

# I Can Hear From God

Younger Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 1 • September 5/6/7

Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Kids coming back to school can feel a lot of big emotions they don't always have words for yet. During kZones, take a quick look around your group – if a kid seems quieter than usual, clingy, or just a little "off," that's your cue to move toward them. Get on their level, use their name, and keep it simple: "Hey, are you doing okay?" You don't need to fix anything, just let them know you see them. Sometimes a safe adult noticing makes all the difference.



WELCOME

**Welcome each kid by name with a high five or fist bump.**

**Ask:** *Do you have a favorite song you listen to all the time?*



PRAY

**Pray:** *Dear God, thank you that you always want to talk to us. Help us listen for your voice at home, at school, everywhere we go. We want to hear from you every single day. Amen.*



BIBLE

**Give each kid a Bible.**

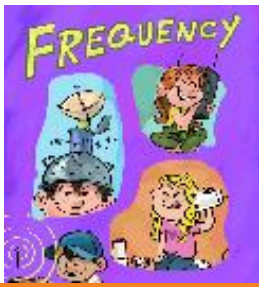
**Say:** *God isn't trying to hide his voice from you. He wants to guide you! The more you learn what he is like, especially through the Bible, the easier it becomes to recognize when he's speaking. Let's open our Bibles to learn how God is a good shepherd.*

**Read:** John 10:14-16

**Review:**

- *How does a shepherd keep his sheep safe?*
- *If a sheep got lost, what do you think the shepherd would do?*

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



# I Can Hear From God

Younger Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 1 • September 5/6/7

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

**Say:** In our Bible Story, we learned that God speaks to us in different ways. We're going to think about each one and draw or write an example.

Hold up the Ways God Speaks Activity Page and point to each box as you review the instructions.

Point to Box 1: God Speaks To Your Heart

**Say:** Sometimes God puts a thought in your heart – to be kind, tell the truth, or help someone. Draw or write a time that might happen.

Point to Box 2: God Speaks Through The Bible

**Say:** When we read the Bible, we learn what God is like and what he wants for us. Draw or write something the Bible teaches you.

Point to Box 3: God Speaks Through People

**Say:** God can use a parent, teacher, or friend to help you know what he wants. Draw or write someone who helps you hear from God.

Point to Box 4: God Speaks Through His World

**Say:** Look around at what God made – animals, mountains, the ocean, the stars. Draw something in God's creation that reminds you of him.



## CHALLENGE

Encourage kids to invite their friends to Block Bash Weekend.

**Say:** Every day this week, find one quiet moment to stop, close your eyes, and talk to God-then listen for him.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Ask:**

- Jesus says he knows his sheep – what does it mean to you that Jesus knows you?
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



## TAKE HOME

**My sheep listen to my voice.  
I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27**



# I Can Trust Jesus

Younger Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 2 • September 12/13/14 • Trusting Jesus Gathering

Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Today kids will hear about taking their next step with Jesus and every kid will respond differently. Some will be ready; others won't be, and that's okay. Your job is to create a safe space and remind every kid that Jesus loves them right where they are. If a conversation starts, lean in and be ready with resources!



WELCOME

**Welcome each kid by name.**

**Ask:**

- Have you ever been scared, but someone helped you feel better?
- Has someone ever kept a promise they made to you?



PRAY

**Say:** We are about to talk to God. You don't need a special voice or fancy words. We can come just as we are to pray.

**Pray:** Dear God, thank you that I can always trust you. When I'm scared, you are with me. When I don't know what to do, you do. Help me trust you every single day. I love you, Jesus. Amen.

**Give each kid a Bible.**

**Say:** One of the main ways God gives us what we need is through the Bible. When we read the Bible, we're learning what God says and about what matters to him. Let's open our Bibles and learn how God gave us the Bible to help us know him better.



BIBLE

**Read:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Review:**

- If God wrote the Bible, do you think it's important to read it? Why?
- The verse says the Bible helps us do good things – what's one good thing you can do this week?

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



# I Can Trust Jesus

Younger Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 2 • September 12/13/14 • Trusting Jesus Gathering

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes

Take out the ABC Adventure Game Card Set and the envelope. Complete each challenge before moving onto the next. Place the envelope in the middle of the group.

#1 A - Admit: Give each kid a piece of paper. Each kid writes or draws one thing they sometimes struggle with on the paper (they don't have to share it if they don't want to). They place their paper in the envelope in the center of the group.

- **Say:** *We all need God's help. Trusting Jesus starts by admitting we can't do life perfectly on our own.*
- **Ask:**
  - *Why can it be hard to ask when you need help?*
  - *Who do you ask for help when something is difficult?*



## ACTIVITY

#2 B - Believe: Open the folded Card and read the surprising facts one at a time. Kids will vote whether they think the fact is true or false before you reveal the answer.

- **Ask:**
  - *Why do you think it was hard for people to believe Jesus rose from the dead?*
  - *What helps you believe Jesus today?*

#3 C - Choose: Open the folded Card and read out loud the directions for the This or That activity. Take out the This or That Activity Page and have kids work together to determine which choice represents following Jesus.

- **Ask:**
  - *Is it always easy to choose Jesus' way?*
  - *What is one wise choice you could make this week?*

**Say:** *It's Block Bash weekend, and today we learned about the building blocks of what it means to trust and follow Jesus. A means to admit that we all need God's help. We can't do life perfectly on our own. B means to believe that Jesus died for our sins. C means to choose to accept the gift of forgiveness. We all have the opportunity to trust Jesus and choose to follow him. If this is something you've never done before, I would love to pray with you.*

Ask kids who would like to trust Jesus and then lead them in this simple prayer.

**Pray:** *Dear Jesus. I know that I am not perfect. Thank you for dying for my sins, and for forgiving me. I choose to trust you and believe that you have saved me. Amen.*  
Celebrate any kids who have trusted Jesus. Write their names down and submit it to your Captain so we can celebrate them.



## CHALLENGE

### Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.

- *Have you ever received a letter or card from someone you love? How did it make you feel?*
- *If your best friend wrote you a note, would you read it? What if God wrote you one?*

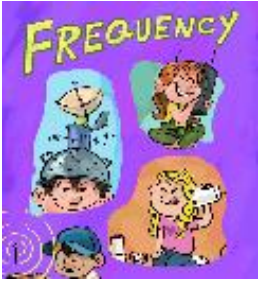


## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



## TAKE HOME

- Trust Jesus QR Code Card (1 per family, at the door)
- Building Block Straw (1 per kid, at the door)
- Block Vinyl Sticker (1 per kid, at the door)



# I Can Grow When I Stay Close To God

Younger Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 3 • September 19/20/21

Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Kids are back in school and already running into moments where someone needs help – a friend sitting alone, someone having a hard day, or a classmate who got left out. Use those real moments to bring today's lesson to life. At this age, kids are starting to figure out right from wrong – they just need someone to help them connect that feeling in their gut to what God says. Ask them what they've seen this week and let their stories lead the way.



WELCOME

**Welcome each kid by name.**

**Ask:** *If you could grow ANY fruit in your backyard, what would it be and why?*



PRAY

**Pray:** *Dear God, Thank You for being our vine. Help us stay close to you every day at school, at home, everywhere we go. We want to grow in you. Amen!*



BIBLE

**Give each kid a Bible.**

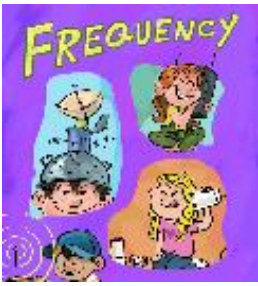
**Say:** *Have you ever seen a plant that didn't get enough water and started to droop? Today we're going to read something Jesus said that sounds a lot like gardening – but it's actually all about us and him!*

**Read:** John 15:1-2

**Review:**

- *Who does Jesus say he is in this verse? (The vine!)*
- *Who is the gardener? (God his Father!)*

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



# I Can Grow When I Stay Close To God

Younger Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 3 • September 19/20/21

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

Take out the Solo Cups with words from the Memory Verse on them. Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up John 10:27. Help kids find the verse using the table of contents, then read it together out loud several times. Review any words that might be unfamiliar.

- Set Bibles aside and place the Cups in the middle of the Group and mix them up.
- **Say:** *Each cup has a word from our verse on it – but they're all mixed up! Let's work together to put them in the right order.*
- Let kids grab Cups and work together to arrange them in a line until the full Verse is in order.
- Once assembled, read the verse together: "My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27
- Mix the cups up and repeat 2-3 times, trying to go faster each round.

**Say:** *Every time we did that, it got a little easier – right? That's exactly how hearing God's voice works. The more we listen, the more we recognize it. Jesus said his sheep know his voice. That means you can learn to hear from God too. Let's say it together: I can hear from God!*



## CHALLENGE

**Say:** *We can grow closer to God when we try to listen for him. This week, sit quietly for 30 seconds then grab a crayon and draw or write anything that comes to your heart.*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Ask:

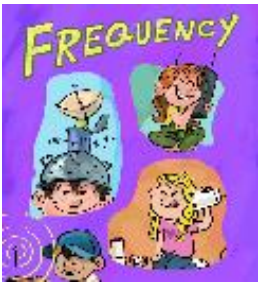
- What is one thing you learned from today's Bible Story?
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



## TAKE HOME

**My sheep listen to my voice.  
I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27**



# I Can Ask God To Speak To Me

Younger Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 4 • September 26/27/28

Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

**Kids say incredible things when they talk about prayer- don't let those moments stay in the room! When a kid shares how they've been talking to God, mention it to their parent at pick up. It only takes a moment and will mean a lot to the parent. It reminds kids that talking to God is worth celebrating – not just something we do on Sundays.**



WELCOME

**Welcome each kid by name.**

**Ask:** *If you got a phone call from someone really important, who would you most want it to be from?*



PRAY

**Pray:** *Dear God, thank you that you know our names. Help us to be still and listen. Speak, to us, we're listening. Amen!*



BIBLE

**Give each kid a Bible.**

Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the Table Of Contents.

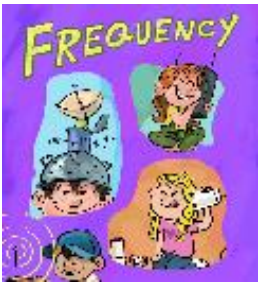
- Once there, lead them to find the name of the Book in the list. (1 Samuel)
- When they find the Book, lead them to look at the Page Number beside it.
- Explain that the Page Number tells them on what Page they can find that Book.
- Help the kids find the Page. When they find the Book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the Chapter numbers.
- Help them find the correct Chapter. (3)
- Then explain that the small numbers are Verse numbers. Help them find the correct Verse in that Chapter. (4 & 9)

**Read:** 1 Samuel 3:4 and 1 Samuel 3:9

**Review:**

- *Is it easy or hard for you to be quiet and listen?*
- *Have you ever heard someone call your name and you could tell who it was by the sound of their voice?*
- *Did you know God knows your name too? How does that make you feel?*

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



# I Can Ask God To Speak To Me

Younger Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 4 • September 26/27/28

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

Take out the Blind Fold Mix & Match Memory Verse Card Set and the Bandana. Spread out and mix up the Memory Verse Card Set in the middle of the group.

**Say:** *The words are all mixed up! But we are going to add another layer to make it a bit more challenging! Blindfolds!*

- Choose one kid to be the "listener" and have them put on the Bandana.
- Explain that the Group will help the "listener" by giving simple directions like: "Move left," "Pick that one up," or "That comes first." Next, the "listener" will pick up and place the Cards in order based on what they hear.

Begin the activity by guiding the kid to pick up one Card at a time. Let the group help direct where it should go. Continue until the Verse is in the correct order. Once complete, remove the blindfold. Read the Verse together as a group. Rotate in a new kid as the "listener" if time allows.

Adapt the game for Kindergarteners if needed by not using the blindfold.



## CHALLENGE

**Say:** *Every day this week find ways to be still and listen. Maybe you can take an extra few minutes when you wake up to sit and pray or listen for God. Or, you can try sitting outside in the fresh air asking God to guide you. God wants us to take time to listen to him!*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Ask:**

- Who called Samuel's name? (God!)
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



## TAKE HOME

**My sheep listen to my voice.  
I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27**