



COMMITMENT | WEEK 2 | MAY 8-9, 2021

## 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson

# Til I Hear It From You

**Life App:** Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

**Bible Story:** Til I Hear It from You (The Wise and Foolish Builders) • *Matthew 7:24-29*

**Bottom Line:** Practice hearing from God.

**Basic Truth:** I am made by God to worship Him.

**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

**KID CONNECT:  
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:  
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:  
20 MINUTES**

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Growing in faith is not something that happens by merely cramming more information about the Bible into a child's brain. All of that knowledge in their head means nothing if we don't help kids experience what that knowledge can do in their hearts. To fully experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith. And that takes commitment.*

*God keeps all His promises and puts His plans into action. Because God has followed through on those plans, we get the chance to be with God forever. We reflect God's commitment to us when we can make a plan and stick to it. This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. Commit to practicing faith by reading God's Word, praying to Him consistently, talking about Him with friends, and living out that faith every day.*

In week two, we head to **Matthew 7:24-29**, where we can read a parable Jesus told at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Two builders took two different approaches to build their homes. One house was built on a solid foundation, the other on shifting sand. The message is clear: a solid foundation in life starts with hearing and doing what Jesus says.

Bottom Line: **Practice hearing from God.** We can't do what God says until we know what God says. Discovering more about that starts with listening to God. We pray that kids will learn the faith skill HEAR and find how they can navigate and personalize God's Word.

## KID CONNECT

### WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

*Play* intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

### OPENING ACTIVITY:

("How to Build a House" Activity Page)

#### What You Do:

- Fill in the "How to Build a House" Activity Page like you would a Mad Lib™.
- Ask kids for examples to fill in each blank.
- Once all blanks are filled, read your silly story to the group.

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

*Show* the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins. *The Large Group Leader has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to KidCity. The LGL is relatable and inviting. LGLs can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday, etc. The LGL tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.*

**LGL:** Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God's Word, the Bible.

But first, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind – We need to be kind with our words and actions to our friends, leaders, and the space that we are using
2. Be Safe – Make wise choices with your actions and words
3. Have Fun – Participate in what we are doing! It's no fun just sitting there...

Now that we know our expectations, let's kick off our day with a game!

# LARGE GROUP GAME

## AGILITY COURSE

(Tape, Balloon)

LGL: “Hey, everyone! I’m so glad that you’re all here to train with me. My name’s [your name], and I’m getting ready for my very first 5K race at the end of the month.

“When you train for a race, you need to make a plan (*tap your head like you’re thinking*) . . . then you need to take action (*run in place*). That takes commitment!

**(SLIDE: LIFE APP)**

“Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.”

**(SLIDE: THEME)**

“Part of the training plan I came up with is AGILITY training. It’s helping me get steady feet and flexibility. (*Do some more fancy footwork.*) Do you want to try out my agility training course? (*Pause for response.*) Great! Let me show you what to do.

*Demonstrate each step of the obstacle course as you explain it.*

“First, you need to have really fast feet. So you’ll complete this hopscotch course I’ve taped on the floor—like this. (*Demonstrate.*)

“Then, you move to the next round, where hand-eye coordination is essential. You’ll have to use all your strength to toss a balloon high in the air, then catch it—three times. (*Demonstrate once.*)

“But you’re not done yet, because I saved the toughest challenge for last. You have to do this dance as you walk backward across the finish line. (*Do a ridiculous dance move as you walk backward.*)

“So, just to review: (*point to each station as you name it*) Fast Feet Hopscotch . . . Triple Balloon Toss . . . and finally, Backward Dance.

“Everyone form a line with your small group. When I point to you, it’s your group’s turn to go. Start with the first person in line then keep going, one at a time. But make sure you stay with your group. And if you want to just watch your friends instead of going through the course, that’s cool, too.

“We’ll start with [leader’s name]’s group in the back. Everyone else, we get to cheer for whoever’s training. Let’s get some pump-up music going in here, shall we?”

**(AUDIO: GAME MUSIC)**

*Call on different small groups and encourage them as they go through the course. Remind them of the different steps if needed.*

*Keep things moving so that every kid has a chance to train and they don't feel singled out. (If you have lots of kids in the room, you may want to have multiple courses in the room or let two or three kids go at the same time.)*

“Nice fancy footwork, everyone! I think you all have amazing agility skills! I want to see some more fancy footwork now as we sing, dance, and worship God together.”

## WORSHIP

**(VIDEO: GOD IS ON THE MOVE, LET REVOLUTION START)**

## BIBLE STORY

**(SLIDES: LIFE APP, BOTTOM LINE, MEMORY VERSE, BASIC TRUTH; VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)**

**(Bible)**

**LGL:** Let's remind ourselves of the definition of our Life App, Commitment.

**(SLIDE: LIFE APP)** “Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.”

“Last week we talked about four different faith skills that are important if we are making a plan to get to know God better. The four different skills were HEAR, TALK, PRAY, and LIVE.

**(SLIDE: FAITH SKILLS)**

“Today, we will be focusing in on that first skill – HEAR. When Jesus was on earth, people had LOTS of questions about God's kingdom and how to live in a way that shows that they were committed to following God and doing what He says. One day, Jesus told a story that illustrated the importance of that first skill...let's see what Jesus had to say.

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)**

“Do you remember what Jesus said about the house on the rock? How do we build a house like that one, with a strong, sturdy foundation? We hear His words, and we put them into practice. That's a great way that we can grow stronger in our relationship with God. It's a really important part of our training plan.

**(SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE)** “Practice hearing from God.”

“We can hear from God by reading the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* As we do, we can get to know God better. We can find out how to make the wise choice. We can remember what's most important in life . . . and we can also think about things that we might need to change.

“You might look at the Bible and think, ‘That is a really gigantic book.’ It IS big . . . and it can be a little tricky for us to understand if we don't have someone to help us. But remember, you can always ask someone to help you—like your mom or dad, your older brother or sister, or someone

else in your family. You can read the Bible in a book like this or read a devotional that explains different verses or stories. You can even listen to the Bible on a Bible app!

“If you don’t have a Bible, ask the person you came with today . . . or talk to your Small Group Leader. It’s amazing that we can hear from God by reading what’s written in these pages. We want everyone to be able to do that, including you!

“Let’s read our Basic Truth for today.

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) “I am made by God to worship Him.”**

“The best way that we can worship God – which means that we live in a way that shows Him that we love and honor Him – is to read His letter to us, the Bible, and put it into practice.

“Before we go, let’s review our Bible verse for the month.

## MEMORY VERSE

**(SLIDE: 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)*

## PRAYER

“Let’s pray together.

“Dear God, thank You for this important message that Jesus told His friends, which is also true for us today! Help us take time to hear from You by reading the Bible—whether we’re on our own, with a friend, or with family member. Help us remember what we’ve read so that we can know what’s true, no matter what happens in our lives. And help us know what to do with what we’ve heard, so that we can live Your way every day. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

## SMALL GROUP

**Life App: Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice**

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## SAND VERSES ROCK

**(Shallow Plastic Bin – 2 per group, Dried Beans [Works Best if Beans are Different Sizes], Brick, Jenga Blocks or Something Similar, Water)**

### What You Do:

- Review the Bible story briefly.
- Place the shallow bin with dried beans in it in the middle of the group and the Jenga blocks nearby.
- Challenge the kids to work together to build the highest tower they can on the beans. (Consider giving them a time limit of 45 seconds)
  - Make observations as they do so. (Is it hard or easy? Is it stable or does it shift?)
- After it is built, pour water at the base of the tower and see if it stays up.
- Repeat the activity, but this time use the brick as the foundation for the tower.

### What You Say:

“This week, I want to challenge you to make a commitment to **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God**. God has given us His Word, the Bible, to show us how to live. When you read God’s Word and live the way God wants you to live, you’ll be wise! That’s building your life on a firm and strong foundation. But if you just listen to God’s Word and don’t do what it says, you’ll be like a man who built his house on sand. He lost his whole house.

“Storms will come in life—not just literal, weather storms, but things that are difficult and confusing. There will be times when it’s really tempting to do the wrong thing—lie, cheat to win, or be unkind. In those moments, it’s not enough just to know what God tells you to do in His Word. To be wise, you have to do what God says, just like the man who built his house on the rock. If you **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God** and put His words into practice, you’ll be ready to make it through the storms!”

*[Make it Personal] (Share about a time when you heard from God through His Word, a friend, or an experience with your church community, and you chose to follow through and do what He asked. Talk about how doing what God said turned out to be the wise choice. Make sure your example is age appropriate.)*



# LISTEN TO ME RELAY

(Two Markers)

## What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- If you have an odd number of kids, instruct the team with the smaller number of kids to choose a kid to go twice.
- Instruct both teams to form a single file line for a relay race.
- Use two markers to mark a turn-around spot several feet away.
- When you start the game, direct the first kid on each team to run to the marker and back to tag the next kid in line.
- As they tag the next kid in line, instruct them to name a new way for the next kid to travel to the marker (like crab walk, hop, skip, bear crawl, etc.).
- Explain that each kid must think of a new way to travel for each round and make sure the next kid knows what to do. If a kid begins to travel incorrectly, they must go back and try again.
- If you think your kids will have trouble coming up with ways to travel, have the group spend a few minutes brainstorming ways to travel before you start the relay.
- The first team to get all of their kids back, wins!
- Discuss:
  - What was the key to this game? (*First you had to listen to the kid in front of you, then you had to DO what they said!*)
  - Today, we talked about what it means to **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God**. What are some ways we hear from God? (*through His Word, the Bible; by listening to leaders we trust at church and other people we know who follow God*)

## What You Say:

“To grow in faith, it takes commitment! It takes PRACTICE. Guess what? Even grown-ups, who have followed God for a long time, STILL have to practice and make a commitment to hear from God then DO what He says! Following God is a lifelong journey, and the really cool part is that there is always something new to learn about God. Just like you practice things to get better, we can **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God** as we read His Word in the Bible or listen to leaders like our pastor and others who are older who we know follow God. These are all great ways to hear from God!”

## DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- What are some ways you hear from God?
- Do you think God communicates/talks with everyone the same way? Why or why not?
- What can you do if you're not sure you are hearing God correctly? Who can you talk to?
- Share about a time you or someone you know had to make a choice and God helped you know exactly what to do.
- Based on today's Bible story, if your life is a house, what does it look to build it on a foundation of rock? What does it look like to build it on a foundation of sand?

## PRAY AND DISMISS

(2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> GodTime Card - 1 per kid)

### What You Say:

“God, I thank You for every kid that is here today and for everyone who is normally here and couldn’t be here today. I pray that we all continue to practice hearing from You through your Word, the Bible, through other people who follow You, and even by praying to You like we are right now. We are so grateful that You love us enough to talk to us. Thank You for sending us Your Son, Jesus, and loving us so much. We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

Pass out the GodTime Cards to each kid. If there’s spare time, encourage kids to start looking over their GodTime card and point out how it relates to today’s lesson.