



## In One Ear, Out the Other

**This game contrasts participants who pass a whispered and written message. The aim is to illustrate the importance of having God's word in your own language.**

**Audience:** Children ages 5–11, group minimum 10 participants

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Equipment:** Pen and paper

**Bible passage:** Romans 5:8

### Leader's instructions

#### Pre-session preparation:

On a small piece of paper write the sentence:

'God wants everyone in the world to know how much he loves them.'

#### During the session:

1. Get the children to sit in rows. Have a minimum of two rows, with an equal number in each row. The rows should be across the room in front of you, so that the front row(s) cannot see the back row behind them.
2. Explain that because this game has lots of whispering, everyone must be very quiet. Only those passing on the message are allowed to speak. Explain that you are going to send a message down each of the rows, to see if the message reaches the other end. When the person on the opposite end receives the message, they must stand up in their place to show that they have finished.
3. Start at the far end of each row and whisper this message to the person on the end: 'God wants everyone in the world to know how much he loves them.'



4. When you get to the back row, explain to the one on the end that their message is going to be passed in a *different* way. Whisper the message, but also give them the written message to read. Tell them not to let the rows in front of them see the paper, but secretly read it and pass it down the line as they whisper.
5. When you have given the message to each of the rows, return to the front and wait for it to be passed down to the opposite end. When there is a person standing at the end of each row, ask each one, starting in front, what message they received.

## **Discussion and application**

Only those on the back row got the message right. Do you know why? It's because they were asked to play the game a little differently. They not only whispered the message to each other, they had it written down as well! 'Not fair!', the children protest? Hmm, that's just like real life for 1.5 billion (1,500,000,000) people (forming over 6,000 language groups) around the world! They don't have the Bible written in their own language. They just have to remember what someone told them. Is that fair?

If you pass a message by word of mouth, it can easily change more and more as it gets passed on. The message you end up with is often not the message that started out. But when the message is written down on paper, and especially if it's in the language you understand best, then the last person will get the same message as the first.

It's like that with the Bible. The Bible is the book that tells us that 'God wants everyone in the world to know how much he loves them'. It's an important message and we can understand and trust it because it's written down in our own language.

Ask someone to read out Romans 5:8, or have it displayed and read it all together:



*'But Christ died for us while we were still sinners. In this way God shows his great love for us.'* (ICB)



Around the world, there are still millions and millions of people who have never heard, in their own language, the message of God's love for them. Wycliffe Bible Translators believes that this message is more important than anything else on earth. That's why those who work for Wycliffe are committed to helping to translate it for everyone everywhere.

It's a big job and missionaries can't do it alone. God wants all his people to team up and reach the world with his good news. How can you help?



Take time to pray and ask God what he wants you to do to help get his message all around the world.