



COMMITMENT | WEEK 2 | MAY 8-9, 2021

Virtual 4th-5th Lesson

Till I Hear from You

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

Bible Story: Till 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

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.

SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION

(“Picture It!” Activity Page, either printed or pulled up on your computer so you can show it to the kids via the “share screen” feature.)

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you choose, consider using an icebreaker question to get kids talking.
- Practice saying the memory verse together.
- If you’ve chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you’ve given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled (Video found at theparenthub.net).

Activity:

What You Do:

- Choose a kid or ask for a volunteer to be the first clue-giver.
- Instruct everyone else to turn around so they can’t see their screen, but they can still hear.
- Using either a printed version of the “Picture It!” Activity Page or your screen share feature, show the first kid one of the images.
- Ask the clue-giver to give clues about the wacky illustration.
- Tell them they can’t say any of the underlined words on the page, but they CAN describe the illustration in any other way.
 - For instance, for the cat wearing a hat and riding a motorcycle, the clue-giver could say, “It’s a picture of a feline on the kind of bike that has an engine. And he’s in a hot place that doesn’t get much rain.”
- The goal is to get the rest of the group to guess what the weird and random image is, getting as close as possible to the “title sentence” written below the image.
- When someone guess correctly or when time is up (about 45 seconds), show the group the picture.
- After the game, ask if anyone knows how it relates to today’s story. (*Listening to and hearing from God; understand what God is telling you*)

What You Say:

- What comes to mind when you think about what it means to practice hearing from God?
- Let a volunteer read Matthew 7:24-29.
- 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

Close your group in prayer:

“Dear God, we thank You for Your Word. We understand that if we build our life on You, we are building it on something solid, strong, and true. Help us practice hearing what it is You are saying to us and doing what You tell us to do. We love You! Amen.”