

Can God Use Me?

Can he use me? The question flashed through Liam’s brain as he sat on the bench before his basketball game. He was worried his coach couldn’t use him in the game. The other team looked really tall, and Liam was not. He was the quickest kid on the team and could dribble the ball really well, but he wasn’t too good at scoring. He was nervous that he might just sit on the bench the whole game.

With only 5 minutes left in the game, Liam’s team was down by 4 points. *There’s no way I’m going in now*, he thought. . . . Time ticked away. Two minutes left, and they were still down by 1.

“Liam!”

Could it be? Did I just hear Coach call my name? Liam perked up and saw Coach looking right at him. “Get in there, buddy! We need you to steal the ball and sprint down the court for a layup! Quick!”

A drop of sweat dripped from Liam’s brow as he stepped into the game. *Could the team use him? Did he have what it takes?*

Maybe you’ve felt this way before. Maybe you’ve even wondered whether God could use you to share his plan of salvation for all people. God chose us to “go and make disciples”—to spread the good news that Jesus died on the cross to wash away all of our sins, so that one day we will live with him forever!

Do you see how we’re like Liam? Liam wasn’t sure if his coach could use his skills in the basketball game. Sometimes we feel like we don’t have what it takes to spread the good news about Jesus.

We might feel nervous, like Liam did about stepping into the game. But we don’t have to! God gives us the skills we need to share the good news with everyone! He’s given us a voice to speak about our faith, hands and feet to help others and show our faith, and a heart to care for and love others just like God loves us.

One great way to share the good news about Jesus is by being a pastor, teacher, or staff minister when you grow up! It might seem scary now, but remember, God chose you to share his love with everyone, and he gives you the skills to do so.

Matthew 28:19: [Jesus said,] “Go and make disciples of all _____, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the _____ and of the Holy Spirit.”

Discussion:

1. Why was Liam nervous during the basketball game? *He wasn't sure he had the skills that the coach wanted to help their team win the game.*
2. Why do we sometimes feel nervous telling others about Jesus? *We don't always think we have the skills to spread the gospel.*
3. What skills has God given each of us to help tell people about Jesus? *He gave us a voice to speak the good news, hands and feet to help others, and a heart to care for others.*
4. Think about some people in your life who don't know Jesus yet. Think of a way you could use your voice, or your hands and feet, or your heart to share Jesus with them. *You could tell them your favorite Bible verse if they are feeling sad, make them a gift and bring it to them on Christmas to remind them that Jesus' birth is the best gift, or pray for them before you go to bed at night.*
5. How does your teacher or pastor use their skills to share Jesus with you? *They teach us Bible lessons. They remind us we're forgiven when we make mistakes, because Jesus forgives us. They pray for us and with us. They help us with our homework when we're struggling. The pastor tells us about Jesus every week in church. He reminds us of our baptisms. He visits us or our family if we're in the hospital and reminds us of God's promises and plan for us.*

Activity: Share a Skill!

1. Hand out the Lesson 1 Activity: Share a Skill!
2. Read the directions/introduction aloud. Then discuss as a class the different kinds of skills God gives to his people. You can discuss “soft skills” (i.e., being kind, helpful, caring, friendly, good at talking to others, good at listening, good at solving problems, good at leading a team, etc.) and “hard skills” (being a talented musician, athlete, artist, writer, student in school, etc.).
3. Tell them to write their name in big letters.
4. Have them pass their paper to the next person in their row and have their peer write down a positive skill or ability on that paper about them.
5. Repeat this with three other peers until each student has four skills or abilities written on their paper from various peers.
6. Give the papers back to the owners and have them write one skill or ability they think they have. *(Optional: You could start with this step. Have them write their own gift and then pass their papers to classmates.)*
7. When the students get their own papers back, let everyone take a minute or two to read what their peers wrote about them. If they're comfortable, have a few students share what's written on their paper.
8. Encourage them to think about how they could use those skills to share the gospel, maybe now, or maybe as a pastor, teacher, or staff minister when they're grown up. *(Becoming a math teacher in a Lutheran school where you also get to share God's Word. Playing piano in church or school to lead the singing of hymns.)*
9. Help them see that the soft skills—being friendly and kind, or being good at talking to others—are excellent skills God gives to his people! They are some of the best skills for talking about Jesus with others!
10. Close the activity by reading the words on the bottom of the sheet together: “God can use me! He has given me gifts to share the gospel!”

Optional Hymn Verse: Speak, O Lord (CW 633:1)