in God, and she knew of someone back home called Elisha who God used to help others. The girl spoke up and told Naaman that he should go and see Elisha. Naaman listened and did what the girl said. He went on a long journey to visit Elisha, and God used Elisha to make Naaman completely better. Naaman believed in God and went back home to his family. Because the girl spoke up, Naaman got the help he needed to make him well again.

Questions:

Ask the children: What do you think the girl might have been feeling being made to move far away from her family and home and to work for people she didn't know? Why do you think it was important that the girl spoke up? What might she have been feeling about speaking up to the very important man Naaman? Do you think the girl was brave? Why do you think that? What might you have done? Can you think of a time when you have seen someone who needed help?





I will speak up



The boy who asked

Based on 2 Kings 22:1-20; 23:1-3

Once upon a time, there was a boy who became king when he was eight years old. Even though he was young, he wanted to do what was right. The people in his country had once promised to follow God's rules, but by the time the boy became king, they had forgotten all about God and were not living the way they had promised they would. When the boy was a bit older, he asked his helpers to fix the temple, the special place where people worshiped God. While they were working, they found an old, forgotten book. It was very special - it had all of God's rules written inside! The boy's helper read the book aloud to him. As the boy listened, he became upset and worried. He realized that the people had not been following God's ways, and it made him sad. The boy spoke up and told one of his helpers how he felt and asked for help. They went to someone they trusted, a wise woman who spoke messages from God. She sent a message to the boy saying that God had seen his sadness and worry, and would help him. So the boy gathered all the people together, read the book to them, and told them that they needed to change their ways. All the people agreed. Because the boy spoke up, he led the whole land back to following God and doing what was right.

Questions:

Ask the children: What do you think the boy might have felt becoming king at eight years old? Why do you think he was so sad finding out the people hadn't been following God's rules? Why was it important that the boy told someone how he was feeling? Do you think he was brave to tell the people they should change their ways? Why do you think that? Who might you tell if something made you worried or upset?

The girl who watched

Based on Exodus 2:1-10

Once upon a time, there was a girl who had a new baby brother. She and her family lived in a country where they were made to be slaves which meant they had to work very hard and weren't free to live their own lives. One day, the King of the country made a terrible new rule: every baby boy born in a slave's family must be taken away. The girl's family was very scared and tried to hide their new baby for as long as they could. But babies grow, and soon they couldn't hide him in the house anymore. So, the girl's Mum made a basket that could float, placed the baby inside, and hid him in a nearby river to keep him safe. The girl stayed close by to keep watch. But then something surprising happened, the King's daughter came to the river and found the basket and the baby! The girl saw the Princess find her brother and worried about what would happen to him, so she bravely stepped forward and spoke up. "Shall I find someone to help take care of the baby for you?" she asked. The Princess thought this was a good idea, and the girl ran to get her Mum. Because the girl spoke up, the baby was safe. One day, he would lead his people to freedom with his big sister by his side.

Questions:

Ask the children: What do you think the girl might have been feeling when she saw the Princess find her baby brother? What do you think she might have thought was going to happen to him? Do you think she was brave to step forward and speak up? Why do you think that? What might have stopped her from saying something? Who might you go to if you knew someone who needed help?

