

Starter Exercise: Ways People Communicate

- Show **Slide 2**, which contains images of some of the ways in which people communicate.

Let's Talk ...

- How many of these ways of communication do you use? Which one do you use most and why?
- Can you think of other ways of communication not included here?
- Why do you think constant, easy communication is so important to us in today's world?
- Do you think that electronic devices are always a good way to communicate with others? Why or why not?
- What might stop you from listening attentively when someone is trying to speak to you?
- What might stop you from listening to God?



Learning Intentions

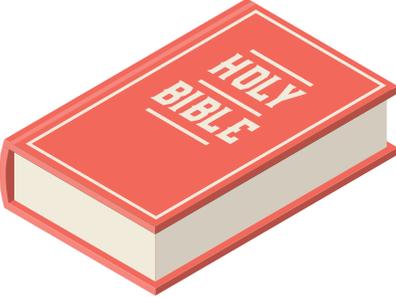
- Show **Slide 3**, the 'Learning Intentions' for this lesson.

Learning Intentions

In this lesson you will be learning:

- God has communicated with people throughout human history.
- One of the ways in which God communicates with us is through the Bible.
- God wants us to know that he loves us.
- Jesus, the Son of God, came on earth as a human being to show us what the love of God is like.
- God continues to speak to us through people and events in our lives.

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Core Content: God Communicates with Us

- Show **Slides 4, 5 and 6**, which describe how God has communicated with human beings since the beginning of time, and how God's Word has been passed on to us through the Bible.

God Communicates With Us...

GOD

Adam and Eve - Noah
Abraham - Moses - Prophets

Jesus

CHRISTIANS
the followers of Jesus

- From the beginning of time, God has communicated with human beings.
- As God is not limited like a human being is, God is able to speak directly into the hearts of people.

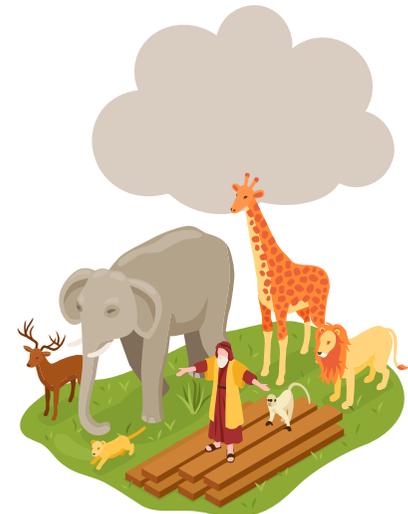
FULLYALIVE

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God Communicates With Us...

- One of the ways in which God communicates with us is through the **Bible**. The Bible is God's Word. It is the sacred text for all Christians.
- We have all heard stories from the Bible about how God communicated with Adam and Eve, our first parents; with Noah, who saved the people and animals from the Great Flood; and with Abraham, whom God invited to become the leader of a great nation of people called the **Israelites**, or God's **Chosen People**.



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Core Content: God Communicates with Us

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Let's Think ...

- Why do you think some of the people in Old Testament times chose not to listen to what God was saying to them?
- Are these the same reasons why a person today might not hear or listen to God speaking to them? What other reasons might a person have today for not listening to God?

God Communicates With Us...



- We have also heard about how God inspired other great leaders such as Moses and the **prophets** to remind the people of how God wanted them to live.
- While some people listened to these and other stories about God and responded with love and courage to how God was calling them to live, others ignored God's message and continued to live selfish lives.

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God Communicates with Us through Jesus

- Show **Slides 7 and 8**, which explain how God also communicated with people through his Son, Jesus, whom he sent to live among us on Earth as a human being.

Jesus, the Son of God

- As well as inspiring the writers of the sacred books of the Bible and the prophets to communicate his message, God also communicated with his people through his Son, Jesus.
- God sent Jesus to live among us as a human being.
- The purpose of Jesus' life, death and resurrection was to teach us about who God is and that God loves us. God wanted people to understand and follow the way of life that Jesus showed them.



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God Communicates with Us through Jesus

- Show **Slides 7 and 8**, which explain how God also communicated with people through his Son, Jesus, whom he sent to live among us on Earth as a human being.
- Remind the students that God/Jesus continues to communicate with us through the stories we read in the Bible about the things Jesus said and the actions he took during his life on Earth.

Jesus, the Son of God

- The very first followers, or disciples, of Jesus were the twelve **apostles**. Out of their preaching the early Church developed, and the followers of Jesus eventually become known as **Christians**.
- There are over two billion Christians in the world today.



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God Called Mary, and Mary Responded

- Show **Slides 9, 10 and 11**, which tell the story of how God, through the angel Gabriel, invited Mary to be the mother of Jesus, and of how Mary responded to that invitation by saying 'Yes' to God. This event is known as the **Annunciation**.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mother of God

God chose Mary, a young girl from Galilee, to be the mother of Jesus. The baby Jesus (God made flesh) was born in a humble stable in Bethlehem and raised by his mother Mary and his foster-father Joseph.



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The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, 'Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!'

Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, 'Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!'



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God Called Mary, and Mary Responded

Let's Think ...

- Mary was a young girl living in Nazareth. How do you think she would have felt when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her of God's plan?
- What or who do you think might have helped her to say 'Yes' to God?
- Invite the students to complete **Worksheet 4**, which is based on the information they have learned in this lesson about how God communicates with us through the people and events we read about in the Bible.

The Annunciation



Mary said to the angel, 'I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?'

The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do.'

'I am the Lord's servant,' said Mary; 'may it happen to me as you have said.' And the angel left her.

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God Calls Us Too!

- Show **Slide 12**, which features some advice from Pope Francis about how we might respond with our own 'Yes' to God's call, just as Mary did.
- We experience God's love for us through the words and actions of the people we encounter in our day-to-day lives.

Let's Work It Out ...

- Through what people or in what ways do you experience God's love for you? Think, for example, of how people communicate God's love through their words and actions.
- What do you think God might be asking of you right now? How, for example, might God be asking you to share his love with others?
- When God asks something of you, what or who might help you to respond?

God Calls Us Too ...

Just as God called Mary, God calls us, too, to live in the way Jesus showed us.

We can share God's love with others through our words and actions.

Pope Francis offers us this advice:

'Today the Lord continues to call others to follow him. We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous "yes", nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord.'



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Let's Research and Get Creative ...

Note: *The students may need some art materials for this activity.*

- Over the years in your Religion class you will have heard about well-known people who responded to God's call to help make the world a better place – people like St Francis of Assisi, Mother Teresa of Kolkata (Calcutta), Martin Luther King Jr and many others.
- Choose one or more of the people that you learned about who were clearly answering God's call and see if you can find some of the things they said online.
- Make a poster featuring some of their words or, if you prefer, make a card for someone you know using the words you have chosen.

Let's Pray ...

Prayerfully, bring the lesson to a close by praying the Angelus from **Slide 13**.

A time to pray

Sign of the Cross

Teacher

The angel of the Lord declared unto
Mary ...

All

And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary ...

Teacher

Behold the handmaid of the Lord ...

All

Be it done unto me according to thy
Word.

Hail Mary ...

Teacher

And the Word was made flesh ...

All

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...

Teacher

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God ...

All

That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Teacher

Lord, fill our hearts with your love,
and as you revealed to us by an angel
the coming of your Son as man,
so lead us through his suffering and
death
to the glory of his resurrection,
for he lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Sign of the Cross



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