

City SG—May 8th-10th, 2021

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

Today's Bottom Line: Practice hearing from God.

Monthly 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.*

1Timothy 4:8, *NirV*

1. Mad Lib

What You Need: "How to Build a House" Page, hand sanitizer, and pen

What You Do:

- Instruct each of the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- 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.

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: Index Card (5 per group), paper plates (1 per kid), and pens

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to pair up.
- Give each kid a paper plate and a pen.
- Instruct the kids to designate a "drawer" and a "caller" in each pair.
- Choose a simple drawing from the list below and write it down on an index card.
- Things to draw:
 - Smiley face
 - House
 - Boat
 - Car
- Instruct the "drawers" to tightly close their eyes.
- Show the piece of paper to the "caller" without letting the "drawer" see it.
- Make sure each "caller" knows the shape they will describe without giving away the shape.
- Direct the "drawer" to open their eyes and place their paper plate on their head and listen as the "caller" gives specific instructions for the drawing you chose.
- Give each pair two or three minutes to draw. Then call time.
- Once time is called, let the "drawers" share their masterpieces and try to figure out what they were attempting to draw.
- Switch roles and repeat with a new thing to draw.

NOTE: You will likely only have time for two rounds, but there are extra suggestions in case you need them.

What You Say:

"That was fun! To complete this silly task, you had to rely only on your ears to know what to do.

[Transition] Today, we're talking about the MOST important listening we'll ever do!

Hearing from God!"

3. Listen to Me Relay

What You Need: Cones (2 per Group)

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 clipboards 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 clipboard 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 clipboard (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!”

4. Listen Up Verse

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Invite a kid to look up 1 Timothy in the Table of Contents.
 - Remind them to check under the “New Testament.”
- Ask a different kid to find 1 Timothy 4:8.
- Invite another kid to read the verse out loud to the group.
- Repeat the memory verse as a group.
- Instruct the kids to stand.
- Explain that you will call out different ways for them to move each time they say the memory verse.

- As kids repeat the verse several times, call out a different way for them to move each time they say the verse.
- Ways to move:
 - Jog in place
 - High knees
 - Jumping jacks
 - Reach as high as you can on your toes
 - Touch your toes
- Be prepared to help the kids repeat the verse if they don't yet have it memorized. By the end of this activity, they should all know the verse pretty well, though!

What You Say:

“Whew! Who’s tired? You can have a seat. Great listening, everybody! Training the body is great, but listening and following what God says is even better. I don’t know about you, but I definitely want to be like the wise man who built his house on a strong foundation. When we **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God** then follow through and do what He says, we will be wise!”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: GodTime sheets, Bible, and pens

What You Do:

- Pass out a GodTime card and pen to each kid.
- Point out the parts of a GodTime card and complete Day 1 together.

What You Say:

“Friends, do you know why we hand out these GodTime cards each week? Because they’re a GREAT way to **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God.**

“Let’s take a look at Day 1. You can see that there are four devotionals for the week. A devotional usually includes a passage of the Bible to read, a short paragraph that explains the Bible passage, and some kind of activity or prayer centered around that part of the Bible. Let’s look up the Bible passage for Day 1 and complete it together.

“I want you to take these home and complete the rest of the week on your own. Think about your schedule this week. When is a good time and what is a good place for you to do your GodTime? Maybe it’s at the kitchen counter before school or in your bedroom right before you go to bed. Once you figure out a place, put your Bible and your GodTime in that spot! Remember, we hand these out every week to help you **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God.**

“Let’s pray together. God, thank You for giving us Your Word, the Bible, so we can hear from You. Thank You for the people in our lives who follow You who can help us hear from You, too! We want to be listeners who hear what You have to say to us and followers who actually DO what You’ve called us to do. Help us love You and love others well this week. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

NOTE: Encourage Kids to bring their completed God Time sheets back next week for a prize!