

ALLEY SG – May 4-5, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Light My Way (God's Word Is a Light) • *Psalm 119:105*

Today's Key Question: How can you hear from God?

Today's Bottom Line: Practice hearing from God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIRV)*

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Acrostic Verses" Activity Page (one set per service, per group), dry erase board, dry erase marker, Bibles, pens

What You Do:

- Talk with the group about the book of Psalms by asking the following questions:
 - What was unique about the way Psalm 119 was written? *(It's very long! It was written in the form of an acrostic: each chapter begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet.)*
- On the dry erase board, write the letters H-E-A-R vertically.
- Using the letter, "H," write the word, "Hebrews."
- Using the letter, "E," write the word, "Ephesians."
- Using the letter, "A," write the word, "Acts."
- Using the letter, "R," write the word, "Romans."
- Divide kids into four groups and give each group a Bible, one of the "Acrostic Verses" Activity Page, and a pen.
- Explain that groups will work together to form an acrostic, like Psalms, by looking up the verses on their page and writing down what those verses say about God.
- Once each group has finished their Activity Page, invite each group to share what the verses they looked up had to say about God.
 - Write down some of the things they share next to that letter on the dry erase board.
- Remind kids that even though we may not physically be able to see God, we can hear from God through the words in the Bible.

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: “Bible Verse or Song Lyric?” Activity Page (1 per bin)

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you will be reading a list of quotes out loud for kids to decide whether each quote is a Bible verse or a popular song lyric.
- Read a quote from the “Bible Verse or Song Lyric” Activity Page.
- Pause for kids to discuss; encourage them to come up with a consensus.
- Once the group decides, let them know whether they gave the correct answer.
 - Recruit a kid to keep track of how many the group guessed correctly.
- Repeat for each quote from the “Bible Verse or Song Lyric?” Activity Page.
- After going through the entire list, see how many the group guessed correctly.
- Lead a group discussion on the importance of learning to hear God’s voice by asking the following questions:
 - Is it difficult to distinguish between God’s voice and another?
 - How can you know when it’s God’s words, and not someone else’s? (*God will never be the one leading you to do something wrong; When you have a relationship with God, you have the Holy Spirit to guide you; God’s words will lead us to love others.*)
 - What are some ways you can practice hearing God’s voice? (*Reading God’s Word, learning from people who have a relationship with God, making space for quiet time of reflection, etc.*)

3. Discussion Questions

- How can you hear from God?
- How can you know when you are hearing from God or another voice?
- How can reading about Jesus’ life help you hear from God?
- What gets in the way of spending time reading the Bible?
- Is it possible to hear from God in ways other than reading the Bible?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, dry erase board/marker/eraser (2 per group)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Ask each team to choose a volunteer to look up this month’s memory verse.
- Give each team’s volunteer a Bible and direct them to look up the verse using the Bible
- Direct each team to form a parallel line with plenty of space between each team.
 - The kids with the Bibles should be at one end of their team’s line.
 - At the other end of each line, place a dry erase board and dry erase marker.

- Explain that when you say, “Go!” the kid on each team with the Bible will whisper the first word of 1 Timothy 4:8 into the ear of the person next to them. That person will whisper the word to the person next to them and so on. Once the word reaches the kid at the other end, they will use the dry erase marker to write the word on the board.
- After the word is written on the board, they will run to the opposite side of their line near the Bible. Everyone in the line should shift accordingly, so that a new person is now at the white board.
- The kid who is now at the Bible will look to see what the second word of the verse is to whisper it to the next person in line. The word should continue down the line until it reaches the board.
- Continue this way, shifting the lines, until every word of 1 Timothy 4:8 has been written on the board. *(The reference, 1 Timothy 4:8, can be considered one word.)*
- The team to complete the entire verse on the board first is the winning team.
- *If your group is smaller, this can be played with all kids in one single line to write the verse, rather than as a race against two teams. Race against the clock if time allows!*
- Once the game has ended, ask the following questions for discussion:
 - What does this verse have to do with commitment?
 - What is something you are committed to or would like to commit to?

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

“Dear God, thank You for the many, many ways we can hear from You. Next time we’re in nature and hear a sound of Your creation, remind us to be still and quiet and to notice and remember that You are with us. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

- If there is still time, pass out the Parent Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring them back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share one way they can practice hearing from God together at home this week!