



# Hope Kids

## Change the World

October 2019



### Children's Weekly Programs

**SUNDAY**  
8:30 Worship  
10:00 Sunday  
School  
11:00 Worship

**WEDNESDAY**  
5:00 Dinner  
5:45 Small Groups

## Listen Up!

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK JESUS:

1. To help build your family members' listening skills and relationships.
2. To show you how to listen to and engage with God.
3. To keep you focused on God's voice, not on all the competing voices from the world.

"God gave you two ears and one mouth for a reason." Like most parents, you've likely heard—or at least thought—this before. The symbolism rings true: Listening more than we speak shows that we care about people's needs and feelings. Listening also helps us understand others better and grow closer to them.

That applies to our faith lives, too. Because listening is an integral component of worship and prayer, it's vital for maintaining a strong relationship with our Creator and Savior. God speaks to us through his Word, through his answers to prayer, and through our fellow Christians traveling on this journey with us.

Being a good listener—to people as well as to God—is an acquired skill.

Even adults need reminders and practice to remain alert, open, and attentive to one another and to God. That's especially true these days, when many distractions and other "voices" threaten to pull us away from faithfully following our true Leader.

Faith becomes "sticky," according to researcher Kara Powell, through give-and-take conversations among parents and children. That means it's important to listen as much—or more than!—you talk. Kids' questions and observations provide a window into their faith development and into how we can encourage continued growth.

So, put on your "listening ears" to discover even more auditory insights.



## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### The Master's Voice

Set up an obstacle course and blindfold someone to be led through it. Also choose a leader. Say: **Our blindfolded person must follow this leader's voice to make it through the course. The leader will always give the correct directions, but the rest of us will loudly call out wrong directions to try to drown those out.**

Give everyone a turn to be led. Then ask: **How did it feel to be blindfolded and not know which voice to trust? How is this like or unlike trying to hear God's voice in a chaotic world? What things can prevent us from hearing the quiet voice of God?**

Read aloud John 10:2-5. Ask: **How can we know which voice to follow? How can we become more careful listeners of God's voice? What are some ways God helps us learn to hear his voice and speaks to us?**

Say: **Let's ask God to help us listen carefully to his voice.** Close in prayer.

## Listening and Learning

Listening has a powerful effect on the person who's listening as well as on the person who's being listened to. It helps us make connections with one another, shows respect, and incites our curiosity. Listening well also makes us better speakers. We can communicate more effectively when we've taken the time—and remained silent long enough—to hear out someone else. Listening is just the first step, however. We also need to *act* on what we're hearing and put our learning into practice. As James 1:22 (ESV) says, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only!"

**Look & Listen** Hide a small object and tell family members you'll give them clues to find it. Play loud music and start saying clues without shouting. Afterward, discuss how the noise affected the ability to hear and how people overcame that. Read aloud (or summarize) 1 Samuel 3:1-21 and ask: "How did Samuel know when God was speaking to him? How can we learn to hear God's voice?" Say: "Let's remind each other to tune out earthly noises so we can hear God!"

**Be Still** For this exercise, allow adequate time between steps. Hand out paper and pencils. Read aloud Psalm 46:10 and say: "Think about what this verse means." (Pause.) Say: "Close your eyes and listen for sounds nearby." (Pause.) Say: "Now listen for God's voice." (Pause.) Say: "Write or draw what you feel and hear." When everyone's finished, discuss your experiences and how being still helps us hear God better.

**Stop, Drop & Follow** Read aloud (or summarize) Acts 9:1-20. Have family members act out being Saul. Shine a flashlight and say: "Drop to the ground! Saul couldn't see, so close your eyes." (Pause.) Say: "Now stand up and listen up!" Give a simple

stomping feet, or repeating a phrase. Then have everyone open their eyes and stand up. Repeat, issuing a new command each time. Afterward, ask: "What was it like to listen to and follow directions when you couldn't see? What did Jesus want Saul to do?" Say: "Jesus wants us to listen to him and follow him. Then we can tell others about Jesus so they can follow him, too!"

**"I" Am Listening** Give each person 10 marbles. Say: "Mingle and talk about your day—but without saying the word *I*. If you do, anyone who hears it gets a marble from you." After five minutes, count marbles. Ask: "What was it like to avoid saying *I*?" Read aloud Philippians 2:3-4. Ask: "Why does God tell us to focus on others, not on ourselves? How does listening closely show that we care about other people?"

**Actions Speak Volumes** On index cards, write the names of famous Bible people (one per card). Take turns silently acting out what each is known for. Read aloud Ecclesiastes 3:7. Ask: "How did you know who those people were? Why do we often remember actions more than words? How can we combine our actions

### Important Children's Dates

- 10/6 Christmas play practice begins. 4-5 PM
- 10/20 Fall Festival 4-6 PM
- 10/30 Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown party 6 PM

"Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you." —Isaiah 55:3