



5 min

# LG Opener

5 min

## Opening Game

### What You Need

No supplies needed

**HOST:** "Hey, everybody! Welcome to [your environment name]. This month, we're learning about how we can follow a Game Plan when it comes to getting to know God more! And by following this Game Plan, we'll start growing stronger in faith every day.

"There are four parts of this Game Plan to help you get to know God better—talking about God, praying to God, hearing from God, and living for God. This week, we're going to look at 'hearing from God'!

"Our Bottom Line for this week is: **[Bottom Line] Practice hearing from God!** Say that with me."

**KIDS:** "Practice hearing from God."

**HOST:** "Awesome! To get us ready, let's play a game called 'Can You Hear It?'

*SLIDE: Can You Hear It?*

"Here's how you play: I'll pick a volunteer, and we'll put a mixed-up phrase on the screen. The volunteer will sound it out, the whole crowd will repeat it, and then we'll all do the action together.

"If you want to volunteer to read some mixed-up phrases out loud to everyone, raise your hand!

*Choose a kid from the kids whose hands are raised, and instruct them to come up front.*

"Great! I'll show the first slide. It's going to be jumbled-up words, but try your best to read it out loud so everyone can hear it!

*Show the first slide.*

*SLIDE: Can You Hear It: Jump Up and Down ("Jump Upp an Downn")*

**KID:** "Jump up and down!"

**HOST:** "Yes! Everybody, jump up and down!"

"Great, let's do some more!"

*With a different volunteer each time, one at a time, show the following slides, have the volunteer read it out loud to the group, and then instruct the rest of the room to do the activity the kid reads out.*

SLIDE: "Can You Hear It: Go Say Hi to Someone" ("Go Say Hie Too Sum Wun")

SLIDE: "Can You Hear It: Tell Someone Your Favorite Color" ("Tel Sum Wun Yur Fay Vrit Cull Err")

SLIDE: "Can You Hear It: Bark Like a Dog" ("Bark Lyke Uh Dawg")

SLIDE: "Can You Hear It: Hop Like a Frog" ("Hopp Lyke Uh Frawg")

SLIDE: "Can You Hear It: Sing a Pretty Song" ("Sing Uh Prit Tee Songg")

SLIDE: "Can You Hear It: Tell a Silly Joke" ("Tel Uh Sill E Jowk")

SLIDE: "Can You Hear It: Give a Fist Bump" ("Giv Uh Fisst Bump")

"Great job, everybody! You had to really listen to figure out the words, and then you knew what to do.

"That is kind of like following Jesus. Life can be noisy, and sometimes it's hard to know what is true. But when we practice hearing from God, we know what He wants us to do.

"That is why today's Bottom Line is: **[Bottom Line] Practice hearing from God.** Say it with me!"

**KIDS:** "Practice hearing from God!"

**HOST:** "Awesome! That's a key part of our Game Plan to get to know God better!"

6 min

## Worship

### WORSHIP LEADER:

"Hey everyone! You did an awesome job in that game — give yourselves a quick clap!  
(Clap with kids.)

Now we get to do something really important together — we get to worship God.

Worship is one way we focus our hearts on God and remind ourselves who He is. This week, we're learning how to *hear from God*. And one way we listen to Him is by choosing to focus on Him instead of all the noise around us.

Our first song is loud and full of energy. It's a way for us to say, 'God, You are worth celebrating!' So let's stand up, use our voices, and worship together."

3 min

## Worship | At the Top of My Lungs

### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

## Worship | Who You Say I Am

### What You Need

No supplies needed

33 min

# Bible Story (Live)

3 min

## Introduction

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### WORSHIP LEADER:

"Great job singing, everyone!

This next song reminds us that God tells us the truth about who we are. When we listen to Him, we remember that we are loved and chosen. Let's keep worshipping together."

### WORSHIP LEADER:

"Awesome job, everyone. Thank you for worshipping God so well today. You can go ahead and take a seat.

Before we move on, let's talk to God together. Talking to God doesn't always mean using words — sometimes it means listening. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes."

### Prayer:

"God, thank You that You love us and that You speak to us. Help us to listen when You speak — through the Bible, through people who love You, and through Your Holy Spirit. Help us practice hearing from You every day. We love You, and we thank You for being close to us. Amen."

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. The two Jenga® sets should also be on the table—one built directly on the table, one built on the pillow that's on the table.

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, you guys! I'm so, so glad you're here this month! Hooray! This month we're talking about a Game Plan to get closer to God! It's a Game Plan so we can grow stronger in faith every day! This Game Plan has four parts: talk about God, pray to God, hear from God, and live for God.

"Today, we're going to talk about another important part of our Game Plan—hear from God.

"But before we get started looking at our true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're journeying through the key stories of the Bible, cover to cover.

"Why are we going to look at the story of the entire Bible? Well, part of the reason why God gave us the Bible is so we can know who He is and

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## SETTING UP THE STORY

what He is like. He wants us to learn about Him! So hopefully, as we go through the story of the Bible, we'll learn about God."

**STORYTELLER:** "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Today we're journeying right along through the Bible. We're at the part of the story where Jesus is on Earth and He's teaching us all about God and God's Kingdom! And Jesus would know about God

**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 min

**THE WISE MAN****What You Need**

No supplies needed

and His Kingdom, since He is God's Son Himself. Let's find out more about what He had to teach us!

"Has anybody played the game Jenga® before?"

*Gesture to the two Jenga® builds on the table.*

"It's a super-fun and simple game. In the game of Jenga®, a tower is built and people take turns taking one block out at a time. The goal is to keep the tower standing as long as possible.

"If one little block gets pulled, everyone holds their breath to see if it's going to fall. Sometimes the tower stands tall. Sometimes it crashes down. That's what makes it exciting.

"While Jenga is just a game, in real life, we're all building something even bigger than a tower. We're building our lives. And how we build, and what we build on, really matters.

"Today we're going to hear something Jesus taught about building on the right foundation. We'll talk about these Jenga® builds as we look at what Jesus taught us!"

**STORYTELLER:** "In Matthew 7, (*hold up your Bible*) Jesus was speaking to His friends on a mountain, and a crowd of people showed up. Jesus was teaching about God and His Kingdom. A lot of people call this teaching the Sermon on the Mount. This is a little bit of what He said:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV) and read.*

*"So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock."*

"Wow, this was such awesome teaching! Everyone put your hand up to your ear and say, 'Everyone who hears.'"

**KIDS:** "Everyone who hears!"

**STORYTELLER:** "When we follow Jesus and do what He says, we build on something strong—a solid foundation that holds up no matter what comes our way.

"Now look at this first Jenga® tower. It's sitting on a table, on a solid foundation. Before I pull a block, what do you think is going to happen? Will it fall or will it stay standing?"

*Encourage the kids to share their predictions. Then, once they're done, pull a block. The tower should wobble, but stay.*

**STORYTELLER:** "See that? It stood strong. That's like the wise man who built his house on the rock."

5 min

## THE FOOLISH MAN

### What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

### What You Need

No supplies needed

**STORYTELLER:** "Now look at this second Jenga® tower. This one is on a pillow—its foundation is on a pillow. Before I pull a block, what do you think will happen to this one? Will it fall or stay standing?"

*Encourage the kids to share their predictions. Then, once they're done, pull blocks from the Jenga® tower standing on the pillow until it collapses.*

"Of course, it's not going to stand—it's not on a solid foundation!"

"Let's see what Jesus said about the foolish man."

Open the Bible to Matthew 7:26-27 (NirV) and read.

*"But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash."*

"Wow. Notice it is almost the same thing Jesus said earlier. But did anyone notice the different words? 'Does not put them into practice.'"

"Let's see what was the same. Both people heard God's Words. Both had houses. It was the same rain that came down. The same wind blew against both houses."

"But one house stood, and one house fell. Why was that? Because someone heard the words of God but did not put them into practice."

"That is what makes the difference. Hearing what God says, like what He says in the Bible, and ignoring it leaves us weak. Hearing what God says and following it makes us strong."

**STORYTELLER:** "So my question for you today is this: Are you hearing God's words and putting them into practice? Are you truly hearing God's words? Are you truly hearing what God says?"

"To do what God says, we need to hear what God says! There are three main ways God speaks to us:

"One of the main ways God speaks to us is through His Word, the Bible. God gave us the Bible to teach us who He is. It's also a guide to becoming more like Jesus. And as you read the Bible, you aren't just reading black and white words on pages. Or you aren't just listening to words on a Bible app. God will speak to you as you read the Bible! When you're reading the Bible, you're learning about and spending time with the God of the universe!"

"Another way God speaks to you is through other people who follow Jesus. God might have something to say to you through the love and stories and encouragement of your dad, or grandma, or a Small Group Leader, or a friend who loves Jesus. God's very Spirit lives in them too, and He might speak His words for you through other people."

5 min

## GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

### What You Need

No supplies needed

"A third way God speaks to you is through God's Holy Spirit Himself. If you are a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you, and He might give you a certain phrase, or an image, or a sense of peace. He might bring a specific verse from the Bible to mind. Since He lives in Heaven and He lives in you too, the Holy Spirit can give you downloads straight from Heaven! It takes time and practice to listen to His voice, but He is speaking.

"These ways might seem overwhelming, but as a follower of Jesus, God does speak to you. He said this:

*Open the Bible to John 10:27 (NIV) and read.*

*"My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me."*

"You are God's sheep, and He is speaking to you! You can trust that! So, when you practice hearing from God and do what God says over time, like the wise man, you'll be ready when tough times come. You'll be able to stand firm!

"So, like our Bottom Line says: **[Bottom Line] Practice hearing from God.**

"Say that with me!"

Host enters and joins in.

**KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "Practice hearing from God."**

**HOST:** "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

*SLIDE: God's Big Story*

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' In our story, Jesus taught us that it's crucial to hear from God!

"God really, really wants us to hear from Him. He wants us to hear from Him so much that He sent us Jesus. Jesus is God's very own Son and God Himself! If you want to know who God is, and how He would live, and what He would say, look at Jesus. No wonder God planned years and years for Jesus. Jesus was the key to God's Big Story. And not only did Jesus show us who God is and teach us what God's Kingdom is like, He lived a perfect, sinless life while doing it. Then Jesus gave up that perfect, sinless life to pay for our sins and break the curse we were under. Jesus, the Rescuer, God Himself, gave His life to rescue us all!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

*SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image*

8 min

## Closing

5 min

### WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

### PRAYER

#### What You Need

No supplies needed

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

"This week we learned about the wise and foolish builders whom Jesus taught us about!"

**HOST:** "Today, Jesus taught us something powerful. He said listening to what God says and doing it is like a wise builder who built his house on a solid foundation. When the storms came, the house of the wise man stood strong. The foolish builder heard but ignored God's words. The foolish man built his house on sand, and when the storms came, his house fell with a crash.

"The sad truth is that foolish people may hear what God says, but it doesn't sink in. They don't put it into action. So when tough times come, they don't have a firm foundation, and things fall apart.

"But wise people practice truly hearing what God says—through reading God's Word, talking with people who love Jesus, and taking time to be quiet and listen for God's voice. And then ... they ask God to help them do what He says. And when difficult times show up ... those wise people are ready. They can stand strong!

"So, let's practice hearing from God. Through the Bible. Through other people who love Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit. And then let's do what we hear God tell us. When the storms come, we'll stand strong!"

**STORYTELLER or HOST:** "Let's take a few seconds right now to ask God to speak to you, because you are His sheep. Close your eyes and bow your heads."

*Pause for 15-30 seconds quietly.*

"Let's talk to God, ask Him to speak to us, and ask Him to help us do what He says.

"Lord, we love You. Thank You that You speak to us. Help us to practice hearing from You and doing what You say, so we will stand strong. We want to follow You like sheep follow their good shepherd. You are our Good Shepherd. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.