

Today's Suggested Schedule— September 6, 2026

Bible Story: How to Hear from God • *John 10:2-4, 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 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:

- ☐ Items that make a sound (examples: paper to crumple or tear, keys, zipper, pencil tapping on table, water bottle to squeeze, book to close, VELCRO® strip, small bell)
- ☐ Bag or box to hide items

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Choose 3-5 objects that make distinct, recognizable sounds.
- Choose 3-5 actions that also make distinct sounds. Examples: snapping, stomping, knocking, clapping.
- Put objects in the bag or box so they can't be seen.

During the Activity:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Encourage the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Say: "Let's play a listening game! I'm going to make a sound. Close your eyes, listen carefully, and try to guess what made the sound."
- Make the first sound (example: crumple paper).
- After making the sound, pause and let the kids raise their hands to guess what the sound was while they still have their eyes closed. Call on 1-2 kids to share their guesses.
- Invite kids to open their eyes and reveal the object.
- Say: "You heard that sound and recognized it! You knew what it was because you've heard that sound before."
- Repeat with 1-2 more sounds.
- For the final round, make a slightly quieter sound. Say: "This one might be harder. Listen very carefully."
- Make the sound, and let the kids guess again.

What You Say:

"You all did a great job listening! Some of those sounds were easy to recognize, and some were a little harder—you had to really pay attention. I want you to think about your day. What are some things you hear when you wake up in the morning? Maybe an alarm, a parent talking, a TV, or even someone making breakfast. What else? (*Pause for a few responses.*) What about at school or throughout your day? What do you hear there? Maybe your teacher or parents giving directions, other kids talking, or music. Every day, you hear lots of different voices and sounds—and we all have to learn how to recognize them.

"Did you know God speaks to you too? But God doesn't usually speak out loud like the sounds we just heard. It's possible, but sometimes, God speaks in quieter ways—like a thought in your mind, a feeling in your heart, something you read in the Bible, or something someone who follows God too tells you. And just like you recognized those sounds because you've heard them before, we can learn to recognize God's voice too. It might not sound like something we hear with our ears, but the more we listen and pay attention, the more familiar God speaking to us will become. God WANTS to speak to you, and you can learn to hear Him! Let's get ready to learn more about that!"

1. Four Corners

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Move

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ “Four Corners” Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Four Corners” on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Designate four areas of your space (could be four corners of the room, four walls, or four sides of a table).
- Place one of the “Four Corners” cutouts in each corner.

During the Activity:

- Open the Bible to John 10. Read verses 2-4, 14, and 27.
- Say something like:
 - Jesus is our good shepherd who leads us.
 - God speaks to us in lots of ways, but you can know it is Him because you know His voice!
- Have kids stand in the middle of your group space.
- Say: “Let’s play a game to learn some of the ways God speaks to us. When we belong to Jesus, we can learn to recognize His voice—just like sheep recognize their shepherd. God wants to speak to you!”
- Say: “Each corner of the room is a different way God speaks. I’ll read a situation, then you move to the corner that shows how God might speak in that situation.”
- Point to each corner, and read the name of each one out loud.
 - Point to the first corner and say: “God speaks directly to your heart.”
 - Point to the second corner and say: “God speaks through the Bible.”
 - Point to the third corner and say: “God speaks through other people.”
 - Point to the fourth corner and say: “God speaks through the world He made.”
- Point to the names of each corner and say them out loud again, but this time, have the kids repeat each one after you.
- **Round 1**
 - Say: “Here’s the first situation. You feel something inside that you should be kind to a kid who is sitting alone at lunch. Which way is God speaking?”
 - Invite kids to move to a corner. Once they move, share the correct answer. (*directly to your heart*)
 - Say: “Sometimes God puts something on your heart. This doesn’t usually sound like a voice you hear with your ears. It’s more like a thought or a feeling that helps you choose what is right, kind, and true. If it matches what God says in the Bible, that’s a good way to know it could be God speaking to your heart! Let’s remember our Bottom Line:
[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.”
- **Round 2**

- Say: “Here’s the second situation. You read in the Bible that God wants us to forgive others. Which way is God speaking?”
- Invite kids to move to a corner. Once they move, share the correct answer. (*through the Bible*)
- Say: “That’s right! God speaks to us through the Bible. The Bible shows us who God is and how He wants us to live. When we read the Bible, we’re learning what God is like, and that can help us learn to recognize His voice even better. Let’s say our Bottom Line again: **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**”
- **Round 3**
 - Say: “Here’s the next situation. A parent, teacher, or friend who follows God reminds you to tell the truth. Which way is God speaking?”
 - Invite kids to move to a corner. Once they move, share the correct answer. (*through other people*)
 - Say: “God can use people in our lives who also follow God to help us know what God wants us to do in a situation. That might look like a parent reminding you to tell the truth, a teacher helping you make a better choice, or a friend encouraging you to do what’s right. Let’s say our Bottom Line again: **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**”
- **Round 4**
 - Say: “Here’s the last one! You see a beautiful sunset and remember that God made everything. Which way is God speaking?”
 - Invite kids to move to a corner. Once they move, share the correct answer. (*through the world He made*)
 - Say: “When we look at what God made, it can remind us who He is. Like when you see a huge sky, a sunset, animals, or stars, and you think, ‘Wow, God made all of this!’ God can even speak through what He made. Remember, you and **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**”
- Have kids go and sit where you want to share the “What You Say” section.

What You Say:

“God speaks in many ways—directly to your heart, through the Bible, through other people who also follow Him, and through what He has made. Remember: Learning to hear God’s voice takes practice. The closer you get to Him—through listening, reading the Bible, and paying attention—the easier it becomes to recognize when He is speaking. God isn’t far away or silent—He wants you to hear Him because He loves you!

“And here’s something important to remember: God isn’t trying to hide His voice from you. He wants to guide you! The more you learn what He is like—especially through the Bible—the easier it becomes to recognize when He’s speaking. Let’s say our Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God!**”

2. Ways God Speaks

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create

What You Need:

- ☐ “Ways God Speaks” Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Drawing supplies

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Ways God Speaks” on cardstock, one per kid and leader.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a “Ways God Speaks” Activity Page and something to draw with.
- Say: “In our Bible Story, we learned that God speaks to us in different ways. We’re going to think about each one and draw or write an example.”
- Hold up your copy of the “Ways God Speaks” Activity Page, and point to the first box.
- **Box 1: God Speaks Directly to Your Heart**
 - Say: “Sometimes, God speaks directly to your heart. That might feel like a thought to be kind, tell the truth, help someone, or say you’re sorry—especially when it feels hard to do. Draw or write a time when God might speak to your heart.”
 - Give examples if needed:
 - Helping a friend
 - Telling the truth
 - Sharing
 - Including someone
 - Allow drawing time.
 - Say: “God can speak right to your heart in so many moments throughout your day.”
- **Box 2: God Speaks through the Bible**
 - Point to the second box.
 - Say: “God also speaks through the Bible. When we read the Bible, we learn what God is like and what He wants us to know. Draw or write something you might learn from the Bible.”
 - Give examples if needed:
 - Love others.
 - God tells us to forgive.
 - God loves me.
 - God says that we should honor our parents.
 - Allow drawing time.
 - Say: “When we read the Bible, we’re learning from God. You can open up His Word with a grown-up or read it on your own, and God will speak to you!”
- **Box 3: God Speaks through Other People**
 - Point to the third box.
 - Say: “Sometimes, God speaks through other people who also know and follow Him. He might use a parent, teacher, friend, or leader to help you know what He would want you to do. Draw or write someone who might help you hear from God.”

- Give examples if needed:
 - A parent reminding you to be kind
 - A teacher helping you tell the truth
 - A friend encouraging you
- Allow drawing time.
- Say: “Great job! God can use people in your life to speak to you in so many ways!”
- **Box 4: God Speaks through the World He Made**
 - Point to the last box.
 - Say: “God also speaks through the world God made. When we look at what God made, it reminds us how big and amazing He is. Draw something God made that reminds you of Him.”
 - Give examples if needed:
 - Animals
 - The mountains
 - The ocean
 - The sun, moon, and stars
 - Allow drawing time.
 - Say: “When we look at what God made, we can remember who God is. God made so many good things. He is an amazing Creator.”

What You Say:

“God speaks in many ways—to your heart, through the Bible, through other people who know and follow Him, and through what He made. As you worked on your page, you were thinking about real ways God can speak to YOU! Whatever you chose to write or draw today, choose one and really pay attention to it this week. Look for moments when God might be speaking to you in that way. You don’t have to figure everything out perfectly—just start by noticing! The more you notice, the more you’ll begin to recognize how God is speaking to you. Now, let’s say our Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line]** I can hear from God.”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- *Encourage kids to work in pairs and support one another.*

3. Pray and Dismiss

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- ☐ *Optional: Kids' completed "Ways God Speaks" Activity Pages*

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- **If your Small Group used the "Ways God Speaks" Activity Pages:**
 - Say: "Earlier, you drew ways that God can speak to you. Let's look at those again."
 - Give the kids a moment to look at their Activity Page.
 - Point to the four boxes and say: "God can speak to your heart, through the Bible, through other people who know and follow Him, and through the world He made. Today, we're going to quietly ask God to help us listen for His voice this week. Look at your page, and choose one way you would like to practice hearing God's voice this week."
 - Pause while kids choose.
 - Say: "Who wants to share which one they picked?"
 - Allow 2-3 kids to share.
 - You can follow up with questions, such as: "When could you do that?", "What would that look like?", or "Can you think of a specific moment when that might happen?"
 - Thank each kid for sharing, and affirm their response.
- **If your Small Group did not use the "Ways God Speaks" Activity Pages:**
 - Say: "We've been talking about different ways God speaks to us. God can speak to your heart, through the Bible, through other people who know Him, and through the world He made. Today, we're going to quietly ask God to help us listen for His voice this week. Choose one way you would like to practice hearing God's voice this week."
 - Say: "Who wants to share which one they picked?"
 - Allow 2-3 kids to share.
 - You can follow up with questions, such as: "When could you do that?", "What would that look like?", or "Can you think of a specific moment when that might happen?"
 - Thank each kid for sharing, and affirm their response.

What You Say:

"These are great ways to practice hearing from God this week! God wants you to hear from Him and be His friend, and this week, you can practice listening. Sometimes, the best way to hear God is to slow down and be quiet, just like we're about to do. Let's ask God to help us listen."

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank You for speaking to us. Thank You that we can hear You. Help us listen this week. Help us notice when You speak to our hearts, through the Bible, through other people who know and follow You, and through the world You made. We want to hear Your voice and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, give each kid a *DEVOTIONAL PAGE* to take home and remind kids they can hear from God this week!