



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Recognizing God's Voice

**God can and does speak to me.
Sometimes I need to
stop and listen.**

Recognizing God's Voice

Leader Guide

Engage:

Play a game of MadLibs. You can search online how to create your own. Make sure they are easy enough for your group to do. Afterwards, talk with the kids about how difficult it was to hear what others were saying when everyone was talking at the same time. Explain that when you really listened, you were able to figure out what was being said. Sometimes there are so many distractions around us that we miss hearing what God is saying to us. Spending quiet time with God is so important because it allows us to recognize His voice in the midst of everything around us.

Discuss:

Have the kids open up their Bibles and read together
1 Samuel 3

Samuel was just a kid when God spoke to him. God called to him in the middle of the night, and at first, Samuel didn't recognize that it was God's voice. It took a few times, but Samuel finally said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Sometimes God is speaking to us, but we are so busy that we miss hearing His voice.

Sometimes when God is speaking, we don't realize that it is Him speaking to us.

It is important to take time and listen to what God is saying. He speaks to us in many different ways such as through a friend/pastor, when we read our Bibles, through a feeling in your heart, etc.

—When was a time that God spoke to you?

—How does God speak in our lives?

—Why is it important to listen when God speaks?

Response:

Have the kids take their Bibles and find a quiet spot in the room. Ask them to spend some time in prayer, listening for God to speak to them. Encourage them in their prayer time to not always just be talking to God, but to take moments where they allow God to speak to them. Have the kids gather back together, and ask if God shared anything that they would want to share with the group. Allow a few of the kids to share. If anyone didn't hear God speak to them in that moment, encourage them to continue to spend time listening. God spoke to Samuel at night, and God WILL speak to kids today. Remind them that He has given them the gift of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide them.

Memorize:

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27, NLT)

Write each word of the verse on a balloon and put the balloons in order. Have the kids say the verse together. Once they have said it, have the kids choose a balloon to pop. With popped balloon in hand have the kids say the verse again. Keep going until all the words are popped!

Create:

Give each child a piece of paper and crayons. Think of some easy designs for younger kids and more challenging designs for older kids. Tell the kids that they have to listen to your instructions and draw the picture how you describe it. Afterwards, share with the kids how important it was for them to follow what you were saying and to do what you said in order for the drawing to become what it was supposed to be. Examples for drawings: tree, dog, house, flower

Recognizing God's Voice

What was the Big Idea?
God _____ and _____ speak to _____.
Sometimes I _____ to
_____ and _____.

This week spend some time
listening for God to speak to you.

Memory Verse:

My sheep listen to my voice;
I know them, and they follow me.
John 10:27 (NLT)