

3-6 | September 13

Bible Story: How to Read the Bible • Matthew 6:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Bottom Line: I can learn to know God through the Bible.

Conversation Starter: What does it look like to 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
- ☐ Floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Use tape to mark a start and finish line on the floor.

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.
- Once most kids arrive, instruct kids to line up shoulder-to-shoulder behind the starting line.
- Say: "Alright! Let's see who came ready to listen today. This game is all about paying close attention. You'll hear different words, and each one has a different action. Listen carefully because the words come up quickly, and you'll need to remember what each one means!"
- Explain the commands:
 - **DAY** = Take one step forward.
 - **GOD** = Take one step backward.
 - **JESUS** = Jump once in place.
- Say: "Let's try a practice round first. Don't worry if you make a mistake. You'll get the hang of it!"

Round 1

- "On the first **DAY**, **God** made light."
- "On the second **DAY**, **God** made the sky."
- "**Jesus** loves you very much."
- "On the third **DAY**, **God** made land and plants."

- "Jesus loves you every **DAY**."
- Have kids return to the starting line.
- Say: "Nice job! You remembered the commands really well. Now let's make it a little more challenging. This time you'll hear all three words mixed together, so listen carefully!"

Round 2

- "Each **DAY**, **God** gives us everything we need."
- "Jesus wants us to spend time with **God** every **DAY**."
- "Every **DAY**, we can learn something new about **God**."
- "Jesus loves you every single **DAY**."
- "Every **DAY**, **God** teaches us through the Bible."
- Have kids return to the starting line.
- Say: "Great listening! Now it's time for the expert round. If you hear words like **today**, **yesterday**, **birthday**, or **someday**, don't move. You only move when you hear **DAY** by itself. Listen carefully!"

Round 3

- "Yesterday, Jesus taught people about God's love."
- "Today, Jesus wants us to trust God every **DAY**."
- "Someday, Jesus will help you encourage someone."
- "Jesus is with you every **DAY**, even when life feels hard."
- "Any **DAY** is a great **DAY** to spend time with Jesus."
- Direct kids to sit down.

What You Say:

"You all did a great job listening and moving! Some of those were easy, and some made you really pay attention. You had to listen carefully so you didn't miss the right word or get tricked by words like 'today' or 'yesterday.' Every single day, we hear lots of words and voices. Some are loud, and some are quiet. Some are easy to notice, and some take practice to hear.

Jesus said we can ask God for our daily bread. That means not just food for our bodies, but what our hearts need too. One of the main ways God gives us what we need is through the Bible. When we read the Bible, we're learning what God says and what matters to Him. It's one of the clearest ways we can hear from God. The Bible teaches us what is true, helps us make wise choices, and shows us who God is. And just like this game, listening takes practice. The more we spend time reading the Bible, the more we begin to recognize what God is saying. Let's get ready to learn more!"

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 for giving us the Bible. Thank You that it's not just an old book of rules, but it's Your special Word to us. Help us to have fun reading it this week with our families and help us to listen with our hearts. We want to know You more. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

4. Bible Heart

What You Need:

- ☐ "Bible" Template (printed on cardstock)
- ☐ Pop-Up Heart Template (printed on cardstock)
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Jewel stickers (optional)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print one Bible Template and one Pop-Up Heart Template for each child.
- Set out crayons, jewel stickers, scissors, and glue sticks.

During the Activity:

- Give each child a Bible Template and a Pop-Up Heart Template.
- Invite kids to color and decorate the front cover of their Bible.
- Encourage kids to add jewel stickers if available.
- Once kids finish decorating, have them cut out the Bible.
- Have kids color the heart and cut it out.
- After, fold it in half along the solid center fold line and fold the glue tabs backward.
- Have kids glue the tabs to the inside center of the Bible so the heart pops up when the Bible is opened.
- Allow the glue to dry for a minute before opening the Bible.

- Invite kids to open and close their Bible a few times to watch the heart pop up.
- Read the message on the heart together:

"I can know God by reading the Bible!"

After the Activity:

- Connect the craft to today's Bottom Line.

What You Say:

"Our craft reminds us of something really important. The outside looks like a Bible, but when you open it, there's a heart inside. That reminds us that God doesn't just want us to know facts about Him. He wants us to know Him personally. One of the best ways we get to know God is by reading the Bible. Every time you open God's Word, you learn more about who He is, what He is like, and how much He loves you. You may not understand everything you read right away, and that's okay. The important thing is to keep reading and asking God to help you understand. This week, every time you see your craft, remember our Bottom Line: **I can learn to know God by reading the Bible.**"

5. Pass the Sheep

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible marked at John 10:27
- ☐ 2 Small plush sheep (use the snowball as the "sheep")

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Read your Bible marked at John 10:27.
- Read the Memory Verse several times and have the children repeat after you:

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

- Have everyone sit in a circle.
- Give one child the plush sheep/snowball.
- Say: "We're going to practice listening carefully! I'll read some sentences, and every time you hear one of our special words, you'll need to do something different with the sheep/snowball."

Explain the commands:

- **Sheep** = Pass the sheep to the **left**.
- **Bible** = Pass the sheep to the **right**.
- **Jesus** = Gently **roll** the sheep across the circle to another child. That child continues passing in the current direction.
- Read each sentence slowly, pausing briefly between sentences.

Round 1

- "Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and His **sheep** know His voice."
- "The **Bible** helps us learn who God is."
- "When we follow **Jesus**, we grow closer to Him."
- "Every **sheep** listens for its shepherd's voice."
- "You can read the **Bible** every day."
- Say: "Great listening! Let's make it a little trickier this time. Stay focused because the sheep could change directions at any moment!"

Round 2

- "**Jesus** always loves and cares for His sheep."
- "God's **sheep** learn to recognize His voice."
- "The more we read the **Bible**, the more we know God."
- "**Jesus** wants us to follow Him."
- "A shepherd protects every **sheep**."
- Say: "Awesome job! Are you ready for one final round? Listen carefully because the special words might come when you least expect them!"

Round 3

- "The **Bible** is God's Word."
- "One of the best ways to know **Jesus** is by reading the Bible."
- "Every **sheep** belongs to the Good Shepherd."
- "The **Bible** teaches us how to follow God."
- "**Jesus** knows each of His sheep by name."
- Finish by saying the Memory Verse together one more time.

What You Say:

"You all did a great job listening! Sometimes the sheep kept moving the same way, and sometimes everything changed. You had to pay close attention so you knew what to do next. Jesus said, 'My sheep listen to my voice.' Sheep learn to recognize their shepherd because they spend time with him. We can learn to recognize Jesus' voice too. One of the best ways we do that is by reading the Bible. The more we spend time in God's Word, the more we learn who

God is and how He wants us to live. That's why our Bottom Line says, **I can learn who God is from the Bible.**"

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- If the sheep is rolled to a child across the circle, remind that child to continue passing in the current direction until another key word changes it.
- Encourage kids to listen quietly so they don't miss the next key word.
- If your group is large, consider dividing into two circles so every child has more opportunities to participate.