

- 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...*