

Note from the Authors

We are SO grateful for you! Group leaders are truly the backbone of a great camp. Without great leaders, we could never do this. Thank you.

Hearing is a precious gift of human life. Music can entertain or heal. A word of encouragement heard at the right moment can change the trajectory of a person's life. However, there is more to sound than hearing. Listening is a much more crucial task. How can we hear God in a world full of sound? This week we will learn how to rise above the noise and ***Listen Up!***

Some of the kids in your small group will have been in a church their entire lives. They will know all the "right" answers and know all the stories. Others may be hearing these things for the first time. Just because they have *heard* the message does not mean they have *listened*. We will explore the truth of God's Word, explain how these truths affect everyday life, and equip kids to apply them during the week of camp and throughout their lives.

Use your Bible.

You will notice that very few of the passages in this study are printed. That was intentional. We want you to use your Bible, guide kids to use their own Bibles, and model for them how important it is to encounter God's Word for themselves. The method is the message.

Less lecture and more discussion

These small group sessions have been designed to draw kids into God's Word and into discussion with each other. We hope that you'll spend more time in Bible reading and discussion than in a lecture-style teaching.

The Main Idea

There are three essential truths that we want to repeat until our kids have them memorized. Once memorized, they will be able to understand them more deeply. You will have *multiple* opportunities to recount these points. If our kids leave knowing only these things, we will have succeeded.

1. We can hear God's voice through Scripture.

God reveals Himself through the living Word. It contains everything we need for faith and life. When we responsibly interpret God's Word, we can know who God is and what He wants for our lives.

2. We can hear God's voice through others.

God uses others to speak into our lives. Whether our pastor, parent, or friend, God has used His followers to speak truth into the lives of those around them. *However*, the message we receive from others **MUST** be confirmed by Scripture. God will not speak to us through others and contradict His Word. If what someone says is contrary to God's Word, it was not God speaking.

3. We can hear God's voice ourselves.

God still communicates to humans. We may not hear him out loud, but He still speaks to us personally. *However*, the message we hear from God **MUST** be confirmed by Scripture. God will not speak to us through others and contradict His Word. If what we hear is contrary to God's Word, it was not God speaking.

Session 1 - When God Speaks, Things Happen. - Genesis. 1.1-2.1

Objectives:

- Kids will discuss the creation text and see how reality was changed by God's voice.
- Kids will inspect Scripture and compile a list of how it describes itself.
- Kids will formulate a personalized plan to spend time with God's Word this week and onward.

Focal Verse: 2 Timothy 3.16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Study It: Lesson Preparation Study

Overview:

God created all of reality by speaking it into existence. Even *reality* listens to and obeys God. This session will focus on the first of the three points we will instill in our kids this week: **We can hear God's voice through Scripture.**

Sometimes we skim over the creation account and fail to grasp the power of God's spoken word. We will focus on how God spoke and reality was affected. In the same way, God speaks to us today and, when we truly listen, we are affected. We are changed by God's presence.

In the next session we will address how humanity's rebellion altered our ability to hear Him, but this session will focus on the power, potency, and precious nature of God's Word. Ultimately, we will seek to equip our kids to explore God's Word for themselves on a regular basis.

Make these points:

I. When God speaks, things happen. - Isaiah 55.10-11

Just like how God created all things with the sound of His voice, His Word continues speak and affect us today. He is Truth and cannot speak anything but Truth. Anything He says can be counted on to be Truth. Therefore, His promises are true and His commands are *not* suggestions.

II. God still speaks to humans today. - Hebrews 4.12

While the paper, ink, and glue that holds a Bible together is simply a mode that delivers God's Word, the *message* of God's Word is alive and active. When we read God's Word, the Spirit of God speaks to us to help us understand. It is not always pleasant, but His Word speaks truth into our lives and we can be changed by it.

III. When we spend time with God and His Word, we can know Him better. - Psalm 19.7-10

God created us to have a relationship with Him. When we were in proper relationship with Him, there was nothing separating us from Him. Now that we are separated (as we will read in the next session), God's Word provides us with a way to know who He is, what He is like, and how we works. God's Word is the primary way He speaks to us and we relate to Him.

Teaching Plan:

1. Read out loud and together through Genesis 1.1-2.1 and explore how all of reality was formed through God speaking.
2. Share the three points and examine how God's Word describes itself.
3. Help kids develop a personalized plan to spend time in God's Word starting this week with their Quiet Time and continuing when they get home.

Session 2 - When God Speaks, Do We Listen? - Genesis. 2.15-3.15

Objectives:

- Kids will discuss how humans disobeyed God's clear commands.
- Kids will analyze the passage for a pattern of how humans deal with opportunities to sin.
- Kids will propose strategies to overcome temptation using God's Word and relationships.

Focal Verse: James 1.22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Study It: Lesson Preparation Study

Overview:

God created us for community. Just as He is in community as the Father, Son, and Spirit, we were created to have a relationship with Him and others. The brokenness in our world all began when humans failed to trust God and one another. This session will focus on the second of the three points we will instill in our kids this week: **We can hear God's voice through other people.** While we are able to hear God's Word through other people, we MUST measure that word through Scripture.

This passage recounts how the God created humans, gave them responsibility to care for all that He created (including each other), and then humans failed to keep the command to stay away from the ONE tree in the garden that was off limits. We will focus on how that mistrust of God's Word led to the broken world we live in today.

We still have an adversary whispering into our ear to mistrust God. That enemy is called Satan or the devil. In this passage, that enemy is portrayed as a serpent. The message of the serpent was to question, twist, and undermine God's command. Similarly, today we may hear God's Word, but we do not truly LISTEN.

The next session will cover how God used Jesus to repair this relationship with God and each other, but this session will focus on how we can use God's Word to obey Him and how we can help each other obey Him.

Make these points:

I. God's command was clear. - Psalm 119.137-138

When God spoke to Adam, there was no confusion. Adam knew the tree. Adam knew the consequences. Eve knew the tree. Eve knew the consequences. God is clear about His commands today. God's Word, interpreted responsibly, allows us to know for certain what pleases Him and what is sin.

II. The Enemy tries to make it unclear. - John 8.44

The enemy's tactic is subtle but powerful. Instead of outright denying the command, Satan will twist or distort the command and the consequences. Today, we question God's commands because we believe a twisted or distorted message of His Word.

III. We can either help each other obey or disobey God. - Hebrews 10.24-25

Adam and Eve (BOTH) were at the tree and chose to disobey God. They had every opportunity to speak up and encourage each other to obey God. Instead, they encouraged each other to disobey. We have the task of using our relationships with one another to inspire each other to obey God's Word.

Teaching Plan:

1. Read out loud together Genesis 2.15-3.15 and explore the account of human disobedience.
2. Share the three points and discuss the process of disobedience and how we still act that way.
3. Guide kids choose someone who can speak into their lives and equip them with tools to overcome temptation.

Session 3 - New Phone. Who Dis? - Luke 24.1-8

Objectives:

- Kids will discuss how Jesus' disciples failed to listen to Jesus' words.
- Kids will compare their listening to the disciple's listening.
- Kids will practice listening to God in a practical way.

Focal Verse: Romans 5.1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Study It: Lesson Preparation Study

Overview:

Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God. He was God in human flesh. Jesus' actions, words, and attitudes are the very actions, words, and attitudes of the Father. We have all this recorded in Scripture for us to understand who God is and what He is like. When we listen, we can hear Him confirm the Scripture. This session will focus on the final of the three points we will instill in our kids this week: **We can hear God's voice for ourselves.** While we are able to hear God's Word for ourselves, we MUST measure that word through Scripture.

Even those who were physically with Him either did not pay attention, forgot, or did not fully believe Jesus when He said that He would be crucified and raised from the dead. That gives us hope! If the disciples who walked and talked with Him failed to fully listen and still succeeded in faith, we can be assured there is grace for us as well.

Our final session will culminate in the small group sharing with one another what God has said to them this week. Further, we will compare those messages to Scripture and make plans to obey those messages from God.

Make these points:

I. Jesus' life was God's ultimate representation of Himself. - John 14.8-11

Jesus, who was fully God and fully human came to give us an example of what God would be like on Earth. We can know what God is like by reading about how Jesus interacted with humans and the commands He gave His disciples.

II. God's message to us through Jesus was a restored relationship with Him. - Romans 5.8-9

Jesus' life showed what God is like. Jesus' death showed WHY He came to Earth. The Father sent Jesus to redeem humans and restore the relationship we read about in Genesis 1 & 2. His resurrection showed that Jesus has authority over sin, Hell, and death. Therefore, He becomes the only way to the Father.

III. Our job now is to share that message with all others as well. - 2 Corinthians 5.17-21

All who have a relationship with God now have the terrific task of telling others about the great news! We are God's representatives. We have the Spirit in us. We are now a picture (even though it often is a poor picture) of who God is and who He loves. When we listen to Jesus, we are able to speak to others and guide them to hear His voice.

Teaching Plan:

1. Read out loud together Luke 24.1-8 and experience the confusion and joy the disciples felt.
2. Share the three points and explore the truths of the passages.
3. List the ways God has spoken to each of you this week and how you will listen and obey.