



COMMITMENT | WEEK 2 | MAY 8-9, 2021

4th-5th 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*

Key Question: How can you hear from God?

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, NIV

**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.

Key Question: How can you hear from God? When kids first hear they should learn to hear from God, they might have some questions. Especially when God doesn't speak audibly, how can they hear from God? We hope kids wrestle with this idea and learn that hearing from God might not be as tricky as they might have thought.

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:

("Picture It" Activity Pages, Clipboard)

What You Do:

- Attach all of the "Picture It" pages face-down on a clipboard.
- Give one kid the clipboard and ask that kid to turn over only the top page without anyone else seeing what's on it.
- The kid with the clipboard must give clues about the underlined words on the page.
 - They can say anything other than the words that are underlined.
 - The goal is to get the remaining kids to guess what is pictured and say the description as it's written at the bottom of the page within 45-seconds.
 - (Adjust this time as needed if kids seem to need a little longer or if the time challenge seems too easy.)
- Let kids know that the images are silly and totally random. For example, one of the images might be a dog wearing roller skates riding a merry-go-round.
- When someone guess correctly or when time is up, show the group the picture.
- Ask them how similar or different it is compared to what they were picturing in their mind.
- Allow all of the kids to have at least one turn giving clues.

What You Say:

"This is a game that required good listening skills and a bit of imagination. Hearing the clues and putting them together was the secret to figuring out what was on the pictures. *[Transition]* **Listening is something we should always keep practicing. Listening to what others have to say, listening to instructions, listening to good advice, AND most importantly, listening to God. Let's go to Large Group and hear what He wants to tell us today."**

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.*

HOST: 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...

Let's kick off today by playing a game!

LARGE GROUP GAME

SAY WHAT?

(No Supplies Needed)

LGL: "Welcome to KidCity, kids! We're running headfirst into our second week of May, and I'm trying to stick to my workout plan. Sticking to the plan isn't always easy. I don't know about you, but sometimes I can get pretty distracted."

"Does anyone listen to music while they're doing other things like exercising, doing homework, going to bed at night? *(Pause for responses.)*

"Yeah, I find that listening to music as I work out really keeps me motivated, but I guess that totally depends on the song, though. For example, I can totally work out to this:"

(AUDIO: UPBEAT WORKOUT MUSIC)

LGL starts to hilariously ‘work out’ to this music, getting more and more crazy as the music intensifies.

“But not so much to this one:”

(AUDIO: MELODIC CLASSICAL MUSIC)

LGL starts to move really slow, pretending to fall asleep.

“Yeah. It makes me want to crawl into my bed and take a nap. Now, it wouldn’t be KidCity if we didn’t kick things off with some kind of game, so here we go! Are you up for a little musical tomfoolery? *(Pause for response.)* Sweet! This game is called, ‘Say WHAT?’”

(SLIDE: SAY WHAT?)

“Here’s how we play! I will read out a set of lyrics from a popular song, and it’s up to you to give me the title and artist of that song! Sound easy? Pssh, this is KidCity, it’s never that easy!”

“All of the lyrics have been put in Google Translate, translated into various languages like Luxembourgish or Mongolian, then translated back into English. And let’s just say that things do get . . . ahem . . . changed in the translation. We’ll play guys against girls—let’s get started!”

“I’ll read the lyrics out loud, and the first to guess it correctly gets a point. The team with the most points at the end wins! Oh, and Small Group Leaders, feel free to jump in and help!”

Read them straight, without giving away the tune or rhythm of the song.

(SLIDE: SAY WHAT? SLIDES 1-10)

“Great job, everyone. Let’s give it up for the winners!”

“Now, everyone up on your feet. Let’s open our ears and our hearts with some amazing worship to God!”

WORSHIP

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

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(SLIDE: LIFE APP, FAITH SKILLS)

(No Supplies)

LGL: I have to say, I love having the chance to chat with you about what God’s up to, and I really love digging into the Bible, because that’s how I learn more about God and what God wants for my life. That’s right, I’m *[your age]* and I’m *still* learning. 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.

BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: SO & SO SHOW; SLIDES: KEY QUESTION, BASIC TRUTH)

(VIDEO: THE SO & SO SHOW)

“So check it out, everyone— *we’re* the house. *Our lives* are like the house. We can have people who cover us in prayer, like a roof, we can have nice, sturdy friendships, like the walls, we can even have a stocked kitchen where we fill our hearts and bellies with amazing nutrients and sustenance. Maybe the attic is our brains, because you know, they can feel mostly empty at times. You can have all of these amazing things, all of the walls painted brilliant colors and decorated with the best knick-knacks and have the biggest TVs and all of the gaming systems and (*clap to emphasize the bold words*) *none of it matters if you don’t have a foundation on Jesus.*”

“NONE of it. Your will power, your hope, your faith, and your very lives will crumble when the storms of tragedy strike because you *don’t have a strong foundation.*”

“That’s what Jesus was getting at here. If you place your faith in Jesus, if you build your life on HIM as a foundation, when the storms come, when there’s a death in your family, when you don’t make the team, when someone you know gets sick, when you have to move to a new state, when you’re quarantined for a year because of some unseen coronavirus . . . you won’t crumble.”

“You’ll stand. You’ll remain. The storms will beat against the windows of your spirit but your house will stand strong.”

“And here’s the kicker—you can hear this teaching all day long. But you don’t just need to *hear* it.”

“*You need to listen.*”

“Remember our Key Question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) “How can you hear from God?”

“One of the best ways that we can answer that question is to look at our Basic Truth today.

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

“One 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. God’s Word is our firm foundation. That is where we go to HEAR God.

Before we head to small groups let’s go over our verse.

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

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SAND VERSES ROCK 2.0

(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.
- Read Matthew 7:24 again, asking kids to take note of how Jesus described a wise builder.
 - How can you hear from God when you can't see Him?
- Challenge the group to talk about different ways God communicates with us.
- The most obvious is through the Bible.
- Lead kids to also consider other ways God helps us know Him and “hear” Him in the sense that we understand what He wants us to do and the way He wants us to live.
- Some of the ideas you're guiding kids toward are:
 - Memorizing and thinking about verses of Scripture that are meaningful to us
 - Singing and listening to songs that focus on God
 - Using a devotional book or GodTime to spend time reading the Bible
 - Praying and watching for the way God answers
 - Listening well to those who teach us how to follow Jesus
- Wrap up by asking kids to consider how they would finish the following sentences:
 - Building my life on _____ is like building a house on a WEAK foundation.
 - Building my life on _____ is like building a house on a STRONG foundation.

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

(Bibles)

What You Do:

- Make sure kids have a Bible or Bible App then ask them to look up and read Proverbs 2:1-5.
- Discuss the verses by asking kids to identify the choices and results stated in these verses.
 - What are the suggested choices after the word “IF” in these verses? Put the commands in your own words.
 - When we choose to do those things, what is the result or the “THEN” that will follow?
- Assign each of the kids a verse from Proverbs 2:1-5. It’s okay if some kids have the same verse.
- Invite each kid to choose one word from their verse that they feel is most important or key to the meaning but not to say out loud what it is.
- Play “The Whisper Challenge”
 - If you have a small group, have all but one kid plug their ears (for larger groups, consider having kids pair up)
 - The one with their ears not plugged will whisper their word. The other kids will try to guess what is being said. Keep going until they guess the word.
- Switch kids and repeat until everyone has had a turn saying their word.
- Review the words each kid chose and let them share why they felt it was important to the meaning of the verse.
- Ask:
 - Why is it important to practice hearing from God?
 - What makes it hard for us to hear what God has to say?
 - What are some important words God has to say to us?
 - How can you do a better job of practicing hearing from God this week?

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

(Preteen 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.