



COMMITMENT | WEEK 2 | MAY 8-9, 2021

K-1 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 loved by God no matter what so I can love God, love others, and love life.

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.

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, 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..

Let's kick off today by playing 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, FAITH SKILLS; 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

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 loved by God no matter what so I can love God, love others, and love life.

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

SECRET SENTENCE

(“Secret Sentence” Activity Page – 1 per kid, Markers)

What You Do:

- Hand each kid a “Secret Sentence” Activity Page and marker.
- Explain there are images on their paper with boxes underneath each image.
- They have to discover the hidden message by writing the letter the image starts with in the box underneath it. (For example, penguin starts with “P,” so they would write “P” in the box under the penguin.)
- You may need to help younger ones with this and make it fun by having them make the letter sound to help them discover what the letter is.
- If they struggle, give them some more hints. (For example, it comes after “O” in the alphabet). Finally, give them the answer for that hidden letter if they still need help.
- Once they discover the hidden message—Practice hearing from God—instruct them to turn their page over and draw a picture of a way they can practice hearing from God.
- Be sure and remind them of some ways they can hear from God if they need help.
 - Reading the Bible
 - Doing a devotional with their family or by themselves
 - Praying
 - Listening to their Small Group Leader, pastor, or any other person who follows Jesus talk about Jesus
- After kids finish drawing, let them share their drawings and tell the group what they drew.

What You Say:

“You guys did a great job of discovering our secret sentence. Let’s all say it together. *[Bottom line]* Practice hearing from God. That’s right! And you did a great job of drawing one way you can practice hearing from God.”

[Make it Personal] (Share a time you heard from God through the Bible, a devotional, or another person teaching you. This could be as simple as the first time you truly heard about God’s love. Keep this practical so kids understand that they can hear from God, too.)

MEMORY VERSE BUILDING

(“Memory Verse Building” Activity Page, Bibles, Blocks [or Cups], Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- Tape or stick each word of the “Memory Verse Building” Activity Page to a block (or cup). Each team needs one set of eight word blocks.
- Help kids look up and read the verse together as a group using the Navigation Tips from Week 1.
- Reread the second sentence, “But being Godly has value in every way.”
 - Talk about how being Godly has so much more value than anything we could train our body for (like we learned last week).
- Split kids up into teams of four.
- Place the blocks in a pile for each team on the other side of the room.
 - The first kid in line runs to their pile of blocks and grabs a block only using their elbows.
 - Once they return, the next kid goes. They continue until all of the blocks are collected.
- Once the team has collected their blocks, they will stack them in order to make the Bible verse. (Have them reference the Memory Verse Poster if needed.)
- Once all teams are finished, practice saying the memory verse together again.

What You Say:

“Great job of building your memory verse! Practicing for something can be really hard sometimes. We have to do it over and over, and sometimes it feels like doing the same thing a bunch of times in a row. But when we **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God**, we’ll get better and better at it, which will help make us more like Jesus!”

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

(K/1st GodTime Card, Crayons or Markers)

What You Say:

“Sometimes, we have to listen really carefully when reading our Bible to hear God, but the more we practice hearing from Him, the easier it is. I am so proud of each of you. I can’t wait until next week to hear how you guys go throughout this week and **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God**.

“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 card to each kid. If there’s spare time, the kids can start coloring their GodTime Card.

