

John Flynn

John Flynn believed that God wanted him to become a minister and go the centre of Australia. It was a time when much of the outback was being opened up for sheep and cattle stations. People had to travel hundreds of miles for medical help. There were also hundreds of people in the outback who had not heard the Gospel, because there was no one to tell it.

John began working in the outback of South Australia in 1911. He travelled over the hot, sandy country in a horse and buggy. He often had to act as doctor, dentist, school teacher as well as preacher.

John knew that people in remote places must have better access to medical centres, or many would die. In his time there were 15 inland hospitals set up, where station people could receive medical help more quickly.

However this was not the complete answer. One day, John was visiting Adelaide and saw an aeroplane.

"That's what we need," he said.

John Flynn now ran a mission, and with the help of others worked towards establishing a Flying Doctor service, so that doctors could fly to visit patients, and patients could be flown to hospital. One of the problems in the outback was the sending of messages. With the help of his friend Alfred Traegar, John managed to develop a pedal wireless, which could send and receive messages, if the people worked the pedals as they used it.

The radio receiver was not just used by people in an emergency, but enabled lonely, isolated people talk with others every day.

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 5

Activities

PART A

1. Why did John want to go to the outback?
2. How did he travel in the early days?
3. How did he *want* to travel?
4. How could an aeroplane help his work?
5. What is the name of the special service he began?
6. How did the people of the outback get messages to John?
7. What were some of the gifts and talents John may have had as a young boy?
8. Why do you think John was so successful?
9. Read the story Jesus told, from Matthew 25: 14-29. It is not just a story about servants receiving bags of money. The hidden meaning is to do with God's servants receiving gifts from Him.
 - a) Write a list of the different gifts that God gives to people. Don't just think of people who are very clever. Think about people who are kind, friendly or patient. They are gifts too!
 - b) Choose one of these things and explain how it could be used for God:
music helping crafts building speaking computers

PART B

God is a faithful servant

God never gets tired of helping us. We can depend on Him. God wants us to be faithful too. Can God depend on us? Can He depend on us to use our talents for Him? We can serve God in many different _____. Just as the men in the Bible story had to use their _____ to earn more money, Christians should serve God with the _____ God has given them. God used the talents of John Flynn's. Because John was a faithful servant, many, many people were helped.

Missing words: money talents ways

How can I be a faithful servant?

I can _____ out what my gifts and talents are.
I can work hard at becoming _____ at using these gifts.
I can say, "Yes, I will help," when God asks me to _____ my gifts for Him.

Missing words: use better find

Something more to read

Jesus once told a story about three servants. It is a story about using our gifts for God.

Read Matthew 25: 14-29

It is not just a story about servants receiving bags of money. The hidden meaning is to do with God's servants receiving gifts from Him. The servants received different amounts of money. We cannot measure God's gifts to people in 'amounts', but we can say that God gives people different KINDS of gifts.

To some He gives a gift of music. To others He gives the gift of caring. There are many different ways in which we can serve Him. Just as the men in the story had to use their money to earn money, Christians should serve God with the talents God has given them. God used John Flynn's talents and multiplied them, so that many more people were reached.

