

- Part of morning service on evangelism exercise

## Chat with the children

- Play some 20 questions:
    - ask a question with a **yes/no** answer, and try and guess what I'm thinking of
    - I'll give you a clue to start you off...
    - **animal, mineral, vegetable...?**
    - **lion, limestone, Coast Redwood (Sequoia)**
  - Good questions can help us draw things out of someone else
    - something Jesus often did...
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## Surprise?

- Ever had a surprise at what someone actually thinks about something?
  - you'd assumed something... but when you actually listen to them, you get something else...?
- **Assumption stories!**
  - go through some or all of the false assumption stories...
- If we make false assumptions, we'll get other things wrong:
  - medically, making a false assumption can lead to a wrong diagnosis, and potentially dangerous, erroneous treatment...
  - in building work, making a false assumption - that someone else's measurements are right? - can get you into a whole load of bother...!
  - and spiritually, if we have false assumptions about what questions someone is asking, or what they already believe, then we'll not be able to share the gospel as effectively...

## Jesus asked

- Jesus asked, he didn't tell
  - he surprisingly often held back on explicit claims to be God's son... allowing people to work it out for themselves
- He asked non-threateningly (others), but then moved personal...
  - his aim was to help the disciples see clearly who he was...
  - but he didn't rush to the conclusion, allowing them time to grapple
- *(Story of minister doing a children's address in an unfamiliar church... light-hearted opening, describing a squirrel... no answers... till eventually one boy says "I know the answer should be Jesus, but it sounds awfully like a squirrel!")*
  - need to let people get to point of asking the right question!
- There is a danger in sharing too much information too soon:
  - folk won't actually **hear** what we are saying (v.21)
- Incidentally, **disciples had to have been listening to know what the crowds were saying!**

## Ashamed?

- Danger of being ashamed of Christ...
- *Practical application to come...*