

3-6 | September 6

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

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

-  Offering container
-  Solo® cups
-  Plastic spoons

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Place one plastic cup and one plastic spoon at each seat.

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.
- Give each kid a cup and spoon.
- Instruct the kids to turn their cups upside down.
- Explain that they are going to play a listening game. Say, "I'm going to tap a pattern on my cup using my spoon. Listen carefully, but don't tap until I say, 'Go!' Then see if you can repeat the same pattern."
- Start with a simple pattern, such as tap-pause-tap-pause-tap.
- Continue with several patterns, making them a little more challenging each round.
- If time allows, invite a few kids to create their own tapping patterns for the group to repeat.

What You Say:

"Nice job! Some of those patterns were easy, and some were a lot harder to remember. You had to listen carefully before you could repeat them. Today we're going to learn that hearing from God also takes listening. God wants to speak to us, and we'll discover some of the ways He helps us hear Him. Let's go hear more!"

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Invite kids to keep their eyes open while listening to the tapping patterns.
- For an extra challenge, make the pauses between taps different lengths or gradually increase the number of taps.

2. Video on Jellyfin

Lead the children in worship to the September worship song and then watch today's video lesson.

3. Prayer

"Let's open up today with prayer. Dear God, thank You that You want to talk with us. Please help us with all the things we want to tell You. And please help us to listen for Your voice this week when we read our Bibles and talk to people who love You. Help us remember that You and **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

4. Listen Up! Bookmark

What You Need:

-  Blank bookmark kit (bookmark, tassel, and sleeve)
-  Fine-tip permanent markers
-  Colored pencils or crayons
-  Bible

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Set out one blank bookmark, tassel, and protective sleeve for each child.

During the Activity:

- Give each child a bookmark and invite them to decorate both sides.
- Encourage kids to use colors, patterns, doodles, or designs that remind them of today's lesson.
- Ask kids to write the Bottom Line somewhere on their bookmark: **I Can Hear From God**
- Invite kids to write the Memory Verse reference somewhere on their bookmark: **John 10:27**
- As kids work, ask discussion questions:
 - Where can we hear from God?
 - Why is it important to spend time reading the Bible?
 - Who are some trusted people God uses to help us?
 - What can make it difficult to hear from God sometimes?

- When everyone finishes decorating, help kids thread a tassel through the hole in their bookmark.
- Place each bookmark in a protective sleeve.

After the Activity:

- Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

"Today we're making something you can use! Every time you open a book or your Bible and see this bookmark, I hope you'll remember today's Bottom Line."

During the Activity:

"As you decorate your bookmark, think about the different ways God speaks to us. God speaks through His Word, through prayer, through trusted people who follow Him, and through the Holy Spirit reminding us of what is true."

After the Activity:

"Great job! Every time you use your bookmark, let it remind you to spend time with God and listen for His voice. The more we read the Bible, pray, and spend time with Him, the more we learn to recognize His voice. Remember, **I can hear from God.**"

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Encourage kids to personalize their bookmarks with colors and designs that reflect their personality.
- If time allows, invite kids to share one thing they wrote or drew and explain how it reminds them they can hear from God.

5. Right or Left

What You Need:

- Bible
- Foam or plush heart

What You Do:

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!
- Invite the kids to sit on the floor in a tight circle.
- Explain the game: “We’re going to play a listening and passing game, where we’re going to learn about hearing from God. We’ll pass this heart around the circle while I read a story. You have to listen very carefully. Every time you hear me say the word ‘right,’ I want you to freeze the heart, and whoever is holding it will pass it once to their RIGHT side. When I start our story again, that person will start passing the heart around the circle. Every time you hear me say the word ‘left,’ you will freeze the heart, and whoever is holding it will pass it once to their LEFT side. When I start our story again, that person will start passing the heart around the circle.”
- Begin reading the story slowly and clearly, pausing after you say “right” or “left” to give the kids time to move.
 - Say: “Pause for just one moment, and be still
 - ... What do you hear?”
 - Say: “Maybe you hear someone laughing because something finally went RIGHT, or maybe you hear someone say they LEFT their bag somewhere. You might hear a sound and wonder if it came from the RIGHT placeLEFT .”
 - Say: “We hear all kinds of things. Sometimes, things go RIGHT, and sometimes, we feel LEFT out or unsure.”
 - Say: “But when you get quiet ... do you ever hear the voice of God?”
 - Say: “That can feel confusing. After all, we can’t see God standing RIGHT in front of us, and it’s not like He’s speaking out loud every moment. Sometimes, we wish for a clear answer—like knowing the RIGHT choice instead of feeling LEFT guessing.”
 - Say: “But here’s what’s true: God DOES speak. And God wants to speak to YOU. In life, we make choices every day. Sometimes we say, ‘That was the RIGHT decision,’ and other times, we realize we LEFT something important undone. Maybe you chose what felt RIGHT, or maybe you LEFT a situation wishing you had done something differently.”
 - Say: “Jesus explained that His followers are like sheep who know His voice. They don’t just wander off and get LEFT behind. They follow because they recognize what’s RIGHT. When you follow Jesus, you learn to recognize His voice too. You start to understand what’s RIGHT, and you don’t feel so LEFT alone trying to figure everything out. But it takes practice.”
 - Say: “Our world is noisy. There are so many voices telling us what they think is RIGHT, and sometimes, those voices can leave us feeling confused or even LEFT out. That’s why God gave us the Bible.”
 - Say: “The Bible helps us understand what’s RIGHT and reminds us we are never LEFT on our own. It teaches us who God is and what He cares about. It says that someone who listens to God is like a strong tree—someone who won’t be shaken when everything around them feels uncertain or when others are LEFT struggling.”

- Say: “God can also speak through people who also follow Him. Sometimes, a trusted person who follows God can help you see what’s RIGHT when you feel stuck or help you notice something you may have LEFT out. And there’s another way God speaks—through the world He made. When you look around, you can see His power in everything. Nothing was LEFT unfinished. Everything He made is good and RIGHT.”
- Say: “From the biggest mountains to the smallest details, nothing was accidentally LEFT out. It all points back to Him. No matter who you are, God wants to talk to you. And when you learn to listen, you’ll begin to recognize His voice. You’ll grow in knowing what’s RIGHT, and you’ll never feel LEFT alone again.”

What You Say:

“Wow, that was a lot of moving back and forth around the circle! You had to listen super carefully for the words ‘right’ and ‘left.’ The words we read in the Bible that Jesus said teach us that we also need to listen carefully, but for God’s voice.

“And then we practiced listening in a story I told! Just like in our story, the world is full of other voices that can be distracting—friends, TV, games. It can be hard to sort out what is the right thing to do or which way God wants us to go. But the good news is that God wants to speak to you. He helps us hear Him through the Bible, through people who love Him, and through the amazing world He made. When we practice listening for Him, He helps us know the right way to go. Remember, **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate time when you heard from God. You can share something like: “I remember one time when I wasn’t sure if I should share a new toy with my younger sibling. I really didn’t want to! But then, I remembered that God wants me to share, and I felt this feeling inside of me. It felt like God was reminding me what the right thing to do was. So I shared, and we ended up having a lot of fun playing together.”)

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- To help kids who are auditory learners, emphasize the words “right” and “left” a little louder. For visual learners, you can motion with your hand every time you say “right” or “left” pointing the direction the heart should move.