

CITY SG – September 5th- 6th, 2026

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

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

**Pass out the Back to School Bash invite cards. Let kids color the back if they want. Tell them to take them home and to invite their friends!*

What You Need: Wikki Stix (enough for each kid to have 3)

What You Do:

- 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 3 wikki stix.
- Tell the kids that you will give them a prompt and they will create something using their wikki stix. Have kids share what they created.
 - Create something that makes a sound that you hear when you are outside.
 - Create something that makes a sound that you hear in your home.
 - Create an animal that makes a sound.
 - Create something that makes a sound that you hear at school.
 - Create something that makes a sound that you hear in the morning.

Say: “Every day, you hear lots of different voices and sounds—and we all have to learn how to recognize them. Did you know God speaks to you too? But God doesn’t usually speak out loud. It’s possible, but sometimes, God speaks in quieter ways—like a thought in your mind, a feeling in your heart, something you read in the Bible, or something someone who follows God too tells you. It might not sound like something we hear with our ears, but the more we listen and pay attention, the more familiar God speaking to us will become. God WANTS to speak to you, and you can learn to hear Him! Let’s get ready to learn more about that!”

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Four Corners

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, “Four Corners” Activity Page (one set per bin), Tape

What You Do:

- Designate four areas of your space (could be four spaces on the ground or four sides of a table).
- Place one of the “Four Corners” cutouts in each corner.
- 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!
- Have kids stand in the middle of your group space.
- Say: "Let's play a game to learn some of the ways God speaks to us. When we belong to Jesus, we can learn to recognize His voice—just like sheep recognize their shepherd. God wants to speak to you!"
- Say: "Each corner of our area is a different way God speaks. I'll read a situation, then you move to the corner that shows how God might speak in that situation."
- Point to each corner, and read the name of each one out loud.
 - Point to the first corner and say: "God speaks directly to your heart."
 - Point to the second corner and say: "God speaks through the Bible."
 - Point to the third corner and say: "God speaks through other people."
 - Point to the fourth corner and say: "God speaks through the world He made."
- Point to the names of each corner and say them out loud again, but this time, have the kids repeat each one after you.
- **Round 1**
 - Say: "Here's the first situation. You feel something inside that you should be kind to a kid who is sitting alone at lunch. Which way is God speaking?"
 - Invite kids to move to a corner. Once they move, share the correct answer. (*directly to your heart*)
 - Say: "Sometimes God puts something on your heart. This doesn't usually sound like a voice you hear with your ears. It's more like a thought or a feeling that helps you choose what is right, kind, and true. If it matches what God says in the Bible, that's a good way to know it could be God speaking to your heart! Let's remember our Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**"
- **Round 2**
 - Say: "Here's the second situation. You read in the Bible that God wants us to forgive others. Which way is God speaking?"
 - Invite kids to move to a corner. Once they move, share the correct answer. (*through the Bible*)
 - Say: "That's right! God speaks to us through the Bible. The Bible shows us who God is and how He wants us to live. When we read the Bible, we're learning what God is like, and that can help us learn to recognize His voice even better. Let's say our Bottom Line again: **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**"
- **Round 3**
 - Say: "Here's the next situation. A parent, teacher, or friend who follows God reminds you to tell the truth. Which way is God speaking?"
 - Invite kids to move to a corner. Once they move, share the correct answer. (*through other people*)
 - Say: "God can use people in our lives who also follow God to help us know what God wants us to do in a situation. That might look like a parent reminding you to tell the truth, a teacher helping you make a better choice, or a friend encouraging you to do what's right. Let's say our Bottom Line again: **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**"
- **Round 4**
 - Say: "Here's the last one! You see a beautiful sunset and remember that God made everything. Which way is God speaking?"

- Invite kids to move to a corner. Once they move, share the correct answer. (*through the world He made*)
- Say: “When we look at what God made, it can remind us who He is. Like when you see a huge sky, a sunset, animals, or stars, and you think, ‘Wow, God made all of this!’ God can even speak through what He made. Remember, you and **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**”
- Have kids go back and sit down.

What You Say: “God speaks in many ways—directly to your heart, through the Bible, through other people who also follow Him, and through what He has made. Remember: Learning to hear God’s voice takes practice. The closer you get to Him—through listening, reading the Bible, and paying attention—the easier it becomes to recognize when He is speaking. God isn’t far away or silent—He wants you to hear Him because He loves you!

2. Ways God Speaks

Application Activity

What You Need: “Ways God Speaks” Activity Page (one per kid), Drawing supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Ways God Speaks” Activity Page and something to draw with.
- Say: “In our Bible Story, we learned that God speaks to us in different ways. We’re going to think about each one and draw or write an example.”
- Hold up your copy of the “Ways God Speaks” Activity Page and point to the first box.
- **Box 1: God Speaks Directly to Your Heart**
 - Say: “Sometimes, God speaks directly to your heart. That might feel like a thought to be kind, tell the truth, help someone, or say you’re sorry—especially when it feels hard to do. Draw or write a time when God might speak to your heart.”
 - Give examples if needed:
 - Helping a friend
 - Telling the truth
 - Sharing
 - Including someone
 - Allow drawing time.
 - Say: “God can speak right to your heart in so many moments throughout your day.”
- **Box 2: God Speaks through the Bible**
 - Point to the second box.
 - Say: “God also speaks through the Bible. When we read the Bible, we learn what God is like and what He wants us to know. Draw or write something you might learn from the Bible.”
 - Give examples if needed:
 - Love others.
 - God tells us to forgive.
 - God loves me.
 - God says that we should honor our parents.
 - Allow drawing time.

- Say: "When we read the Bible, we're learning from God. You can open up His Word with a grown-up or read it on your own, and God will speak to you!"
- **Box 3: God Speaks through Other People**
 - Point to the third box.
 - Say: "Sometimes, God speaks through other people who also know and follow Him. He might use a parent, teacher, friend, or leader to help you know what He would want you to do. Draw or write someone who might help you hear from God."
 - Give examples if needed:
 - A parent reminding you to be kind
 - A teacher helping you tell the truth
 - A friend encouraging you
 - Allow drawing time.
 - Say: "Great job! God can use people in your life to speak to you in so many ways!"
- **Box 4: God Speaks through the World He Made**
 - Point to the last box.
 - Say: "God also speaks through the world God made. When we look at what God made, it reminds us how big and amazing He is. Draw something God made that reminds you of Him."
 - Give examples if needed:
 - Animals
 - The mountains
 - The ocean
 - The sun, moon, and stars
 - Allow drawing time.
 - Say: "When we look at what God made, we can remember who God is. God made so many good things. He is an amazing Creator."

Say: God speaks in many ways—to your heart, through the Bible, through other people who know and follow Him, and through what He made. As you worked on your page, you were thinking about real ways God can speak to YOU! Whatever you chose to write or draw today, choose one and really pay attention to it this week. Look for moments when God might be speaking to you in that way."

3. Listen and Follow

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, Verse Motions" Activity Page (a couple per bin)

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse to the group.
 - *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."* • John 10:27
- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Teach the kids the following motions to help them learn the Memory Verse.
 - *"My sheep (make sheep ears on your head with your hands)*
 - *listen to my voice. (Cup your hand to your ear.)*
 - *I know them, (point out to your friends in the circle)*

- and they follow me.” (*March in place.*)
 - John 10:27 (*Open hands like a book.*)
- Once you’ve taught all the motions, practice saying the verse and doing the motions together several times. Make it fun by going fast, then slow, then in a whisper.

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*)
- “Dear God, thank You for speaking to us. Thank You that we can hear You. Help us listen this week. Help us notice when You speak to our hearts, through the Bible, through other people who know and follow You, and through the world You made. We want to hear Your voice and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back for a PRIZE!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, remind kids that they can hear from God this week!