



IMB Affinity Group: Deaf Peoples

This lesson can also be used with one child.

Objectives:

- Children will learn about the needs of Deaf people all over the world.
- Children will learn how missionaries communicate the gospel to the Deaf.
- Children will learn ways to share Jesus with the Deaf.

Preparation:

- Make copies of "American Sign Language Alphabet".
- Download a sign language app. Review the signs for: "God loves you!"; "My name is"; and "What is your name?"
- Set up a laptop to show selected video from the IMB about ministry with the Deaf, <https://deafpeoples.imb.org/>.
- Review the website www.bible.is/deaf/ASESLV for examples of Bible stories in sign language.

Procedures:

1. Sign, "Hello! My name is _____. What is your name? (Use a sign language app and "American Sign Language Alphabet" for help in signing.)
2. Say: *Today we will be learning how missionaries tell the deaf about Jesus.*
3. Ask: *How many people in the world are deaf? (more than 70 million) How do Deaf people communicate? (sign language) Deaf people in America use American Sign Language, but sign language is not the same around the world. There are 120-200 different sign languages. Often, Deaf people can understand other sign languages because the signs are similar to their own sign language. Sometimes Deaf people can relate better to Deaf people from other countries better than they can hearing people from their own country. The International Mission Board sends Deaf and hearing missionaries to serve among the millions of Deaf around the world. Many Deaf people have no way to hear the gospel. StoryOne Project helps Deaf believers tell Bible stories in sign language. Words*

become pictures that are then signed as stories. (You may want to download the StoryOne app to show how the program works.)

4. Say: *We can learn to share the Good News of Jesus with Deaf people.* Demonstrate the signs for “God loves you!” Help children sign.
5. Say: *Let’s watch this video about ministry to the deaf.* (or tell story about ministry to the deaf from deafpeoples.imb.org.)
6. Sign, “Hello! My name is _____. What is your name?” Help children finger spell their names and then answer your question in sign language.
7. OPTIONAL: Choose a Bible story from www.bible.is/deaf/ASESLV to share.
8. Share these prayer requests with children:
 - Pray that Deaf people will find jobs. They are often discriminated against.
 - Pray that more people will learn to use StoryOne so that more Deaf people will hear about Jesus.
 - Pray that missionaries to the deaf will have more opportunities to share.

Lead in prayer for these requests.

