

4th and 5th Grade

WEEK 1 - STARTER



Activity Name: Follow the Rhythm

What You Need: ☐ 1 plastic cup and spoon per kid

What You Say:

We're going to play a different type of follow-the-leader game today. Instead of using our bodies, I'm going to have you follow me by using your ears, a spoon, and a cup. I will tap a pattern with my spoon on my cup, then pause. When I say, "Go," you will repeat the pattern back to me. You'll need to listen very carefully to the pattern I tap and wait for me to say "Go" before playing the pattern back to me. I'll start simple, and when you get the hang of it, I'll make the patterns more challenging.

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to put their cups face down.
- Play a simple pattern for the group such as tap-pause-tap-pause-tap.
- Say "Go" once the kids get the hang of it.
- Continue to play patterns and have the kids repeat the patterns back, progressing from easy to more challenging.
- *Optional: Once the kids get the hang of it, have them take turns being the one to create a pattern while the rest of the group repeats it.*

What You Say:

This game required you to listen intentionally, remember what you heard, and repeat the patterns. Being able to hear from God is similar because we need to be intentional about listening so we can hear Him. Listening is an important part of following. God wants to speak with you! Today, we're going to hear a story ... well, about hearing. Let's go hear it!

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: How to Hear from God • John 10:1-4, 14-16; Psalm 1:1-3; Romans 1:19-20

Bottom Line: I can hear from God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.* • John 10:27
NirV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **[Conversation Starter] What does it look like to hear from God?**
- Why is it important to hear from God?
- What distractions or “noises” make hearing God challenging?
- Read John 10:3 NirV. Does the verse say it’s the sheep’s job to listen or to hear? Why is this important to know?
- What has God given us to be able to hear Him?

Activity Name: Four Frequencies

What You Need: ☐ Bible ☐ Sheep fun facts ☐ Four Frequencies pictures and scenarios

What You Do:

- Show the kids the sheep on the “Sheep Fun Facts” Activity Page.
- Share with the kids some facts about a sheep’s ears and hearing from the back side of the “Sheep Fun Facts.”
- Open the Bible to John 10:4b NIV and read.
- Say, “This passage is talking about a shepherd and says, ‘... *he goes on ahead of them. His sheep follow him because they know his voice.*’ It’s so important for sheep to follow their shepherd. He knows exactly where to take them to find food, how to help them avoid danger, how to keep them from getting lost, and how to protect them. Jesus is saying that simply listening to His voice and following Him is the job of His followers.”
- Lay the “Heart,” “Bible,” “People,” and “The World” picture cards in front of the group.
- Say, “In today’s Bible Story, we learned that when we take time to listen, we can hear God in four ways: through our hearts, the Bible, people, and creation.”
 - **“Heart”**: This doesn’t mean the heart in our body. This refers to the part deep inside us that senses words or images God wants to show us.
 - **“Bible”**: God speaks to us through His Word—the Bible! In it, He gives instructions, wisdom, and inspiration for us to follow Him.
 - **“People”**: God uses people who follow Him to help us understand His words and to speak to us, such as leaders in church, your parents, or other trusted adults in your life.
 - **“The World”**: The Bible says that God shows Himself through what He has created. The sky, oceans, land, and animals all tell of God’s creativity and power.
- Say, “We’re going to play a matching game to explore some scenarios of God speaking in our daily lives.”
- Mix up the scenario cards and lay them face down in a 4x4 grid.
- Have kids take turns turning over cards to match a scenario with a way God speaks. Go around the group until all the “Scenarios” cards are matched with the “Pictures” cards.

What You Say:

Nice work! It’s important to know that God speaks to us in so many different ways and that you and **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**

You may have to get quiet sometimes to hear Him by shutting out the noise and busyness of the world. You can also read or listen to God’s Word every day, then think about what He’s teaching you through it. No matter what, you can trust that God wants to speak to you and that He will speak to you through words and images in your heart, through the Bible, through others who love Him, and through the amazing things He has made.

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray.