

Blowing your own trumpet

Biblical Material: Proverbs 27.2

'Let other people tell you how good you are, never do it yourself.'

You will need:

- Well done stickers (provided).
- Some praise comments from pupil books.

Introduction

Everybody likes praise, it makes us feel appreciated and encourages us. Ask the pupils to read some of the good comments they get in their books.

'Brilliant work'

'Really good'

'You have worked hard.'



Show the stickers people can get for good work. The ones drawn can be enlarged. Would it mean much to make up praise and write it yourself? Ask the pupils what they would write in their books if they could. Why does it mean more if someone else writes encouraging comments?

Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. Some people spend time praising themselves. They tell everyone how great they are. It is right to be proud of good work or good behaviour, but it is not right to boast. Christians believe that God notices when people use their God-given gifts, whether that be in work, or in daily life. They believe praise should come from him and from other people.

This means people need to take notice of each other, and encourage each other with praise. One follower of Jesus was nick-named 'Barnabas' which means 'the encourager' because he encouraged and praised people.

Prayer/Reflection

Declare a 'Barnabas' day, when everyone makes a special effort to encourage others. Give pupils a few minutes silence to think about how they will do this.

The following prayer can be said.

Someone else thought I did well today. I thought so too, but I was not sure. I need their 'well done!' I need encouragement to keep trying. Most of all I need your 'well done!' God: it is not enough to rely on my own judgement. I might think too much, or too little of myself.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.