

Today's Suggested Schedule— September 27, 2026

Bible Story: The Lord Calls Out to Samuel • 1 Samuel 3

Bottom Line: I can ask God to speak to me.

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

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SMALL GROUP (20 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver /

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (30-35 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

- Introduce Monthly Theme Poster
- Review Monthly Memory Verse Poster
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster
- Teaching (Video)
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster

SMALL GROUP (25-30 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Reinforcement Activity

Prayer Journal

TAKE HOME

Devotional Page

Social Opening Activity Made to Play

What You Need:

-  Music player
-  Upbeat Music

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Have music ready to play and pause quickly

During the Activity:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Once most kids arrive, say: “We’re going to play a game called Freeze & Listen! You’ll need to listen very carefully.”
- Explain the rules:
 - When the music plays, you may walk, dance, or move around the room.
 - When the music stops, you must FREEZE immediately.
 - Only the kids who are completely frozen and quiet may follow the whispered instructions.
- Start with a practice round.
- Play music for fifteen to twenty seconds.
- Stop the music suddenly and whisper: “If you can hear me, touch your nose.”
- Play several more rounds using different instructions such as:
 - “Clap once.”
 - “Sit down slowly.”
 - “Give a thumbs up.”
 - “Whisper, ‘God speaks.’”
 - “Close your eyes.”
- Each round, whisper a little more softly so kids must listen more carefully.
- After several rounds, gather the kids together.

What You Say:

“Wow! That was fun! It was a lot easier to hear when everyone stopped moving and got quiet, right? When there was noise and movement, it was much harder to listen carefully. Sometimes our lives feel just like that. There’s noise all around us: people talking, distractions, games, school, and even our own thoughts. It can make it hard to really listen. The Bible teaches that God speaks to us. That’s amazing! But just like in our game, we sometimes have to slow down, stop, and listen carefully so we don’t miss what He’s saying.

“Today we’re going to hear about a boy named Samuel. At first, he didn’t realize it was God speaking to him. But he learned to listen. And here’s something important to remember: **[Bottom Line] I can ask God to speak to me.** When we ask, we’re choosing to listen, and God is always ready to speak.”

LARGE GROUP

What You Need: TV, Pre-Loaded Video Content

What You Do:

1. Introduce/Remind kids about the
 - a. Monthly Theme
 - b. Monthly Memory Verse
 - c. Today's Bottom Line
2. Play Worship Songs
3. Allow kids to grab a snack
4. Play Teaching Video
5. Review Today's Bottom Line

Lead your group to the Small Group activity.

1. Who's Calling?

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Blindfold

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Have kids sit in a circle.
- Say: "We're going to play a game called 'Who's Calling?' You'll need to be listening carefully for this one!"
- Explain the rules:
 - The leader will choose one kid to be "Samuel."
 - The leader will then quietly point to one kid in the circle.
 - That kid will say, "Samuel!" using a normal speaking voice.
 - The kid in the middle must guess who called their name.
- Choose one kid to be "Samuel."
- Invite "Samuel" to sit in the middle of the circle.
- Gently cover their eyes with a blindfold or have them close their eyes.
- Demonstrate a round if needed.
- Begin playing:
 - Quietly point to a kid.
 - Cue them to say, "Samuel!"
 - Let the kid in the middle guess.
- After each guess:
 - Reveal who spoke.
 - Celebrate effort ("Good listening!").
- Rotate a new kid into the middle after every round so multiple kids get a turn.

What You Say:

"In that game, it wasn't always easy to tell who was calling your name, was it? Sometimes you recognized the voice right away. Other times, it was harder to figure out. The Bible teaches that something like this happened to a boy named Samuel. One night, Samuel heard someone call his name. He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him. But Eli said, 'I didn't call you.' This happened more than once! Samuel didn't realize at first that it was God speaking to him. He had to learn to recognize God's voice. Finally, Eli helped Samuel understand what to do. He told him, 'If you hear the voice again, say, "Speak, Lord. I'm listening."' And that's exactly what Samuel did. He asked God to speak – and God did. Just like in our game, recognizing a voice takes practice. The more you listen, the more familiar it becomes. And the same is true with God. The more we spend time with Him – praying, listening, and learning what the Bible says – the more we begin to recognize His voice. So when you're not sure what to do, you can do what Samuel did. You can pause and say, 'Speak, Lord. I'm listening.' Remember our **[Bottom Line]** I can ask God to speak to me. And when we ask, we can trust that He hears us and wants to speak to us."

2. Keys to Listening

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Connect

What You Need:

-  "Keys to Listening" Activity Page
-  Cardstock
-  Scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Keys to Listening" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Spread the keys out where everyone can see them.
- Say: "Each of these keys has something true from the Bible. These are like 'keys' that help us listen to God."
- Explain the activity:
 - You will read a scenario.
 - Kids will work together to choose a key (Scripture) that could help in that situation.
- Before the first scenario, read out the verses on the keys.
- Scenario 1:
 - "You feel nervous about something new, like a test or trying a new activity."
 - Key Options:
 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." Proverbs 3:5.
 - "Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid... the Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go." Joshua 1:9.
 - Say: "When you feel nervous, God wants to remind you that you can trust Him. He is with you wherever you go, so you don't have to face it alone."
- Scenario 2:
 - "You don't know what the right choice is."
 - Key Options:
 - "Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way." Psalm 119:105.
 - "If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God." James 1:5.
 - Say: "When you're unsure what to do, God's Word helps guide you! You can also ask God for wisdom, and He will help you know the right choice."
- Scenario 3:
 - "Someone is being unkind to you at school."
 - Key Options:
 - "Be kind and tender to one another." Ephesians 4:32.
 - "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31.
 - Say: "Even when someone is unkind, God can help you choose kindness. Listening to Him helps you respond in a way that shows His love."
- Scenario 4:
 - "You're trying to listen to God, but it's hard to be quiet and pay attention."
 - Key Options:
 - "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10.
 - "Speak, Lord. I'm listening." 1 Samuel 3:10.

- Say: “Sometimes we need to slow down and be still so we can listen. You can ask God to help you focus and remind your heart to listen.”
- Scenario 5:
 - “You see someone who needs help.”
 - Key Options:
 - “Love one another.” John 13:34.
 - “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31.
 - Say: “When you feel like you should help someone, that’s something God often leads you to do! It matches what the Bible teaches about loving others.”

What You Say:

“You all made some really thoughtful choices! Each of those keys reminds us of something about God and how He speaks to us. God doesn’t want hearing Him to be tricky or hard. He wants to guide you. He speaks in ways that help you know what is true – like through the Bible, a quiet thought, or a reminder to do what is right. When Samuel heard God’s voice, he didn’t understand at first. But when he said, ‘Speak, Lord. I’m listening,’ he was ready. He was paying attention. These keys remind us of what is true. And when we know what is true, it helps us recognize God’s voice. God will never tell you something that goes against what the Bible says. So the more you learn what is true, the easier it becomes to notice His voice in your life. When you’re unsure, you can start with something simple. You can ask God to speak to you – and then listen. **[Bottom Line] I can ask God to speak to me.**”

3. Blindfold Mix & Match

Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

Made to Explore

What You Need:

-  Bibles
-  “Blindfold Mix & Match” Activity Page
-  Paper
-  Scissors
-  Blindfold

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Blindfold Mix & Match” on paper and cut, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up John 10:27.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them 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 the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Place the Memory Verse strips in the middle of the group.
- Say: “The words of our Memory Verse are all mixed up again! But this time, we are going to add another layer to make it a bit more challenging!”
- Choose one kid to be the “listener.”
- Have that kid wear a blindfold or close their eyes.
- Explain the rules:
 - The group will help guide the blindfolded kid.
 - Kids can give simple directions like: “Move left,” “Pick that one up,” or “That comes first.”
 - The blindfolded kid will pick up and place the pieces in order based on what they hear.
- Begin the activity:
 - Guide the kid to pick up one piece at a time.
 - Let the group help direct where it should go.
 - Prompt as needed:
 - “What sounds like the beginning?”
 - “What comes after ‘My sheep’?”
 - “Where should that piece go?”
- Continue until the verse is in the correct order.
- Once complete:
 - Remove the blindfold.
 - Read the verse together as a group one to two times.

- Rotate in a new kid if time allows.

What You Say:

“That took some really good listening! When you couldn’t see, you had to rely on what you heard to help you know what to do. Jesus said, ‘My sheep listen to my voice.’ That means we can learn to recognize His voice. Sometimes we don’t see exactly what God is doing or what comes next. But we can listen. And just like in this activity, listening helps guide us. The more we hear God’s truth – like when we read the Bible and remember what it says – the more familiar His voice becomes. And when we’re not sure what to do, we can do what Samuel did. We can say, ‘Speak, Lord. I’m listening.’ Remember our **[Bottom Line] I can ask God to speak to me.**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

Pray to God | Prayer Activity Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle or spread out with a little personal space.
- Say: “We’re going to take a few moments to talk to God. What is something you want to ask God to speak to you about this week?”
- Allow a few kids to share. Keep it brief and optional.
- Say: “Let’s get ready to listen to God. We can use our bodies to show that our hearts are ready to hear from Him.”
- Show kids how to hold their hands open in their lap.
- Say: “You can hold your hands open like this. Open hands can remind us that we’re ready to receive what God wants to say. You can also close your eyes if you want or look down so you focus on what God is saying. I’ll say a few short prayers. You can repeat them quietly in your heart or say your own words.”
- Pray slowly, pausing between each line:
 - “God, thank You that You speak to me.”
 - “Help me be ready to listen.”
 - “Help me notice Your voice.”
 - “Speak to me this week.”
 - “Now take a moment to talk to God about what you want Him to speak to you about.”
- Allow twenty to thirty seconds of quiet.
- Close with: “Amen.”

What You Say:

“Today we learned that God speaks to us, and we can listen – just like Samuel did! When Samuel heard God’s voice, he said, ‘Speak, Lord. I’m listening.’ That’s a simple prayer you can pray too. Prayer isn’t just talking to God. It’s also taking time to listen. You can do that anywhere – at home, at school, or before bed. When you hold your hands open like this, it can remind you that you’re ready to listen and receive what God wants to say. Remember, you don’t have to wonder if God wants to speak to you. He does! And you can always start by asking. **[Bottom Line] I can ask God to speak to me.**”

As adults arrive to pick up, pass out week 4 devotional page and remind the kids that they can ask God to speak to them – and take a moment to listen this week!