

## All age address

We know that there are rules of the road — cars have to drive on a certain side to avoid crashing into each other.

There are also rules when you travel by boat!

One rule used to be “sail over steam”, where a little sailing boat had priority over a bigger boat that went by steam power.

So a big steam ship should give way to a little yacht, but try telling that to a huge ocean liner that takes 10 miles to stop!

It's good to travel on the big powerful ships sometimes — you get less sea sick because when you're on a big ship you don't feel the waves so much.

The Queen Mary 2 is huge, a magnificent ship, as big as a village! She has all the latest technology on board, up to date navigation systems, and if you accidentally ran into her, you'd lose.

So you'd think that she can do everything, and more, than the little boats can do. But there are some things she can't do.

She can't navigate in shallower waters. Her keel (underside) is too big, so her engines can't be used to direct her.

That means that when this huge ship wants to move in certain places, she has to rely on little tug boats, which are about a hundredth of her size, to pull her and get her through the channels. So, even though the big ship looks mighty and powerful, sometimes it's the smaller boats that are actually of more use.

It's the same with people. Some people seem to be really strong and clever, and to know lots of things. But Jesus said that when it comes to understanding what God wants us to do for him, the people who seem to be the big, pushy ones, are not always the ones that see things best. Jesus said to God, “Father, you have hidden these things from the people who are wise and clever. But you have shown them to those who are like little children.”

So we shouldn't presume that it's only to the people we think of as clever that God reveals himself. He may prefer to show himself and what he needs more to those who are not what we may think of as the obvious choice.

So if you think God has a message for you, don't think, “I'm just a little tug boat, I don't know enough. He can't be speaking to me.” Listen to him and act on what he is telling you, because he is speaking to you.

Like the little boats, some people may seem weak and not much good, but they may well know the way through much better than the big posh ship!