

Year A - 4th Sunday of Easter

John 10: 1-10

Minefield



Background

This activity aims to teach children that listening to God's voice can be hard, sometimes it's other things and other voices that can make it harder to hear him.



Instructions

- Create a simple obstacle course using jumpers or shapes on the floor.
- Select a couple of volunteers and explain that they will need to cross the obstacle course blindfolded, but to help them they can choose one friend who will direct them across the room.
- Once they have chosen a friend, get another leader to take them away from the group so they can be given instructions, but really you will be giving the rest of the group that they won't know about. The other leader will explain the instructions again and then put the blindfolds on the volunteers. Remind them to be safe, no running or rushing while they are blindfolded.
- The rest of the group will line up around the outside of the obstacle course, they have to remain quiet while the blindfolded person and their partners try to navigate the course, but when you raise your hands up they have to make lots of noise and without moving from their spot try to distract the volunteers.
- Explain to the group that as soon as you put your hands down they need to be silent again right away.
- Get the group to line up around the outside of the obstacle course and then bring the volunteers in. Guide them to one end of the course and their partners to stand at the other end.
- When everyone is lined up, the partners can start giving instructions to guide their friends across the course. After a few moments, lift your hands and get the group to start making noise - do this for a few moments more and then lower your hand and get the group to be silent again.
- Repeat this a few more times until everyone has made it across the finish line.

Debrief

Ask the volunteers what it was like to cross the course, how was it harder with the crowd shouting out? You can ask the partners how it felt to try and guide their friends with all the noise going on. Then debrief it like this: Crossing the obstacle course is like life, and Jesus is the person who is trying to guide us through life obstacles. But there are lots of other things in life that can distract us from hearing the guiding voice of Jesus. But the closer we are to him, the more we can recognise his voice and the easier it is to follow him.