

“God Speaks” - LESSON 6

“Why Don’t I Hear God Speak?”

Main Focus:

We must remove all obstacles to hearing God’s voice



Power Verse:

“O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying.”
- Psalm 78:1



Watt’s Up:

“I Will Keep My Ears Tuned In To God!”

LEADER’S INFO

Remember the story of the young boy, Samuel, that we already learned about in Lesson 2? Well, in this lesson the kids are going to learn the REST of the story. The reason God spoke to Samuel was because the priest, Eli, disobeyed God and refused to listen to His instructions.

Because of Eli’s disobedience, Eli no longer heard God’s voice – so God used Samuel to speak to Eli and give him an important message.

In this lesson, the children are going to learn all about God’s message to Eli and how sometimes there are things in our lives that keep us from clearly hearing from God. They will learn to remove those obstacles and listen carefully when “God Speaks.”



“The Spark” Intro Video

“The Okrah Report”



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“Kent Hearya”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Rings Around Your Face”



Bible Story

“Eli Disobeys God”



Power Verse Video

“O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying.”

- Psalm 78:1



Call To Action

“Why Don’t I Hear God Speak?”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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Power Verse:

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Watt’s Up:

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PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience

ORDER OF SERVICE

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CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Kent Hearya” (the old grandpa every kid dreams of having. He’s spry, energetic, and is a big believer of staying “young at heart.” His only problem is his TERRIBLE sense of hearing – the primary source of his confusion.)

KENT: *(comes out)* Stop the music! Cut the music!

Leader: What’s wrong, Kent? You’re usually so happy to be here!

KENT: I am happy to be here, but I can only be out here for a minute!

Leader: Is something wrong?

KENT: No, nothing’s wrong! Sometin’s goin’ RIGHT! Oi’ Kent Hearya has got a DATE!

Leader: A DATE?

KENT: *(happily slaps the leader on the back)* Yep! Here name’s ZELDA! We’re gonna go play some BINGO! Then we’re gonna cut a rug!

Leader: You’re going dancing?

KENT: Nope, she signed us up for a rug-making class. I’ve got a LOT to do, so I thought I’d come out here and make this quick! I’ve only got ONE thing to say!

Leader: Well, what are you going to say?

KENT: PHOOEY! *(waves at the kids)* Okay, goodbye! *(turns to walk away)*

Leader: Wait, wait, “phooey?”

KENT: *(turns back around)* No, I didn’t say “KABLOOIE”, I said PHOOEY! Phooey to all this mess you’re teaching these kids today! Of course we can’t smell God’s feet, what’s wrong with that? God doesn’t have athlete’s foot! He doesn’t have stinky gym socks!

Leader: No, no, NO. Why would we even talk about that?

KENT: Don’t ask ME! I’m out here trying to teach you somethin’ and you’re goin’ on and on about why we can’t smell God’s feet!

Leader: Nooooo, we’re talking about why sometimes we can’t HEAR GOD SPEAK. You know, how sometimes we’ll be waiting for a word from God and we’re just not hearing anything?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

KENT: Oh that’s EASY! Y’know, sometimes maybe there’s sin in our life and it’s blocking what God is saying!

Leader: That’s true! Or sometimes we’re disobeying God and He needs us to start OBEYING His word before He can give us a message!

KENT: Yup! Or maybe we’re just too busy to hear Him! We’re so caught up with running around all willy-nilly that His voice is being drowned out by a lot of other junk! We gotta take time to just sloooooowwwww down and listen!

Leader: That’s very true Kent! Just because we can’t hear God, doesn’t mean He’s not saying anything. The kids are going to learn a lot more about it in their lesson today.

KENT: What’d you say?

Leader: I SAID THE KIDS ARE LEARNING ABOUT THAT IN THEIR LESSON TODAY.

KENT: Sorry, sonny! I can’t babysit you’re cat! These kids have a lesson to learn! *(looks at his watch)* GREAT GOOGA-MOOGA! I gotta go! *(looks back up at the leader)* I’ll see you later, youngin’! Now if you’ll excuse me, it’s Bingo night, and I don’t wanna keep Zelda waiting! Us old folks gotta stick together!

Leader: Just how old are you?

KENT: How old am I? Why, I’m so old that I walked into an Antique store and they tried to sell me! I’ll see you later boys and girls! I’m Kent Hearya, and age is just a number!

(Kent dances off as “Kent Hearya’s Theme” video plays from the DVD)



GAME ON!

“Rings Around Your Face”

Items Needed For Game:

two large bags of Life Savers candies; pack of baby wipes; stopwatch

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Preparation:

Choose one boy and one girl to play in this game; give each contestant a bag of Life Savers candies

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How To Play:

When you say, “Go!”, the contestants have one minute to lick as many of the Life Savers candies as they can and stick them on their own face. The contestant that has the most Life Savers stuck to their contestant’s face at the end of sixty seconds is declared the winner!

Use the baby wipes to clean the contestants’ faces when the game is over.



Bible Story

“Eli Disobeys God”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 6; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in I Samuel 2,3,4; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Remember the young man, Samuel, that we learned about in an earlier lesson? He was a young boy who lived in the temple, serving under the priest, Eli. He heard God speak to him. However, there is more to this story than meets the eye.

Eli’s sons also worked in the temple. They were in charge of helping people with the lambs and sheep that they brought for sacrificing at the temple. (*show pic*) Eli’s sons were very wicked. They were constantly stealing some of the meat that people were offering to God and keeping it for themselves. This was not right, and God was not pleased.

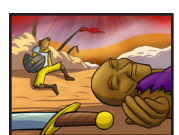
(*show pic*) God sent a prophet to Eli to give him a word from God. “The Lord says to STOP your sons from sinning in this way!” This was a very clear message. You would think that Eli would take this to heart and obey what God had commanded, but he didn’t. (*show pic*) Eli stood by and allowed his sons to continue in their sin. He didn’t like it, but he didn’t discipline his sons and make them stop.

So, because Eli disobeyed and refused to correct his sons, he found himself no longer able to hear from God. That’s when God decided to send a message through Samuel. (*show pic*) God woke Samuel up in the middle of the night. At first, Samuel didn’t know it was God. But, once he realized it, he listened to what God had to say. God gave him a very important message for Eli.

The next morning, Eli demanded of Samuel, (*show pic*) “Tell me EVERYTHING God said.” So, Samuel explained the message God had given him. He told Eli that God was going to punish his two sons for all of their sin. They would be killed on the battlefield.

Eli wasn’t happy at all. He simply said, “May it be as God has said.” And, that’s exactly what happened. (*show pic*) Eli’s sons were killed on the battlefield not long after that. What a sad situation that only happened because Eli refused to obey God. When he refused to obey, he no longer heard the voice of God speaking.

Today, we are going to learn all about how different things often keep us from hearing from God. One of them is sin and disobedience. We will learn about all of them and how to overcome these obstacles in our lesson.





Call To Action

“Why Don’t I Hear God Speak?”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; several cotton balls; a bunch of random musical instruments or noisemakers; a volunteer (*you will prep them ahead of time*)

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Six,” begin with the slide titled “Why Don’t I Hear God Speak?”; have the volunteer be prepared to sing “Amazing Grace” at the appropriate time in the message (*read on, it will be obvious*)

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we continued our series called “God Speaks.” Today, we are asking the question, “Why Don’t I Hear God Speak?” Many people believe that God speaks to His children, but they just don’t ever seem to hear His voice. There are some definite reasons found in the Bible for why we may not be able to hear God’s voice:

Sin *(slide)*



Isaiah 59:2 says, “It’s your sins that have cut you off from God...” Sin is something that God can have nothing to do with. If you have ongoing sin in your life, it’s no wonder you are not hearing from God. Some of you have sinful habits that you know you should change, but you refuse to do it. Some of you have habits of lying, cheating, gossiping, and others. You know you should ask for forgiveness and ask God to help you break those habits, but you just don’t do it. You continue in your sin thinking it doesn’t really make a difference.

(hold up the cotton balls) Just as that scripture says, sin cuts you off from God - from hearing his voice. When you allow sin to remain in your life, it is just like you are stuffing cotton balls in your ears (*place some cotton in both of your ears*). You can’t hear God because the sin in your life is blocking His voice from getting through. If you want to hear God’s voice, you have to first remove the sin (*remove the cotton balls from your ears*), then you can clearly hear God’s voice speaking to you. Ask for forgiveness for the sin and never go back to it.

Disobedience *(slide)*



Another big reason we don’t hear God’s voice is “Disobedience.” Many of you, God has told you to do some-
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Call To Action (Continued)

thing, but you haven’t obeyed. I don’t mean you accidentally didn’t do it. I mean - you know what God told you to do in a certain area of your life, but you have chosen not to obey. That’s what happened with Eli, the priest, in our Bible Story. God told him to get his sons under control, but he didn’t do it. It was going to be too hard for him, he thought. So, he just ignored what God told him and did nothing. So sad.

Some of you are disobeying the last word that God spoke to you. Maybe God told you to be friends with the unpopular kid at school, but you didn’t want to. Maybe God told you to give one of your favorite toys to your little brother, but you just didn’t want to. Maybe God told you to give some of your birthday money in the offering for a missionary, but you had other plans for that money. Your disobedience to what God told you to do has caused you to stop hearing God’s voice. After all, why would God give you a NEW word if you are refusing to obey the LAST word He gave you.

It’s time to obey. Go back to the last time you heard God speaking something to your heart, now obey.

One of the biggest reasons we don’t hear God’s voice is...



I Am Too Busy To Listen *(slide)*

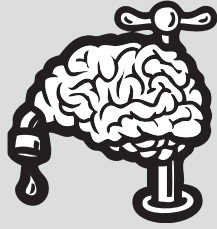
It’s not always sin or disobedience that keeps us from hearing God. Sometimes, we are just too busy to listen. We are so busy going about our daily lives that we don’t take time to slow down and listen to His voice. We have friends, sports, school, homework, church, family, TV, music - all kinds of things fighting for our attention. We can’t hear God’s voice because there are too many other things going on.

(choose a handful of volunteers - including the one you prepped ahead of time - bring them up to the front, and give them a noisemaker/instrument. Instruct them to make noise every time you lift your hand in the air. However, have the volunteer that you prepped ahead of time sing “Amazing Grace” softly while everyone else is making noise. Do this several times, but each time take away a couple of the noisemakers and have the volunteers sit down. Keep repeating this until only the person singing “Amazing Grace” is left)

Did you know that this person was singing the song the entire time. You couldn’t hear it because there was so much other stuff going on. It’s the same with God’s voice. He is speaking to you. You must take time to slow down and listen for God to speak to you. You must quiet yourself, tune in to His voice, and then you will hear what He is speaking to your heart.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

For the last week of this series, practice being quiet before the Lord once again. “Tune in” to His voice and allow Him to speak to the kids’ hearts. If you feel it is a good idea, have the children share with each other what they felt God speaking to them. Make a decision that every day you will take time to “tune in” to God’s voice and listen as “God Speaks.”



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Six,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I Will Keep My Ears Tuned In To God!”

2. How many sons did the priest, Eli, have?

Answer: two

3. What were Eli’s sons doing with the meat that was meant for sacrifice?

Answer: stealing some of it

4. Did Eli do anything to stop his sons from sinning?

Answer: No

5. Since Eli wasn’t hearing from God, who did God speak to in the night?

Answer: Samuel

6. According to our lesson today, _____ keeps me from hearing from God.

Answer: sin

7. According to our lesson today, _____ also keeps me from hearing from God.

Answer: disobedience

8. According to our lesson today, sometimes we don’t hear God because we are too _____ to listen.

Answer: busy

9. Who has been teaching us “Watt’s Up?”

Answer: Skittles

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 78:1