

What Can I Do

Week 1

BIG IDEA

I can listen to God's voice.

BIBLE

Jesus and John the Baptist: Mark 1:4–11; Psalm 29

BIBLE LESSON

- **Idea: In all things that we do, no matter what we do, we listen for God's voice.**
- **Example:** The curriculum here provides the example of an actor and a director as an analogue to John the Baptist. While eyes may be on an actor, the director sets their steps. And a good actor listens to their director. Similarly, while eyes may have been on John, he was always listening for the Father's instructions, always pointing people to God.
- **Points to Hit:**
 - **A telling of the story found in Mark 1:1-11.**
 - **John the Baptist's role was decided before he was even born. It was prophesied that someone would prepare the way for Jesus, and John was that man.**
 - **This shows us that, ultimately, God's plan is perfect and definite, and Jesus was always the plan to deal with our sin problem.**
 - **John the Baptist also lived very differently. His focus, though, and what we should take away from this, is what God wanted him to do: which was prepare the people.**
 - **Further, for John, Jesus coming and what happened at His baptism was confirmation of all John had been doing. While we may not get signs quite as bombastic, there are still ways we can know we are doing what God would have us do: growing alignment with Scripture for example.**
- **How the curriculum phrases some of the points:**
- John the Baptist was given a very important job before he was even born! He was going to tell everyone he met that a savior was coming to save them from their sins. Sin is all the stuff we do that gets in the way of having a loving relationship with God.
- John's life was very different from others — I'm sure some people even thought he was strange. But his main focus was on doing what God had planned for him to do. Instead of paying attention to what anyone else said, he listened to God's voice and did his job of preparing people for Jesus.
- He baptized people in the river to help them understand that living a new life with God meant their old lives were "washed away" in the water. Then one day, Jesus himself showed up to be baptized by John! When Jesus came up out of the water, God's voice could be heard saying that Jesus was indeed God's son and God was very pleased with him.

- John knew that he had been doing the right job all along. Because of what he heard from God, he continued to tell others about God's son, Jesus, who came to be the savior of the world.

POLL | The Voice

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids turn around in their seats and face the back of the room. Say a bunch of maxims or pieces of advice, both serious and silly. Have kids turn around in their chairs if it's something they feel like they should listen to. Have everyone face backwards before each saying. For added fun, sing these words out! Here are some suggestions . . .*
 - *Don't talk with your mouth full.*
 - *Jump on the bed as high as you can.*
 - *Cover your mouth when you sneeze.*
 - *Never wash your socks.*
 - *Look both ways before crossing the street.*
 - *Wipe dirty hands on your clothes.*
 - *Clean up after yourself.*
 - *Eat candy for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.*
 - *Drink lots of coffee.*
 - *Be kind to people you don't get along with.*
- Some of these things were solid advice that you should listen to. Other things were probably the worst bits of advice ever. We have to be able to tell which voices are the ones we should be listening to because they are the ones that lead us in the right direction. Let's learn more from the Bible story!

GAME | Can You Hear Me? Over!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the kids into two teams and give each team a set of walkie-cups (2 cups joined by one string). Have each team designate a scribe. The scribe is not allowed to listen. The scribe will sit on the receiving end of their team. Explain that the goal of the game is to have your team successfully transmit a message from one half of your team to the other. Give the transmitting half of each team a piece of paper with a message. On go, each team may begin communicating the message using the cups. To make sure that each kid gets a chance to communicate, you can add the stipulation that the teams must rotate their talker and listener every 10 seconds. The team whose scribe fully writes down the message (and accurately) first wins.*
- **Take-away:** Thank goodness that our "walkie-talkie" connection with God is never out of range or has interference because God can hear us really clearly at all times. That's because God is always close to us! Now the question is, are you staying close to God? Or are you moving away from the places where you can hear God's voice the best?
- **I can listen to God's voice** most clearly when I am tuned in closely and learning from God's words.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up posters around the room labeled with (or with pictures of) places and times we can listen for God's voice (or you can pick from the list below). Have kids spend a minute or two at each poster and think about what God might be saying to them in each of these places or how they can better listen for God's voice there.*
- **How are some ways you can listen for God's voice when you are . . .**
 - **At church?**
 - **At the beach or on a hike?**
 - **About to fall asleep?**
 - **Just waking up in the morning?**
 - **Listening to or playing music?**
 - **Drawing or painting a picture?**
 - **Playing with your friends?**
 - **Helping out at home?**
- We can hear God's voice when we do all of these things! No matter where you are or what you're doing, God is with us and speaking to us. Do you know what else that means? Whatever job you end up having in the future, God will guide you and be with you.
- How awesome is it to know that you and **I can listen to God's voice** anytime, anywhere?

ACTIVITY | Listen Up!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pre-cut or help kids cut out the bottom of a large paper or foam cup. Have them use washi tape, stickers, permanent markers, and fringed tissue paper to decorate their own mini megaphone. (See a worked example [here](#).)*
- Directors use megaphones to help them be louder as they give out instructions to the performers. When we hear God speaking to us through the Bible or someone we trust, we can turn up the volume by listening more closely. **I can listen to God's voice.**

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **Who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus?** (*John the Baptist.*)
 - **Why did Jesus come to see John?** (*To be baptized.*)
 - **What did God's voice say when Jesus was baptized?** (*"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*)
 - **Read Psalm 29:3-9. What are some ways the psalmist describes the "voice of the Lord"?** (*It is over the waters, powerful, majestic, breaks the cedars, strikes with flashes of lightning, shakes the desert, twists the oaks, strips the forests bare.*)
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- **What does it mean to listen to God's voice?**
- **What are some ways that God speaks?**
- **Who are the voices you can listen to that help you know what God is saying to you?**

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for speaking to us in all the ways you do. Help us not only hear your voice but listen and obey it too. Amen.