

LISTEN

God Story:

The Prophet Isaiah | Isaiah 7, 40

Big Idea:

When we listen to God, we hear from him.

Key Verse:

I will listen to what God the Lord says. He promises peace to his faithful people. | Psalm 85:8a (NIRV)

Leader Tips:

Take time this week to listen to God and prepare well for this lesson. Pray for your group before the kids arrive.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Use the discussion questions about listening to set the tone for your group's time together and lead into today's lesson.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Instruct the kids to do a series of fun actions—with their eyes closed. Connect the importance of listening to the Big Idea.

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching together.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes ***
Play a game to review today's teaching, then spend some time in quiet reflection.
- 5. Wrap-Up Activity** **8 minutes**
Fill in the blanks on a Key Verse activity page, which the kids can take home and use to learn Psalm 85:8.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**
Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

* Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tips:

- This is meant to be a casual conversation as the kids arrive. Move on quickly to the Intro Activity so that you have adequate time for it before watching the teaching video.
- Model open sharing by contributing to the conversation yourself. Talking with a partner instead of the whole group will help some kids feel more comfortable.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Ask:
 - Whom do you listen to the most?
 - Do you ever hear them speaking—but you're not really listening to what they're saying? (e.g., you're watching TV and a parent asks you to do something, but you ignore them)
 - Have you ever been asked to do something (e.g., clean your room or do your homework), but you did not do it? Why didn't you do it?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Let everyone know that you're starting a new series called Hearing God.

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Make sure there's plenty of space around the kids so they're safe as they move around with their eyes closed. Be sure to remove any obstacles and modify the actions as needed for your group.

Instructions:

- Gather everyone together in an open area.
- Explain that the kids must listen to your directions and follow them as well as they can.
- Read the following instructions, pausing after each set and inviting the kids to open their eyes to see if they're all in the same position:
 - Close your eyes. Sit down cross-legged and facing me. Raise your right hand in the air and put up two fingers.
 - Close your eyes. Turn yourself around three and a half times, raise your left leg, and put a hand on your head.
 - Close your eyes. Take one big step backward, do a jumping jack, and curl up in a ball on the floor.
 - Close your eyes. Clap your hands twice, kneel down on the floor, and put your hands behind you.
- To wrap up, emphasize that sometimes we hear what people say, but we don't actually listen to what is being said. We never want to do that with God!
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **When we listen to God, we hear from him.**



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Leader Tip:

- Make sure the kids understand the links between today's Big Idea, the God Story, and the Life Story.

Instructions:

- a. Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (The Prophet Isaiah | Isaiah 7, 40)
 - Key Verse segment
 - Life Story (Kathryn Dorta shares a story about listening to God.)
- b. Discuss:
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - How do you think these two stories and today's Big Idea (**When we listen to God, we hear from him**) connect?



4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- A, B, and C signs
- Buttons
- Peace stickers

Leader Tip:

- Be sure that each person gets at least one sticker. The kids will use them in the next activity.

Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Place the three signs in the middle of the circle.
- Give each person a button.
- Explain that you will ask a question, then the kids will show whether they think the answer is A, B, or C by placing their button on the corresponding sign.
- Read aloud the following questions, pausing after each one for the kids to choose an answer and place their button on a sign:
 - Today's God Story was about a prophet named A. Isaac; B. Isaiah; C. Ezekiel
 - A prophet is someone who A. makes a lot of money; B. does all kinds of miracles; C. speaks on behalf of God
 - Isaiah's job was difficult when people didn't A. listen; B. pay him; C. know him
 - "Immanuel" means A. God is awesome; B. God with us; C. God rocks
 - Isaiah prophesied about A. Jesus' birth; B. Jesus' death; C. both Jesus' birth and death
 - Today's Big Idea is: When we listen to God A. he shouts; B. we hear from him; C. he asks us to write things down
- Give a sticker to whoever answers correctly.
- Explain that the prophets in the Old Testament were the people who heard from God. Today, we

can hear from God, too! When we follow Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit in our lives, and the Holy Spirit "speaks" to us in a variety of ways.

h. Discuss:

- How do you think God speaks to us? (e.g., through other people; through an inner voice; through life events; through the Bible; in prayer)
- Have you ever been quiet and listened for God before?

i. Let the kids know that the group will be trying a listening prayer.

j. Ask everyone to sit quietly and close their eyes.

k. Pray, "God, thank you that when we listen to you, we hear from you. Help us to hear from you."

l. Encourage the kids to take a deep breath in and out while they trace around the fingers of one hand with a finger from the other hand.

m. Prompt them to pray silently (e.g., "God, I love you and want to hear you..."), or to be quiet and still.

n. Wrap up the prayer out loud for the group.

o. Remind the kids that we won't all have the same experiences because people hear from God in many different ways.

p. Ask if anyone felt as if God had a message for them during the prayer.

5. WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Key Verse activity pages
- Peace stickers from Small Group Activity
- Markers

Before the Activity:

- Place the Key Verse sign where everyone can see it.

Leader Tips:

- Make sure everyone's names are on their pages.
- If you run out of time, give each person an activity page and a sticker to take home and provide them with instructions.

Instructions:

- Gather everyone back together in a large group.
- Review the new Key Verse for this series. Practise saying it together a few times.
- Give each person an activity page.
- Place the markers where everyone can reach them.
- Encourage the kids to fill in the blanks in the verse with drawings and/or by writing the words. They can use their sticker on the "peace" blank.
- Invite them to show their work to one another.

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

Leader Tip:

- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card as well as the monthly Key Verse card and colouring page.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.