

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



JESUS RESTORES THE SENSES

📖 Mark 7:31-37 Jesus heals a deaf man

🎯 Aim: To use all of our senses in worship

In today's session we will be discovering more about what life is like for deaf people. We will hear the story of Jesus' miraculous healing of a man who was deaf and could not speak. The children will also get the opportunity to start learning a new language and to think about how we can make sure everyone has access to the teachings of Jesus.

Each child will need:

- ➔ A British Sign Language (BSL) fingerspelling poster
 - ▶ www.dotsignlanguage.co.uk/fingerspelling-poster-free-download
 - ▶ www.ndcs.org.uk/documents-and-resources/fingerspelling-poster
 - ▶ www.british-sign.co.uk/shop/product/fingerspelling-charts-a5-a4-a2-poster

You will need:

- ➔ Psalm 139-14 BSL PowerPoint presentation

Start It

💬 Say: In today's story we meet a man who cannot hear or speak. In Bible times it must have been difficult for him to find a way to communicate. Deaf people today use their own sign language to speak to each other, but it can be difficult to communicate with the hearing world when they cannot use the same language.

💬 Say: For our starter today we are going to start learning how to sign the alphabet and spell out our names.

Use the clip to practise signing the alphabet and then give each child a BSL fingerspelling poster to practise spelling out their name.

Video

Learn BSL alphabet! by BSL Club (2:04)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTy5Eu5LLMO

Sing It

💬 Say: Let's share our memory verse together.

Memory verse

**'I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.
What you have done is wonderful.
I know this very well.'**

— (Psalm 139:14 ICB)

💬 Say: Today we share another song based around Psalm 139. It reminds us that we are known by God.

Tell It

Say: In our Bible story Jesus miraculously healed a man who was deaf and unable to speak. This story is found in the book of Mark in the New Testament.

Read:

'Then Jesus left the area around Tyre. He went through Sidon to Lake Galilee, to the area of the Ten Towns. While he was there, some people brought a man to him. This man was deaf and could not talk. The people begged Jesus to put his hand on the man to heal him.'

— (Mark 7:31-32 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What did the people want Jesus to do?
- How were they looking out for their friend?

Read:

'Jesus led the man away from the crowd, to be alone with him. Jesus put his fingers in the man's ears. Then Jesus spit and touched the man's tongue. Jesus looked up to heaven and took a deep breath. He said to the man, "Ephphatha!" (This means, "Be opened.") When Jesus did this, the man was able to hear. He was also able to use his tongue, and he spoke clearly.'

— (Mark 7:33-35 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What unusual methods did Jesus use to heal the man?
- Although it might seem strange to us, how did Jesus' actions help the man to understand what was happening?

'Jesus commanded the people not to tell anyone about what happened. But the more he commanded them, the more they told about it. They were really amazed. They said, "Jesus does everything well. He makes the deaf hear! And those who can't talk – Jesus makes them able to speak.'"

— (Mark 7:36-37 *ICB*)

Say: Today's story is another example of the miraculous way that Jesus healed people. Sometimes it can be challenging to understand why these kinds of healings don't regularly happen today, but we can still follow Jesus' example to make sure people with disabilities can access the teachings of Jesus.

Re-tell

Give the children the opportunity to retell today's Scripture story using a range of senses. They need to create a retelling that can be accessed and understood by deaf people so cannot rely on sound to communicate their story.

Action It

Say: We're going to watch a clip together that shares some of the experiences of deaf people. In the clip a different kind of sign language is being used from the one we discovered in the starter. We had a go at learning British Sign Language, and in the clip they are using American Sign Language. Hopefully this clip will help you to discover a little bit more about what it is like to live as a deaf person.

You will need to stop the clip at 5:24 to avoid the adverts and, depending on your group, you may need to read the words.

Video

Deaf people answer commonly googled questions about being deaf by Buzz Feed Video (5:45)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgmB9c29UKU

Ask:

- What was the most fascinating thing that you discovered from the clip?
- How did it change your understanding of what deaf people experience?

Psalm 139-14 BSL

 **Say:** Today we are going to get some help from a member of The Salvation Army who will teach us how to sign our memory verse. Katie Sephton is part of Castleford Salvation Army, and during the week she supports deaf young people in school. Katie is deaf herself, and is very excited about sharing the memory verse with you today.

The aim of this activity is for the children to learn how to use BSL to share their memory verse. You may need to watch the clip a few times to learn the signs, but then encourage the children to have a go on their own.

Pray It

 **Say:** Every person on this earth has something to contribute. We may sound different, look different, or move differently, but we all respond to things around us in our own unique way. Our memory verse reminds us of this. To bring our session to a close, we are going to sign our memory verse together, and then I will pray with you all.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

JULY
SESSION 04

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FOR ME



Learn

Did you enjoy starting to learn another language today?

If you did, then here's an opportunity to learn even more British Sign Language.

50 simple signs in British Sign Language for Kids by Kids by Commanding Hands

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtAi0R83qzU



Song for the week

'You know me' (Psalm 139) by Elim
Coventry Kids uploaded by Limitless
Kids Coventry

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI2HkzJFZ40

TOGETHER



Discover

Have a chat with the people at home.

- ➔ How would your lives be different if you could only communicate with sign language?
- ➔ What about your everyday life in the wider community, how would that change?

Watch the clip together.

Celebrations as British Sign Language looks set to get legal status by ITV News

www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7gekJF5-6o

- ➔ What have you learned about the challenges faced by deaf people across the UK?
- ➔ Is there anything in the clip that helps us to learn new ways to make church more accessible for deaf people?



Memory verse

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KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

