

Everybody, Everywhere, Every Age

Materials:

Tape

Small strips of paper

Ages Survey (attached)

Instructions: Cut out strips of paper wide enough to cover the ages with tape on the attached sheet. Have kids guess the ages of the Biblical characters when they began to serve God. After they guess, take the taped strip off to reveal the actual age.

Say: I have a question for you. What is the best age to be? Maybe it's the age you are now. Could it be 12 when you can ride in the front seat or 18 when you're done with high school? Maybe it's an age you look forward to being so you can move up to the next Sunday school class, or to youth group or maybe another grade or team. What do you think is the best age? (Allow children to answer and ask why)

See if you can guess the ages of these people from the Bible when God called them to serve:

1. Jesus: 12

Jesus was just twelve years old when his parents found him teaching adults in the temple. (Do you remember that story, his parents couldn't find him for three days, so they journeyed back to Jerusalem and found him hanging out with the religious leaders in the temple.) He was 30 when he began his full-time ministry.

2. David: 16

People think David was about 16 when he defeated Goliath.

3. Samuel: 5 & 12

In First Samuel chapter three, we find out that Samuel was just a kid (about 12 years old) when God called him to be the prophet to kings, but he began serving in the temple when he was 5. From a very young age, he knew that God had a ministry for him.

4. Mary and Queen Esther: 13-16

Mary and Queen Esther were probably between the ages of 13-16 when God used them to help rescue HIS people. People didn't live as long back then, so they got married much earlier.

Here are two more that are not from the Bible but are still super special:

- Fannie Heck: 23, Sallie Jones 16

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina's first president was 23 years old and its first secretary, Sallie Jones, was just 16. We take up the Heck Jones offering in their honor. They organized women across our state and eventually around our nation to be mission leaders and serve God through missions!

- In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus says:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them inⁿ the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Does it say, "Go everyone ages 18-55"? Does it say, "I am with you if you are 22-45 years old and have a college degree in religion?" No, the Bible just says GO! That means everybody at every age is at the right age to tell the story of Jesus and serve him!
- How can you serve God through missions? (Let children give some answers)
- Those are all great answers! Now let's all do like Jesus said and GO tell the world about Jesus and serve him!

1. Jesus:

12 years old

2. David:

16 years old

3. Samuel:

5 & 12 years old

4. Mary and Queen Esther

13-16 years old

5. Fannie Heck:

23 years old

6. Sallie Jones

16 years old