

K-2 | 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

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into two teams and have each team stand in a line. If you have a smaller group, have everyone stand in one long line.
- Explain that you are going to play the Telephone Game. Say, "I'm going to whisper a word or short phrase to the first person in line. Listen carefully, then whisper the same message to the next person. Keep passing the message until it gets to the last person. The last person will say the message out loud!"
- Whisper a word or phrase to the first child in each line.
- Encourage each child to whisper the message only one time to the next person.
- Have the last child in line say the message out loud.
- Reveal the original message and compare it to what was heard at the end of the line.
- Continue playing several rounds using different words or phrases.

Telephone Words and Phrases:

- God loves you.
- Listen for God.
- Pray every day.
- Follow Jesus.
- God is with me.
- Purple penguins.
- Blue bananas.
- Silly snakes.
- Happy hippos.
- Monkey bicycle.
- Three tiny turtles.

What You Say:

"You all did a great job listening! Sometimes the message made it all the way to the end just right, and sometimes it changed along the way. Listening carefully can be hard! Today we're going to learn that God wants us to listen to Him too. God helps us hear Him through the Bible, prayer, and people who love Him. Let's go hear more!"

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- If a kid has a hearing impairment, allow a leader to quietly repeat the message or have the child begin or end the line so everyone can participate.

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. Big Ears Headband

What You Need:

- "Big Ears" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors (adult)
- Sentence strips
- Staplers x2

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print the "Big Ears" Activity Page on cardstock, one set per child.
- Cut out a handful of ears for children who have difficulty cutting.

During the Activity:

- Give each child one set of ears to color.
- Encourage the kids to decorate their ears with crayons or markers.
- Ask, "What are some ways we can hear from God?" Invite responses as the kids work. (Examples: reading the Bible, praying, listening to parents, pastors, trusted leaders, and other Christians.)
- Have the children cut out the ears.
- Help each child staple one ear to each side of a sentence strip
- Measure each headband to fit the child's head and staple the ends together.
- Invite everyone to wear their Big Ears headbands.

After the Activity:

- Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

"Today we're making something silly to help us remember an important truth. We're going to make Big Ears headbands! These ears remind us that God wants us to listen to Him."

During the Activity:

"Color your ears any way you'd like! While you're coloring, let's think about different ways God helps us hear Him. (Pause for responses.) God speaks to us through the Bible, prayer, parents, trusted leaders, and other people who love Him. He can also remind us of what is true through the world He created."

After the Activity:

"Your Big Ears look awesome! Every time you see them today, remember that God wants to speak to you. When we spend time reading the Bible, praying, and listening to wise people who love God, He helps us hear Him. Remember, **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**"

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Pre-cut a handful of ears for children who have difficulty cutting with scissors.
- Have extra sentence strips available in case a headband needs to be resized.

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 hands every time you say "right" or "left" pointing the direction the heart should move.