



Visions and Voices:

Resources for Intergenerational Worship
June 24 Pentecost 5 Year B

Bible Engagement: Not the Voice of the Lord:



What this is: Intergenerational Bible engagement



Where it's used: In any intergenerational gathering, but specifically with Lectionary based gatherings



Time: 10 minutes



Bible focus/theme: 1 Sam 17; Mark 4:35-42;



What's needed: roving/cordless microphone

Selected Texts of spoken word from I Samuel 17 and Mark 4:35-42 on screen or printed out for distribution.

Not the Voice of the Lord: Voices of threat and panic, boasting and bullying

Introduction

We have been thinking about the Voice of the Lord, the ways that God speaks, and how we can listen for God in our lives.

We've seen some great parts of the Bible that show us God's surprising voice speaking to people. But today, our Bible Readings contain some voices that are NOT the voice of the Lord. This is a really important thing to remember, that not everything in the Bible shows us what God is like. Some of the texts of the Bible are there to show us what things are like when God's ways are ignored, when God doesn't get a say.

I am inviting 9 people to read some of the things that are voiced in our two readings - one, the story of Goliath and David fighting in the Old Testament from 1 Samuel 17, and the other, the story of Jesus' disciples in a boat in a storm.

I'm asking each person to read the thing that is said, not in their own voice, not in the voice that we recognise them. This is to remind us that the things we are hearing from the Bible are NOT the voice of God, and that we can learn to recognise the voice of God, and recognise when something is NOT the voice of God.

Display the lines from the text on screen and pass the roving microphone around amongst the people you have arranged to 'voice' the quotes in fake voices. 'Following each voicing, ask 'What kind of a voice is this and why is it not the voice of the Lord?'

Enjoy the playfulness of people using not their real voice, perhaps even a silly voice, as well as the serious side of the content of each quote.

At the end of the 'voicings' and the suggestions and discussion about each one display the chart (below) that summarises the kinds of voices that are not the voice of God.

Read together through the chart following the pattern for each row:

*your original readers voicing their lines again
you (or another leader) reads the title 'the voice of...'
everyone responds 'Not the Voice of the Lord'.*



Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together.	1. Voice that baits violence
Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.	2. Voice that tries to cut a deal
If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.”	3. Voice that Bullies
“You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”	4. Voice of put downs
I know your presumption and the evil of your heart; for you have come down just to see the battle.	5. Voice of accusation
I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.	6. Voice of boasting and mocking
Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?	7. Voice of pride
Don't you care that we are perishing?	8. Voice of despair
Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?	9. Voice of fear

When the time comes in your gathering to read 1 Samuel 17 and Mark 4:35-42, invite people to call out identifying the 'voices' again, in the midst of the reading.

1. Voice that baits violence

"Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together."

2. Voice that tries to cut a deal

Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.

3. Voice that Bullies

If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

4. Voice of put downs

"You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

5. Voice of accusation

"I know your presumption and the evil of your heart; for you have come down just to see the battle."

6. Voice of boasting and mocking

I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field."

7. Voice of pride

Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?"

8. Voice of despair

do you not care that we are perishing?"

9. Voice of fear

"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Through the week Challenge

Offer the challenge for people to listen out for things that are said on the news, in public events, in our politics, and use the grid to evaluate how closely the person's voice might echo the voice of the Lord, or how it is NOT the voice of the Lord. Make space in your next gathering for examples of this to be shared, then turn them into prayers, by thinking about what the voice of God would say in the situation.