



Growing Stronger in Faith Everyday | WEEK 3 | January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | ELEMENTARY

## The Wise and Foolish Builders

**Bottom Line:** Practice hearing from God

**Bible Story:** The Wise and Foolish Builders • Matthew 7:24-27 (Supporting: John 10:27-28)

**Key Question:** How can you hear from God?

**Basic Truth:** I am made by God to reflect His image. (act like 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 living and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*In Week 3, we're staying in The Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus wraps up his teaching with the story of the Wise and Foolish Builders. Anyone who hears Jesus' words and actually DOES them is like a wise man who built his house on a solid foundation of rock. When a wild storm whipped up, that house stood strong. But people who hear Jesus' words and don't follow through are just like a foolish man who slaps together a home on the sand—one that collapses when the wind comes. Truly hearing from God means putting what you hear into action. Kids can be confident that God does speak to them because, as we read in John 10:27-28, Jesus is the good shepherd and we are His sheep. And a sheep KNOWS the shepherd's voice. [BOTTOM LINE] Practice hearing from God.*

### LARGE GROUP

#### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

**LBL:** "Hey Friends, I'm so glad you came to hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let's go over our KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) "Now, 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
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

#### Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

#### Morning Flow

Doors  
Open  
9:15/11:00

Large Group  
Starts  
9:35/11:20

Small Group  
Starts  
10:05/11:50

## (SLIDE: Game Plan)

This month, we're learning about how we can follow a Game Plan when it comes to getting to know God more! And by following this Game Plan, we'll start growing stronger in faith every day. There are four parts of this Game Plan to help you get to know God better—talking about God, praying to God, hearing from God, and living for God. This week, we're going to look at 'hearing from God'!

"Our Bottom Line for this week is: Practice hearing from God! Say that with me."

(SLIDE: Bottom Line) Practice hearing from God  
Let's check out our memory verse for the month.

## (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 NIV

*Take a minute to explain that 1 Timothy is a book in the New Testament, and that the first number means 'chapter' and the second one means 'verse'. 'NIV' is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn't originally written in English! There are different translations.*

The way we treat people, and the choices we make every day can show others the love of God. Our verse this month reminds us that just like athletes train their bodies, we can train ourselves to follow God. And one way we do that is by practicing how to hear from God.

## LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

### Can You Hear It

#### (SLIDES)

#### HOW TO PLAY:

- Choose a different volunteer for each slide. In the younger rooms the volunteers can be SGL. One at a time, show the slides, and have the volunteer read it out loud to the group, then instruct the rest of the room to do the activity the kids just read out.
- First slide is an easy example.
- There are a total of 8 slides.

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

## WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

### (VIDEO: MY FEET ARE ON THE ROCK, FOR YOUR GLORY)

## BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(SLIDE: Bottom Line) Practice hearing from God

Let me ask you something: Have you ever tried to hear something important, but there was so much noise around you that you just couldn't focus? Maybe your parents were talking to you, but you were halfway into your favorite video. You could hear them, but you weren't really listening. You can be honest ... we've all been there, me included. Not if



you've been there. (Nod and watch as the kids nod.) Here's something I've learned: a lot of the time we need to tune in and pause and listen. Today we're journeying right along through the Bible. We're at the part of the story where Jesus is on Earth and He's teaching us all about God and God's Kingdom! Let's find out more about what He had to teach us!

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 4/6\_MIN)**

Today, Jesus taught us something powerful. He said listening to what God says and doing it is like a wise builder. The foolish builder heard but ignored God's words. The sad truth is that foolish people may hear what God says, but it doesn't sink in. They don't put it into action. But wise people practice truly hearing what God says—through reading God's Word, talking with people who love Jesus, and taking time to be quiet and listen for God's voice. And then ... they ask God to help them do what He says. And when difficult times show up ... those wise people are ready. They can stand strong!

Remember our Basic Truth...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am made by God to reflect His image. (act like Him)

As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION – leave this slide up after you pray and kids go to small groups)**

How can you hear from God?

"But before you do that, let's talk to God, ask Him to speak to us, and ask Him to help us do what He says. Lord, we love You. Thank You that You speak to us. Help us to practice hearing from You and doing what You say, so we will stand strong. We want to follow You like sheep follow their good shepherd. You are our Good Shepherd. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**



## SMALL GROUP

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**Consider praying before you start small group to set the tone. It is just as important as the activities.**

### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Not every answer will be exactly right, but the goal is to guide the kids into good conversation and gently redirect them toward deeper, more biblical answers.*

**Key Question:** How can you hear from God? (Answers will vary)

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.*

**Look Up:** John 10:27-28

**Say:** What did Jesus call His followers in verse 27? Remember that Jesus is our good shepherd; he will care for his sheep.

### PRACTICE IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*(2 Paper plates per small group, 50 Small cups per small group)*

**What You Do:**

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a stack of 25 cups.
- Challenge them to work together to build the tallest tower they can.
- After they have built their towers, give one person from each team a paper plate.
- Explain that a big “storm” is coming.
- Have the kid who has the paper plate use the paper plate to fan their tower and see how strong it is.
- Talk about what made their towers strong or what made them fall over.
- What could have made your towers even stronger.

**What You Say:** “Great job! It took teamwork to build those towers. We learned that a strong base is really important! In our story, Jesus said that hearing His words and doing them is like building your life on a rock—a strong foundation. And the first part of doing what God says is hearing what God says! We have to intentionally practice hearing from God by reading the Bible, or listening to other people who love Jesus, or listening to the Holy Spirit as He guides us and then making the wise choice to do what He says. God wants us to practice hearing from God.”

**4th-5<sup>th</sup> grade** – Pick one or two of the following questions to spark a conversation

- Why do you think Jesus compared hearing His words and doing them to building a house on rock? And not doing them to building a house on sand?
- What are some things that can make it hard to hear from God in your everyday life?
- What are some ways you can slow down and make time to listen for God’s voice?

- What are some ways you hear from God?
- When have you felt like God helped you make a wise choice or encouraged you through someone else?
- How can reading the Bible, talking with people who love Jesus, or listening to the Holy Spirit and doing what you hear help you build a strong foundation like the wise man?

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(10 cards of people from the Bible, Answer Key for k-2<sup>nd</sup> cards, and 1 Bible for every 2 or 3 kids)

We want every kid to know these 3 Basic Truths by the time they leave KidCity: I am made by God. I am loved by God no matter what. I am made for a purpose. The more we encourage kids to get into the Bible the more these they will see these truths in other people, and they will sink into their hearts for themselves.

### What You Do:

- Take ten cards from people in the Bible card deck.
- Have your group guess if they are in the Old or New Testament
- Find the story of their life in the Bible

### What to say:

"This is the Bible. (Open to the Table of Contents) This is the Old Testament – it tells the story of how the world was broken by sin, but because of God's great love for us He promised to send a Savior. This is the New Testament. It tells us the good news of the promised Savior – Jesus! Jesus died on the cross and came back to life – defeating sin and death. Because of Him, we can have a right relationship with God again. Let's look at each card and see if we know if the person is from the Old Testament or the New Testament. Then we will see if we can find them in our Bibles.

## PRAYER

### What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You that You speak to us. Help us to hear what You say and do what You say so we can build our lives on a firm foundation. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."