



Tune In Session Guide #3: The Prophetic Voice of Children and Young People



What is 3Generate 365?

3Generate 365 is a year-round process of engagement with children and young people in their local setting to enable them listen to God, discern what God is saying, deepen their faith and be confident in being evangelists sharing their faith with others.

Following 3Generate 365 the intention is that children and young people will attend the event in 2021, which they will have had the opportunity to co-create. This will be a culmination of their listening and discerning and their experiences of responding to God's call.

The 3Generate 365 Theme:

3Generate 365 will explore topics of prayer, being one body in Christ, prophecy and covenant.

Tune In! God is always speaking and is always there and we are 'tuning in' to what God may be saying to us. We can only have an authentic prophetic voice by noticing what we are seeing and hearing from God.

We will then be 'in Tune' for the 3Generate 2021 Assembly, where we will explore what it means to be in tune with each other and with God and how we all have a part to play as members of the Body of Christ.

How to Use these guides:

These 'Tune In' session guides are designed to be used within your own pattern of meetings with children's and/or youth groups. So, you will not need to organise and attend an additional meeting, just use this hours' worth of material, when you usually meet with your children's and/or youth groups.

I am producing six standalone session plans in total, with the first one being available to download from the beginning of March. With the second one coming out the beginning of April and so on for May and June. July's session will be linked to the London District Theme of Woven: God's Story, Your Story, Every Story. Plus, an additional session plan entitled 'On the Margins' where the young people explore what it means to be 'on the margins' of church and society, who is on the margins and what is God calling you to do about it? The idea being that each month you will run the 'Tune In' session with your children's or Youth group (or both) at a time suitable for you (they are crafted so they can be run online or face2face). If you would like me to facilitate one of the online 'Tune Ins' you are planning on running, then please do let me know and I'd be happy to attend.

They are created in such a way that you hear the voice of the children and young people. You then make a note of what the children and young people said during the session. these 'voices' are then e-mailed to me Brian Smith – Brian@MethodistLondon.org.uk They are then forwarded to the 3Generate Planning team for use at the 3Generate 2021 Youth Assembly.

These guides are based on the material available in the Toolbox section on the 3Generate 365 website and can be found here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/3generate/3generate-365/3generate-365-toolbox-for-group-leaders/>

Session #3: The Prophetic Voice of Children & Young People

Ice Breaker Introduction:

Choose one of the games below that best suits your group. This session is all about helping the children and young people hear the prophetic voice.

Option 1: Arts and Crafts

Give all the children and young people access to colouring pens/pencils and some paper. Then ask them to create a piece of art, filling the whole page of A4, on the topic of Prophecy and/or hearing the prophetic voice and/or when they have heard God speak to them.

Note if doing over zoom, then ensure that the children and young people have this material available before you start.

Option 2: Nooma Noise - YouTube

Play the YouTube Video Noise by Rob Bell https://youtu.be/9XFoReR_XBE (10mins)

Please Note: there is a huge chunk of deliberate silence in the middle of the video

Then Discuss:

- What kind of 'Noise' do you have in your life?
- Why is silence so hard to deal with?
- Do you ever surround yourself with 'noise' intentionally? If so when and why?
- Does all the noise in our lives make it harder to hear God?
- When was the last time you spent some time in silence?
- Do you sometimes avoid silence because you're afraid of what God might actually have to say to you? (for older groups)
- What are some of the things in your daily life you could change to eliminate some of the noise?

Bible Study: God calls Samuel:

Read Together 1 Samuel 3 v 1-18 from the Message Version. So, ensure everyone can see the text, if using Zoom then you can screen share the text in the appendix. Alternatively, if you have a young person who can 'dramatically' read this out, that would work well.

“Speak, God. I’m Ready to Listen”

3 ¹⁻³ *The boy Samuel was serving God under Eli’s direction. This was at a time when the revelation of God was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad—he could hardly see). It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of God, where the Chest of God rested.*

⁴⁻⁵ *Then God called out, “Samuel, Samuel!”*

Samuel answered, “Yes? I’m here.” Then he ran to Eli saying, “I heard you call. Here I am.”

Eli said, “I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” And so he did.

⁶⁻⁷ *God called again, “Samuel, Samuel!”*

Samuel got up and went to Eli, “I heard you call. Here I am.”

Again Eli said, “Son, I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” (This all happened before Samuel knew God for himself. It was before the revelation of God had been given to him personally.)

⁸⁻⁹ *God called again, “Samuel!”—the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, “Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am.”*

That’s when it dawned on Eli that God was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, “Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, ‘Speak, God. I’m your servant, ready to listen.’” Samuel returned to his bed.

¹⁰ *Then God came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, “Samuel! Samuel!”*

Samuel answered, “Speak. I’m your servant, ready to listen.”

¹¹⁻¹⁴ *God said to Samuel, “Listen carefully. I’m getting ready to do something in Israel that is going to shake everyone up and get their attention. The time has come for me to bring down on Eli’s family everything I warned him of, every last word of it. I’m letting him know that the time’s up. I’m bringing judgment on his family for good. He knew what was going on, that his sons were desecrating God’s name and God’s place, and he did nothing to stop them. This is my sentence on the family of Eli: The evil of Eli’s family can never be wiped out by sacrifice or offering.”*

¹⁵ Samuel stayed in bed until morning, then rose early and went about his duties, opening the doors of the sanctuary, but he dreaded having to tell the vision to Eli.

¹⁶ But then Eli summoned Samuel: "Samuel, my son!"

Samuel came running: "Yes? What can I do for you?"

¹⁷ "What did he say? Tell it to me, all of it. Don't suppress or soften one word, as God is your judge! I want it all, word for word as he said it to you."

¹⁸ So Samuel told him, word for word. He held back nothing.

Eli said, "He is God. Let him do whatever he thinks best."

1 Samuel 3 v 1-18

Things to think about...

- Eli was quite old and his eyesight was fading at this time.
- They lived in the time of the old testament judges (Gideon and Samson being among the recent examples to Eli and Samuel)
- Eli had two sons, Hophni and Phileas, who also served in the Tabernacle with Samuel, but both of Eli's sons behaved badly.
- Samuel would have been aged around 12 years old
- Samuel had been dedicated to the tabernacle by his mother Hannah
- Samuel lived in the tabernacle and was mentored by Eli
- Samuel had yet to find his own faith and had not had a personal encounter with God yet, so this was his first time hearing from God

Questions for reflection:

- Why do you think it took God three attempts to speak to Samuel?
- Why do you think God choose the middle of the night to speak to Samuel?
- Does it take God a few attempts to get through to you? (older young people)
- What do you think of the fact that God choose to speak a word of prophecy to a 12-year-old and not to Eli who was the Priest? What does this tell us about God?
- Do you think that God can speak to the Church through children and young people? Can you think of any examples? (example: Greta Thunberg?)

Activity: Retelling the Bible:

After reading 1 Samuel 3 v 1-18 from the Message version of the Bible. Invite/Challenge the group to retell the passage by creating their own puppet show, they can choose to create shadow puppets, or clothes peg characters to retell the story.

Share these with the whole group if they want to.

Create Space for Hearing the Prophetic Voice of God:

We are now going to deliberately create space for the opportunity for the children and young people to listen for the Prophetic voice from God. You can choose to use one or all of the following prayer activities. (Select an activity (or more than one) from the options below that best suit your group and context).

Remember that some children and young people, will not 'hear' anything and that's okay, some may hear an acute voice, some may feel something, so do have space at the end to reflect and listen to what the children and young people, heard or felt.

These activities are based on those found here: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/roomresources/>

Note: These activities may need some amending, or doing one at a time if doing session online.

Prayer Activity: 'Examen' Space:

Create a comfortable environment and invite the children and young people to use this Ignatian tool to reflect and pray in five steps:

1. Become aware of God's presence
2. Think through your day with gratitude
3. Pay attention to how you feel and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight moments from your day
4. Choose one thing and pray about it
5. Pray about tomorrow (Psalm 46:10a)

Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted over the earth." He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." "Be still, and know that I am God!"

Prayer Activity: PRAYING THROUGH THE NEWS

Using the newspaper, read through the articles and choose two things happening in your nation today. Take time to invite God's light and presence to move in these situations. Ask Jesus to move and for His Kingdom to Come and His will to be done.

Prayer Activity: Community

Display a map of your local community (Note if using Zoom, display map on the screen). Then get the children and young people to imagine that Jesus is physically present with you right now, and asks you to step outside and show him around your town or city...

Imagine yourself walking through your village, town or city. What do you notice about the streets and the people? Jesus wants to stop and speak to those that are often overlooked. Who do you introduce Jesus to? Think of the people in your town or city that are often overlooked by others. Pray for these people now.

As you continue walking, you take Jesus to the places where people need healing – your local doctor's surgery, hospital or clinic. Who would Jesus visit here? What would He do? Think of the people in your town or city who need healing – emotional or physical. Pray for these people now.

You walk with Jesus to the places where people serve others in your town or city; to the local schools, local law enforcement, oppressed and imprisoned. Where does Jesus interact? How does He encourage them? Think of the people in your town or city who work for others. Pray for these people now.

After walking around your town, you introduce Jesus to your friends and family; those you live, work, and socialise with. What do you and your friends talk about with Jesus? How do your family interact with Him? Think of your friends and family – those who know Jesus and those who don't. Pray for these people now.

As you end your walk with Jesus, He asks you what you're passionate about in your town or city and the role you play. What is your response? Think about the gifts and skills God has given you. Ask God how you can use your unique character and nature to serve and transform your village, town or city.

Prayer Activity: What is God wanting to say to your Church? (if you only have time for one, do this one)

Imagine you are Samuel and God has a message for you to give the church... What is God telling you?

Using post it notes (whiteboard or menti.com board if online) write down what God is telling you to tell the church, this might be a positive message or a not so positive one, but that's okay, we need to hear the prophetic voices of children and young people.

Please feedback the 'What is God wanting to say to your church' conversation back to me at Brian@methodistlondon.org.uk

Closing Devotional:

Play YouTube Music Video - Prophecy by Planetshakers:

<https://youtu.be/LRaROfHyiYg>

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1 Samuel 3 v 1-18 – Message Version

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