



WEEK ONE – MAY 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *God's Word Is A Light | Psalm 119:105*

Bottom Line: *Practice hearing from God*

Memory Verse: *“Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living + the life to come.” – 1 Timothy 4:8*

Virtue: *Commitment – Making a plan and putting it into practice*

Basic Truth: *I need to make the wise choice*

Series Overview: This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God's Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday.

Bottom Line: Practice hearing from God. Part of growing in our faith includes learning about what God has planned for our lives. In order to do that, we need to take time to listen to what God is telling us through the Bible, and through those who've read the Bible who can help us understand what it means for our life. While kids might not be able to read and understand everything they encounter in the Bible, we still pray that, through this lesson, they'll get the foundation they need to navigate and personalize the Bible. On top of that, we hope they will eventually make reading the Bible a regular part of their faith journey as they grow in their relationship with Jesus.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bandana

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask kids to go around the circle and say their name.
- Choose one kid to close their eyes or wear a blindfold.
- Without speaking, point to a kid in the circle.
- Instruct that kid to say the name of the kid wearing the blindfold.
- Direct the kid wearing the blindfold to try to identify the voice and say the name of the kid who spoke.
- Play several rounds.
- Switch out kids who are wearing blindfolds as they guess correctly or after a few tries.
- For a challenge, ask kids in the circle to create added noise by snapping, clapping, or tapping their legs lightly.

What You Say:

“Wow, you all did a great job recognizing each other’s voices! Sometimes it felt pretty easy to guess who was speaking, and sometimes it felt a little tricky—especially if there was noise around us. And just like we can learn to recognize the voices around us, we can also learn how to hear from God too! *[Transition]*

Today, we’ll discover how we can get better at hearing from God. Let’s go!”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: We start the month with **Psalm 119:105**, where David wrote, “*Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me.*” When we read what the authors of the Bible wrote, we can find out how God wants us to live. It’s like we’re listening to God. God offers us wisdom throughout the pages of the Bible that can guide us to not only discover more about ourselves, but also how to love God, trust Jesus, and treat others well.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Highlight God’s Word

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: “Highlight God’s Word” Activity Page; Highlighters

What You Do:

- Give each kid a highlighter and a “Highlight God’s Word” Activity Page.
- Say: “I’m going to read a verse from Scripture out loud from the page you have in front of you. Highlight the words or phrases that jump out to you.”
- For the first Scripture or two, instruct the kids to keep the cap on their highlighters as you read each verse, and emphasize key words or phrases to help them understand the process.
- After the first couple of verses, challenge kids to highlight words or phrases on their own as you read the verses out loud.
- After each verse, ask: “What words or phrases in this passage of Scripture stuck out to you?”

- *NOTE: Kids should be encouraged to highlight what's meaningful to them, which will likely be different from the kids around them! That's wonderful and shows how God speaks to each of us!*

What You Say:

*“I loved hearing what words from all of those verses stood out to each of you. The beautiful thing is that sometimes we had different things highlighted—and that's great! God speaks to each of us in different ways through the Bible. Reading God's Word is one way that we can **[Bottom Line]** practice hearing from God.*

“We can ask God for help to light up certain words for us when we read or listen to the Bible. This is one way we can hear from God! And as you continue to read the Bible, you can see how Jesus lived His life, then follow His example. The more we practice this, the better we can learn to hear God's voice in our lives!”

Memory Verse Training Camp

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Guide kids to look up and “read” together the verse (1 Timothy 4:8) using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with 2nd + 3rd graders:*** Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find “1 Timothy” in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find 1 Timothy, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Timothy. Help the

kids find the page. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 8 in chapter 4.

- Read the verse a few times together.
- Say: “I challenge you to a Memory Verse Training Camp!”
- Practice repeating the verse together several times, adding an exercise/action with each word or phrase.
- Invite kids to share ideas for each action.
- Here are some examples of actions:
 - When you say the word “value,” do two jumping jacks.
 - When you say the word “life,” do two push-ups.
 - When you say the word “training,” do a body-builder pose.
 - When you say the word “promise(s),” jump as high as you can.
- Repeat several times with different actions, as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

*“You all did a great job training for this month’s Memory Verse! The more we practiced, the better we got. When we memorize Scripture, that’s one way we can **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God.** God can speak to our hearts and minds when we take time to read God’s Word and are quiet enough to listen to what God is telling us. When we make a habit of reading the Bible, listening to an app, memorizing verses, or hearing from wise people, we can **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God and grow in our faith.**”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Say: “Everyone is going to have the opportunity to **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God!**”
- Instruct the kids to sit with their eyes closed as you pray the first lines of the prayer below (Prayer Section #1), then pause for a few seconds.
- At the time of the pause, encourage kids to be quiet and focus their thoughts on the silence.
- After the pause, invite the kids to share what they heard during the silent time.
 - It may be a clock ticking, someone moving, another group’s noises, a knock on the door, etc.
- Then, ask kids to continue being quiet, and this time, to think about what they did and heard about at church today.
- Continue with the second part of the prayer below. (Prayer Section #2)
- After the time of prayer, invite kids to share what came to mind during the second pause.
 - Encourage kids that it’s okay if they didn’t hear anything at all! Listening and hearing from God is something we’ll get better at with practice.
- Finish by praying the last few lines of the prayer below. (Prayer Section #3)

What You Say:

“Prayer Section #1:

“Thank You, God, for being here today with us. Thank You for speaking to us in so many different ways. We want to practice hearing from You. (Pause to encourage kids to focus their thoughts on the silence. Then continue as above, asking kids to share what they heard in the silence.)

Prayer Section #2:

“Thank You, God, for quiet times when we can focus on You! Please help us to hear You as we practice listening and thinking about You. Is there anything You would like to say to us today?” (Pause to invite kids to listen to God.)

Prayer Section #3

“Thank You, God, for speaking to us in so many ways! Thank You for giving us the Bible so we can learn about who You are and hear from You. Help us learn to hear from You. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share one way they can practice hearing from God together at home this week!