

Hearing God

OBJECTIVE: *To recognize that God communicates with us.*



WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about following the Lord. Here are some suggestions.

- "Behold, Behold"
- "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
- "Into My Heart"
- "O How I Love Jesus"
- "Open Our Eyes, Lord"
- "The Lord Is My Shepherd"
- "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

STORY

Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42

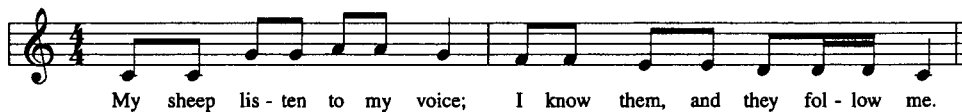
- Jesus comes to Mary and Martha's house where Mary sits at Jesus' feet and listens to him.
- Martha asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her.
- Jesus says Mary is doing the best thing by sitting and listening to him.

Choose two girls to portray Mary and Martha, and a boy to represent Jesus. Let each girl drape a scarf or towel around her head as a costume. Let the boy wear one around his shoulders. Tell the story and let the children act it out as you tell it.

MEMORY VERSE

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

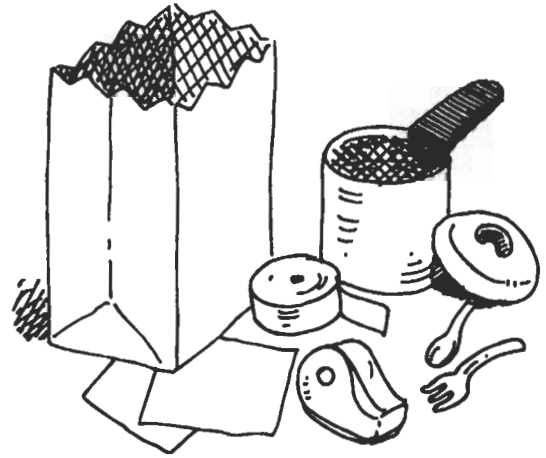
Help the children remember this verse by singing it to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."



ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

SOUNDS. Before you meet, gather some household items that make sounds (cooking pot and lid, spoon and fork, music box, stapler, roll of tape, paper, Velcro, bell). Put them in a box or bag. For the activity, everyone closes his eyes. Make a sound with each item and let everyone guess what it is. Read John 12:27-29 and Numbers 12:6-8. Talk about hearing God. Say: "Each object you listened to had a purpose. What is God's purpose for you?"



GUESS THE ANIMAL. Each person thinks of an animal sound to make. Each person makes his chosen sound. The others guess what animal it is. Discuss listening, especially listening to God.

CODES TO TAP. On a piece of paper, write the Morse code.

A = _ .	B = _ ..	C = _ . .	D = _ . .	E = .	F = _ . .
G = _ . .	H = _ . . .	I = . .	J = _ . . .	K = _ . .	L = _ . .
M = _ . .	N = _ .	O = _ . . .	P = _ . . .	Q = _ . . .	R = . .
S = . . .	T = _	U = . .	V = . . .	W = _ . .	X = _ . .
Y = _ . . .	Z = _ . . .				

Show this code to everyone. Let each person write the following verse in code on a piece of paper: "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me" Psalm 138:8. Let them tap the code and listen. Let them write and tap their names in code. Listen. Discuss the importance of the receiver listening carefully for what the sender of the code is tapping.

DESIGN-A-CODE. Challenge everyone to make their own codes with a design to represent each letter of the alphabet. They can write the Scripture as in the above activity, using their own code. Talk about how we hear from God.

DROP THE MESSAGE. Give one person an envelope with Psalm 138:8 inside it. The other players sit in a circle, hands behind their backs. The person with the envelope walks outside of the circle, dropping the envelope into another player's hands. That player tries to tag him before he can run around the circle and take that player's place. Whoever is not able to sit in that place becomes the next messenger. The last messenger reads the message in the envelope. Talk about how God communicates with us.

QUESTIONS

1. Where can we find messages from God?
2. What might keep someone from hearing another person? What might keep someone from hearing God?
3. How can we listen to God?

KIDS' COUNCIL

BRING IT HOME

- Mary listened to Jesus as he taught her about God. Where can you find out about God?
- How often do your parents talk to you? How often does your best friend talk to you? If God is your Father and Jesus is your best friend, how often do you think they want you to talk with them and listen to them?
- When you listen for God's voice, how do you know it's God talking to you? What else could it be?
- How will you listen for God this week?

SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- Thank God for speaking to us through the Bible and through the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
- Spend some time listening to God. The younger the children, the shorter this time should be.

ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Are you more like Mary or Martha?
- When is your favorite time to spend private time with your Father in heaven?
- How did God communicate with Abraham? with Joseph? with Moses? with David after he had sinned with Bathsheba? with Paul on the road to Damascus? with Ananias in Damascus? with Cornelius? Who decided how God would communicate with all these people? Who decides how God will communicate with you? Why?
- Read and discuss John 10:1-5. How can you get to know the Good Shepherd's voice?
- What are some ways in which God communicates with you?
- What are some things that might be like static, keeping us from hearing from God?

SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

Crisp, Crunchy Snacks. Set out snacks that are crisp and crunchy: chips, pretzels, celery sticks, carrot sticks, apple slices. Ask everyone to listen to their snack and make up a word that describes the sound their snack makes when they bite into it. Talk about listening to God.

