

LESSON 2 – HEARING GOD **GOD COMMUNICATES WITH YOU!**

To the Teacher: By studying about God, we can learn to know His character and recognize His presence with us. Bob Hamp, in his book **Think Differently Live Differently** states, “If you are looking, listening, or tuned in to the many ways God speaks, I believe you will find He is deeply invested in communicating with you.” This lesson is intended to raise the student’s awareness that God wants to have a close relationship with each of them and desires to speak to them individually to help grow that relationship!

Concept:

Hearing God

Objectives/Goal:

- To develop a clear awareness that God wants to talk to each one of us.
- To help the student understand that God’s character is love.
- To have a personal experience communicating with God.

Plan Ahead:

- Provide a chart or poster board to write down the students’ discoveries about God’s character.
- Watch your time in the first part of the lesson because the activation at the end must not be cut short.
- Familiarize yourself with the various accounts of God speaking directly to His children listed under “Looking Forward.”
- The students may want to look some of them up in their Bibles.
- Be sure that Saul/Paul is one of the examples you use.
- Practice the Activation under “Going Forward” and share with your students what the Holy Spirit has shown you as an example to help them get started.

Launch Out:

Introduction:

Last week we were asked to really focus on the price God paid so that we could be saved and live an abundant life in relationship with Him. We were supposed to live our week with that in mind.

Teacher asks:

- How did discovering the price God (the Father) paid for you, impact your week?
- What does that price say to you about God’s character?
- It’s important to know God’s character because it gives us discernment.
- Discernment means that we can tell what we are hearing is from God or somewhere else.
- It can also help us uncover lies.
- Knowing the character of God and His Word helps us judge if what we are hearing is really from God. It is a great measuring tool.

Looking Forward:

(This could also be used as an alternate small group activity if you select some of the scriptures and have each group look up a few of them.)

Teacher introduces whole group discussion and elicits student responses: Why would someone as awesome as God want to talk to His children? Ask the students to list people in the Bible that God spoke to. Here are scripture references for some of the examples the students may suggest – or assign them to look up several of the scriptures and share. Be sure to use the example of Saul’s miracle conversion on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:1-6)

God spoke to people in dreams: **Jacob** - Genesis 28:11-12; 31:11-12 ~ **Joseph, Pharaoh, butler and baker** - Genesis 37 -41 ~ **Solomon** - 1Kings 3:5-15 ~ **Nebuchadnezzar** - Daniel 2:1,31; 4:5-8 ~ **Daniel** - Daniel 7:1-28 ~ **Joseph** - Matthew 1:20,21 ~ **Wise men** - Matthew 2:11-12 ~ **Pilate’s wife** - Matthew 27:19.

God also spoke directly to people: **Cain** - Gen 4:6 ~ **Noah** - Gen 6:13-21, 7:1-4 ~ **Job and his friends** - Job 38:1-4,2:6 ~ **Isaac** -Gen 26:2 ~ **Jacob** - Gen 28:13-15 ~ **Joshua** - Jos 6:2-5 ~ **Samuel** - 1Sa 3:4-14 ~ **David** - 1Sa 23:2, 5:19 ~ **Nathan** - 2Sa 7:4-16 ~ **Solomon** - 1Ki 3:5-15 ~ **Elijah** -1Ki 19:9-18 ~ **Isaiah** - 2Ki 20:4 ~ **Jonah** - Jon 1:1-2 ~ **Ezekiel** - Eze 1:3 ~ **Hosea** - Hos 1:2-5 ~ **People at Jesus’s baptism** - Mat 3:17 ~ **Mary through Gabriel** - Luke 1:26-38 ~ **Saul/Paul** - Act 9:3-6, 18:9.

1. Why would God talk to someone as unworthy as Saul on the road to Damascus?
2. Was there anything wonderful about Saul that would make him worthy enough for God to talk to?
3. If God chose to talk to Saul, the arch enemy of Christians, how much more would he like to talk to us?

Teacher introduces main scripture:

John 15:11-15 (MSG)

11-15 “I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I’m no longer calling you servants because servants don’t understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father.”

1. Jesus is demonstrating his desire for intimacy – friendship – with us.
2. Why doesn’t He want to call us His servants?
3. Why does He call us His friends?
4. Unless we are “listening” to Him, we will miss so much of what He wants to share with us.

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

1. What does this scripture mean to you?
2. Is this the kind of relationship you want with God?
3. How can we learn to recognize His voice?

Break Out:

Teacher introduces small group activities:

1. Have them draw a small chart listing God's character on a piece of paper.
2. Then have the groups combine their charts into a big chart for the classroom. Some examples might be: justice, goodness, holiness, all-powerful, merciful, love, etc.
3. It can truly expand the picture we have in our minds about who God really is.

Teacher brings students back to whole group and elicits responses: Make a master chart of the characteristics of God. Then ask the following:

1. Is there anything on the list that would cause you to not want Him as your friend?
2. What are some of the things that you would value in Him as your friend?
3. What characteristics lead you to think that He genuinely cares about you personally?
4. Why would you be willing to trust Him with your deepest feelings?

Take Away:

God wants an intimate relationship with each one of us because He loves us, but He waits for us to let Him in. The more we know God's character, the easier it is to recognize His voice. Getting into His Word helps us become familiar with His character and His will. Like a good friend, we want to know more about Him and spend more time listening to Him.

Going Forward:

Tell the students that we are going to practice hearing God in a lighthearted exercise. God has a great sense of humor and loves just to talk to us. As we do this exercise the Lord may show you a picture, you might hear a word in your spirit, and you might just receive a thought or impression. Unless it is contrary to God's character – a discouraging or downgrading thought – just go with it. This is meant to be fun, but real.

Activation: Let's practice hearing from the Lord. **“Lord, if I were a kitchen utensil or a tool in a toolbox, what would I be and why?”**

Write down what you experience to share later. This activation time will be a precious time for you to hear God. Teachers, also expect God to speak to each one of you. Encourage the students to go with their first impressions and not try to figure things out. Trust that God is giving them this impression as long as it lines up with God's character. If not, bind up the thought and ask again.

Teacher's Summary:

Today we discovered that the Lord desires to communicate with us because He desires a close relationship with us. There is nothing we can do to become worthy for Him to talk to us, Jesus has already done that. We just simply need to practice listening. There is nothing too insignificant or too big for us to share with our friend – Father God.

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

Father God, we thank you for considering each and every one of us important to You. Your desire to have us talk with you is humbling. Help us, through the Holy Spirit, to be sensitive to your communication with us. We want to grow our friendship with you and learn to do Your will by the power of Your Spirit living in us. In Your precious Son's name we pray. Amen.