

LESSON 4 – HEARING GOD **YO! LISTEN UP!**

To the Teacher: As God’s children, we must realize that He is interested and involved in every aspect of our lives. Therefore, He is always speaking to us and we have a responsibility to learn to recognize and listen to His voice. This is how we can empower His kingdom on earth and in our lives.

Concept:
Hearing God

Objectives/Goal:

- The student will discover how to listen to God.
- The student will learn to recognize the voice of God.

Plan Ahead:

- Divide students into small groups.
- Print out copies of scriptures and questions to be discussed and used as Take-Home Handout.
- Ask students to bring their Bibles and have extras available for those who do not have one.
- Print out 4 copies of the skit and pick 4 students to characterize the skit.

Launch Out:

Activation: Teacher introduces a whole group activity:

- Students, we are going to start today’s lesson with an exciting activity!
- We are going to challenge ourselves to open our heart, mind, and ears to listen for God’s voice.
- God’s ways of speaking can only be heard when we turn our attention towards Him and listen up.
- So, we will ask God two questions and remain quiet for a few minutes to listen.

(Teacher leads)

- “Lord, if you could show me anything on earth, what would it be?... Why?”
(Give a minute or two of quiet time to listen.)
- Where did God want to take you and why?
- What did you realize through this? (Group shares.)

Looking Forward:

Teacher introduces the play, the characters, and the scene.

Skit (cast: 4 students; scene: God, Adam, Eve, Serpent in the Garden of Eden).

God: (commands Adam and Eve) “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden; But you must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat it you will surely die.”

Serpent: (speaks softly and sweetly) “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

Eve: “We may eat fruit of the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ”

Serpent: (speaks with evil deception) “You will not surely die! For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Eve: (read) – “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked.

Break Out:

Teacher introduces small group activity:

1. We found out through this play which was based on Genesis 2 and 3 that Satan, our enemy, also has the ability to speak to us.
2. We also discovered that when Eve “listened” to the serpent/Satan, she empowered his kingdom.
3. How can we know this? Let’s look, once again, at the serpent’s first question to Eve and Eve’s response to him.
4. As you can see, the serpent twisted God’s words and Eve followed his path by, actually, adding a lie to what God had said.
5. As Eve empowered the Enemy’s kingdom by listening to him and following his footsteps, so can we.
6. We will miss out on God’s guidance and blessing by listening to the wrong voice.

The enemy's voice always "mirrors" God's words and message but "twists" His truth in order to deceive. Keep this in mind as you go into your small groups. I want you to find the answers to the following two questions and discuss what you discover (questions and Bible verses are given to each group):

1. How can we tell whose voice we are hearing?
2. How can we learn to recognize God's voice?

Teacher brings students back to whole group and elicits responses:

Teacher: Bank tellers are trained to recognize fake money by handling the real thing over and over again. So, how did you discover that we could recognize God's voice? (groups share)

1. What are some of the voices we hear? (Our own, parents, peers, news, books, movies, magazines, the enemy, God's).
2. What are we filling our mind with?
3. How can listening to the wrong voice get us in trouble? We can be sure that our Enemy will use any and all means available to him to convince us that his lies are truth. He wants to keep us from receiving God's blessings! Therefore, we must not empower his kingdom by speaking or doing anything that is not of God. Declaring/speaking is the means God established to create everything and He says in Proverbs 18 that we will eat the fruit of our mouth. We must be careful that our mouth agrees with God and not the enemy.

Take Away:

The realization that both God and Satan can and do speak to us. That it is our job to discern whose voice we are hearing and choose what voice we want to follow. The discovery that it is most important to learn to recognize God's voice through familiarity; that this is accomplished by dwelling in His Word and listening to our Pastors teach about His ways and character. Also, that learning to listen, declare and agree with God's truth will empower His kingdom in us and through us.

Going Forward:

(Activation) **Teacher leads** – Please be still for a moment and ask the Holy Spirit this question: Whose voice am I listening to right now and what am I empowering to influence my life?

Discuss.

Have students repeat the following declaration:

Declaration: I am special and unique ...and God considers me His friend... I can trust Him because He loves me... and wants what is good for me... I know that He is talking to me all the time... and I will hear and agree with what He says... I want to release the power of agreement... into His good plans for me... because He assures me in Jeremiah 29:11... that His plans are to prosper me ...and not to harm me... They are to give me...a hope and a future... I trust God, my Father.

Teacher's Summary:

In today's lesson, we discovered that both God and other voices speak to us constantly. We learned that we have a responsibility to God and ourselves to recognize and hear His voice. We discovered that God's voice produces good fruit and that good fruit produces joy and peace in our lives; that we have a choice in this matter as to whether we listen, hear, and follow Him.

Teacher ends with prayer: "Let us end this lesson with a prayer."

Father God, we thank you that you left us Your Word and Your Holy Spirit so that we could know You and so that You could speak to us. Help us to remember that because of Your love, You promised to walk with us and to talk with us, always. You want to be involved in both the big and little things in our life because you care. There is nothing we cannot bring to you. In Jesus' Name we pray.

Small Group Activity

(Take-Home Handout)

1. Who is talking?
2. Why are they talking?

Genesis 2:16-17

Genesis 3:1-6

Jeremiah 29:10b-11

John 10:2-5

Deuteronomy 4:30

Romans 10:17

Genesis 22:18

As you look at all of these scriptures, why do you think God wanted to talk to his people?