

# God's Special Helper

## Culture of Call Children's Message

By Melissa Collier Gepford

***Big Idea: God loves you and gives you a special job. You can be God's Special Helper!***

Activity: Kids sit in a circle or a line. Explain that you have something to tell them, but it's so secret that you have to whisper it - you're going to play telephone! In order to make sure everyone hears the message, the teacher whispers to the person to his/her right, then that person passes the message on to the next person, until each child has heard it. The last person who has heard the message announces to the group what the code is. [*Teacher's hint: Laugh if the phrase is not quite the same at the end, and point out how quick the phrase changed when everyone was whispering. Message: "You can be God's special helper."*]

Say: Now that we know the message, let's find out how God calls you to be a Special Helper. Have you ever been a teacher or parent's Special Helper? [*allow time for response*] It's so fun - they choose you to do a job that's just for you! What kinds of jobs do you get to do as a special helper in school or at home? [*allow time for response, repeat good/funny ones*]

Did you know that God calls people to be Special Helpers too? It happened a lot in the Bible! God called Moses to help lead his people out of slavery, and God called David to defeat Goliath when he was just a little kid! God called Esther to save her people from an evil king, and God called Mary to become Jesus' mom!

Did you also know that God calls each of us to be a special helper too? God gives you and you and you and *even the pastor* a job. Sometimes it's easy to find out what your special job is, and sometimes God whispers an idea to your heart, kind of like how we played telephone earlier. No matter what you choose to do or be when you grow up, you can always be God's Special Helper. Your job is to Love God and Love Others. Jesus called his disciples (or followers) to be his Special Helpers by spreading the Good News of God's love to all people. Here's the cool part: we are called to do the same thing! That's your special job right now - to show God's love to everyone. And as you keep on doing that job, maybe God will whisper some more special work for you to do - maybe one day, some of you will even be pastors! That's a big Special Helper calling! Will you pray with me?

*God, thank you that you have called each and every one of us to be your special helpers. Help us to say yes to your call in our lives to love others and spread the Good News, just like Jesus' Special Helpers, the disciples. We love you. Amen.*

## About Melissa



*Melissa Collier Gepford is the Director of Children's Ministry at Tonganoxie United Methodist Church. She is also a freelance researcher and writer with a knack for creatively communicating theological principles and application to the average lay person. This combination of gifts allows her to develop intriguing and age appropriate curriculum and devotionals. She has experience with Vacation Bible School curriculum, youth retreat materials, Confirmation curriculum, and adult small group studies. She provides research briefs for sermons, small group studies, family discipleship materials, and devotionals. To partner with her, contact her at [melissa.collier.gepford@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.collier.gepford@gmail.com).*