



# SERVICE ORDER

## WEEK 3: Big Ears Rock!

**NOTES:** Meet with the SG leaders before the service. Go over the day's theme, discipline, tickets and answer any questions about small group time. Pray with the team

### GAME TIME:

- **(A/V)** Have an upbeat song ready to go
- "Defying Gravity Relay": See game for supply list

**TUNE TIME:** (Sample: Change to reflect real song set)

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Song 3

### REMIND TIME:

- **(A/V)** Play Remind Time video
- **(A/V)** Display the Trait-N-Tagline Powerpoint
- Go over HONOR – I can honor God and others.

### TEACH TIME:

- **(A/V)** Bring up first Powerpoint on screen
- **Engage Them:** Talking about extreme makeovers, and how Jesus wants to give us a makeover
- **Teach Them:** Teaching on James 1:16 on being quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger
- **Challenge Them:** Pray over the kids and go over Spotlight Verse

**GIVE TIME:** (Sample: Change to reflect whatever campaign you're working on)

- Ex. Malaria nets in Africa
- **(A/V)** Bring up goal PowerPoint on screen

### CLOSE TIME:

- Announcements, up-coming events, hand out flyers
- Ticket Drawing
- Closing Song: ??
- Keep Groups together: Do Relate Time Sheets until parents come

**EXIT:** Distribute Parent Take-Away card directly to parents

# TEACH them

**2<sup>nd</sup> Segment:** (15 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **tell the Bible story** in a compelling, animated, and interesting way. A good communicator uses the following script only as a guideline to speak, but never reading from it, as children can lose interest. Make the story come alive with voice inflections, funny anecdotes and noises, and passionate emotion. We intentionally give great latitude for the speaker to make it 'their own', using props, involving kids...whatever you can do to help the kids remember the Bible lesson.

## BIBLE text

James 1:19 – The Power of Listening

## PROPS n things

- PowerPoints from HONOR\_PP\_HoldUrTongue\_wk3 file in Speaker\_Materials dir.
- A funny video or skit showing how someone is not listening to the other person
  - Suggestion: YouTube video called “Linda, honey, just listen.” Cut the video off after 60 seconds. This video got millions of views and this 3 year-old boy ended up on the “Ellen” show.
  - URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TP8RB7UZHKI>
  - Have it cued up in advance as there likely will be an advertisement preceding the video
- A guitar
- A few Q-Tip® swabs

## BEGIN speaking

**Show slide (“Part 3: Big Ears Rock!”)**

We are back in the book of James as we have been all month long. James, though the brother of Jesus, oddly enough, came to know Jesus as His Savior only after Jesus died and was resurrected (Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 1:19). In other words, while Jesus was living his 33 years on earth, James did not see Jesus as the Son of God. He was just his older brother, and was probably embarrassed that Jesus was constantly referring himself as the Son of God, and the Savior of the world. I imagine it was hard for him to think of Jesus, his brother, as the Savior of the world. But once he grabbed hold of that promise, he wrote a letter that we rely on now for excellent wisdom and advice in our daily living.

As we've talked about, the Book of James is probably the oldest book of the New Testament, written perhaps as early as A.D. 45. James was martyred – killed for his faith in approximately A.D. 62, according to the historian Josephus.

For the last two weeks, we've been talking about the power of words and where they are stored, which is the heart. When we dip into the well of the heart, we will either produce words of goodness, or words of evil (Matthew 12:35). Today, we are talking about the power and importance of listening, but being a good listener is also connected to your heart. Being a good listener often is because our hearts are in a good place, because listening is an important way we honor others when they are talking.

### **PLAY BROKEN TELEPHONE GAME:**

Listening is hard. Let me demonstrate how hard it is to listen. I need ten volunteers to come up and stand 1-2 feet apart, facing the audience. We're going to play Broken Telephone.

***(Select ten children to come up. You will whisper a phrase in the ear of the first person, and then instruct them to pass the message down to the next person. Have them stand far enough away to where one can't hear his/her neighbor whispering the message. They will continue this process until the message gets to the very last person. Then, you will interview the last person, asking him/her to relay the message they received. Typically, the resulting message will be very different than what was first communicated. Example of what to whisper: "Macaroni salad is very tasty.")***

See how easy it is to scramble the message, even with just a few people involved so close together? Well, today, we're going to talk about "who" we should be listening to, and "how" we can be better listeners. Check out this Bible verse:

### **Show slide ("James 1:19")**

***"Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry."***

Kids, there is no doubt that the Bible has lots to say about being a good listener. The Bible says that one of the keys to a good life and good relationships involves good communication. Communication happens with our body language (**expand if you wish**), our words (as we've talked about the last two weeks), and our ability to listen. Even though no words are coming from our mouth, we communicate loud and clear if we are really listening or not.

## VIDEO OR SKIT:

Take a look at this scene and see if you can pick up on how the receiver is communicating in a big way that he is not listening:

**(Show either the below YouTube video or your own video that clearly shows someone not listening or paying attention to another person. If you prefer, you can even have a couple of volunteers do a funny skit, with one person reading to another, and the receiver doing all kinds of things to show he is not listening.)**

### **Play video (“Linda, honey, listen to me” – first 60secs)**

What did the person do to show he was not listening? *(Take answers)* That's right. So you see...even when we are not speaking... we are still communicating.

## ACOUCO – HEBREW FOR “HEAR”:

**(Grabbing the guitar and pretending to tune it)** I love the sound of the guitar, but only when it is in tune. To tune a guitar, you have to listen to the strings and the vibration of their tones. It's important to get all six strings to be in harmony with one another. Otherwise, this beautiful instrument sounds horrible.

### **Show slide (“acouo”)**

This kind of guitar is called an “acoustic” guitar. The word “acoustic” comes from the Greek word akouo (pronounced “a-koo-oh”), meaning “to hear”.

Can we say that together? A-koo-oh! It means to hear, to listen, to understand.

Hearing is one thing, but listening is altogether different. Someone once said that listening to a person is like grabbing your ears and wrapping them around the person *(demonstrate)* so you are fully engaged in what they are saying. To really listen to the tones from each string, I can't have any other distractions. I can't be thinking about other things. **I've got to have big ears!**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF “HEAR” IN THE BIBLE:

### **Show slide (“Hear”)**

Let's look up at the screen for a minute.

- The specific phrase “Hear the Word of the Lord” occurs 24 times in the Bible.
- The words “Today, if you will hear His voice,” are found 3 times in the book of Hebrews and once in the Old Testament (Heb. 3:7, 15; 4:7; Psalms 95:7)
- The words “He who has ears to hear, let them hear” appears 7 times in the gospels.

We find that often there are reasons that we do not hear or listen as we should.

- Adam and Eve didn't listen to God when He told them not to eat from the tree.
- King Saul didn't listen to God when he was told to wipe out the whole city and destroy all the possessions.
- Jonah didn't listen to God when he was told to go to Nineveh.
- Martha was too busy with other things and would not stop and listen to Jesus.

So, you see kids.... this is not about just focusing and listening to your mom or dad when they are giving you instruction; it's not just about listening to your teacher or your coach, or even your older brother or sister; **it's about listening to the Lord.** What is the Lord trying to say? What does the Lord want us to do? We are to listen so we can learn to trust the Lord.

### HOW WE HEAR GOD:

How do we hear God? Three main ways I want to tell you about:

#### AN ATTENTIVE EAR:

##### **Show slide ("An Attentive Ear")**

The first way we hear God is with an attentive ear. "Attentive" means to give close, thoughtful attention to. **(Walk up to one of the children)** If I were to come up to you and say, "Hey (name), I've got an amazing gift I'd like to give you! Consider it an early birthday present." You are all ears, right? I can see you are very attentive. I've got your full, close, and thoughtful attention, don't I?

It's with that same kind of attention that God wants us to approach His word in the Bible– with a close and thoughtful heart. We must be quick to hear the Word of truth. "Quick to hear" refers to an alert ear. Our dog barks the second she hears the door knock. I could secretly knock on a piece of wood, and she jumps right up and starts barking. She has an alert ear.

It is possible to hear, and yet not listen. We do that all the time. We do that when we talk to one another. When we ask someone, "How are you doing?" you expect them to just say, "I'm fine," or "Good." But when someone says, "You know, I've been feeling kinda down. My sister broke her leg and I have to do all her chores and homework has been more than usual..." Well, we're just not used to listening and we miss a lot of what they said because if we're really honest, we really just wanted them to say, "I'm fine" like a robot or a video game. People are not machines – they have feelings and if we're going to ask how someone is, we better be ready to listen when they really tell us how they are doing. "Quick to hear" describes an attentive ear, listening for what God has to say.

## ALWAYS SPEAKING:

One of the things that keeps us from hearing is that we need to be (but are not) slow to speak. One of the reasons you don't listen is because you are doing all the talking **(expand with your examples)**. God gave us two ears and one mouth - that ought to say something to us. Many times, we need to be quiet and let God speak to us.

## A CALM SPIRIT:

### Show slide ("A Calm Spirit")

The second thing that helps us hear God is when we develop **a calm spirit**. We need to be slow to anger. Have you ever been really mad at someone? **(Take answers)** C'mon, everyone's hand should be raised in the room! I know I have! When I'm really mad at someone, I'm not interested in what they have to say to me, even if they are right! I just want to be mad. And often times, do you know what we do when we're mad? We block our ears – sometimes with our hands **(holding your hands up to cover your ears)**, "la, la, la – I'm not listening!" – but most times, we block our ears with our heart – we just don't care enough to listen.

Anger is so dangerous, kids, because we can get so worked up, that there is no controlling our behavior sometimes. Many people have ended up in jail because they got so angry they did something stupid that they regret and never would have done if they kept their anger under control.

## A CLEAN HEART:

### Show slide ("A Clean Heart")

The last thing in order to hear God is to have **a clean heart**. James talks about this idea of putting aside all filthiness. This word, filthiness, comes from a root word in Greek that has to do with earwax. But what it really means is "to sin." In other words, sin in our life is like earwax, and we all know what earwax buildup can do; it can cause a loss of hearing. Like earwax, sin can prevent us from hearing God. It stops up our ability to really hear what He is saying to us. The Bible teaches that sin separates our hearts from God's.

Isaiah said, "The Lord GOD has opened my ear." (Isaiah 50:5) **(Picking up the Q-Tip® swab)** God sometimes has to clean our ears out so that we can hear what He has to say. If you listen for God to speak, you will hear His voice.

## A CHALLENGE TO THEM:

Being a good listener is part of our preparation for heaven, where everyone will be heard perfectly. I want to challenge you to learn – *really* learn to listen to one another, to value one another's feelings and opinions. I want to challenge you to listen – *really* listen to God's voice through the Bible, through the events that happen in your lives, and through other people that He puts in your path.

Wouldn't that be something if we could really learn to listen? Wouldn't that be a perfect way to honor both God and others? If we were never rich – if we never drew great crowds to hear us speak, sing or play an instrument – if we were never very successful in the world's eyes – it would be okay because none of that really matters anyway. But oh.... if we could listen to one another, and love one another with our hearing, that would be very cool. It would be pleasing and honoring to those around you, and pleasing and honoring to God as well.

**TAKE-AWAY POINT:**

**Show slide ("Take-Away Point")**

Our Action Hero, Honorator wants us to say today's Take-Away Point together: **"Be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger. (James 1:19 ESV)"**

## EVALUATE their understanding

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 2 - EVALUATE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.

*(While small groups are going, use this time to check your notes, reset your props, and walk around to some of the groups and listen to how it's going.)*



# CHALLENGE them

**3<sup>rd</sup> Segment:** (5 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **encourage and challenge the kids** to take a spiritual step forward this week. We want them to stop and think, make better choices, form new habits and bring God into their everyday world. This is a great time to speak from your heart and then pray for them.

## PROPS n things

- PowerPoints from HONOR\_PP\_HoldUrTongue\_wk3 file in Speaker\_Materials dir

## BEGIN speaking

So, this month we've learned that the tongue is a small part of the body, but very powerful. When we talk about the tongue, we're talking about the words that come out of our mouth. Words come from a place within – the heart. Words of goodness come out of a good heart, and words of evil come out of an evil heart. Today, we learned that listening is connected to the heart as well.

We've got to ask God to give us big ears! Big ears rock! We need to ask God to help us not just hear, but to listen – listen to the voice of God; through the Bible, through events that happen to us, and through other people that God puts over us to teach us what God has to say to us.

Anything good in our words or our hearing is from having a clean heart. How's your heart? Have you looked in there lately? Have you asked God to clean out the junk in your heart so that you can honor God and others with your words and your listening? Ask God to help clean out your hearts. Remember David's prayer in Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, oh God, and renew a right spirit in me." When we have clean hearts, we have clean words – AND clean ears!

Let's Pray: ***"Dear God, one of the best ways we can honor others is by being a good listener. We also honor You by listening carefully to what You have to say to us through Your words in the Bible, through prayer, and through just being still and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in the truth. I pray that these kids will catch the value of being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."***



## OUR SPOTLIGHT VERSE:

### Show slide ("Spotlight Verse")

Let's all say our Spotlight Verse for this month from Psalm 19:14: ***"LORD, may these words of my mouth please you. And may these thoughts of my heart, please you also."***

Have an awesome week honoring God and honoring the people around you by being a good listener!

## ENCOURAGE their walk

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 3 - ENCOURAGE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.



## WEEK 3: Big Ears Rock!

### EXPLORE – their opinion

If you were to get a free make-over, what would you get done? **(Your room? Your hair? Your wardrobe (clothes)? Other?)**

According to the Bible, what kind of make-over would Jesus like to do on us? **(He'd like to give us big ears—so we can be good listeners.)**

What can you tell me about Erik Weihenmayer? **(Mountain climber, skier, sky diver, wants to climb all 7 major mountain summits, he's blind, he has to have good ears to hear the instructions from the person in front of him—hearing for him means life or death.)**

If you were blind like Erik, would you be as adventurous as him, or would you be more afraid to try new things? Why or why not?

GRADES  
**4-6**

**EXPLORE**  
their opinion  
**EVALUATE**  
their understanding  
**ENCOURAGE**  
their walk

**I CAN PUT  
GOD AND  
OTHERS FIRST.**



**STOP**

Stop at the Stop Sign, and wait for further instruction before moving to next segment.

Don't rush it! Remember, the goal is not to just get through it, but to **get it through.**

Your 2 goals:  
**relate** with them,  
**reinforce** the lesson.

### EVALUATE – their understanding

James was the brother of: A. Paul B. Luke C. Peter **D. Jesus**

Do you remember the skit (or video)? What kinds of outward signs show someone is not listening to you? **(eyes wandering, wiggly, playing with a toy/object, talking, making faces and noises, sleeping, etc.)**

Can anyone remember the Greek word that means "to hear?" **(akouo—pronounced: a-koo-oh)**

How do you use a-koo-oh hearing when you are tuning a guitar? **(You have to really listen closely to the tones and vibrations between the strings.)**

How many times is the phrase "He who has ears, let them hear" mentioned by Jesus in the New Testament?

- A. 14 B. 9 **C. 7** D. 3

In order to hear God's voice, we have to have 1) an attentive ear, 2) a calm spirit, and 3) a.. :

- A. A clean mouth B. A clean bike **C. A clean heart**

Today, what did we learn that is pleasing and honoring to God and to others? **(How to listen)** Let's all put a fist bump together in the middle of the circle and say together: **"Big ears rock!"**

Let's say today's Take-Away Point together: **"Be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger. (James 1:19 ESV)"**

**STOP**



GRADES  
**4-6**



**EXPLORE**  
their opinion  
**EVALUATE**  
their understanding  
**ENCOURAGE**  
their walk



Encourage the kids to take a practical **ACTION** step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's **Spotlight Verse**.

**Prepare to Give** is for children's programs that take an offering.

**ENCOURAGE – their walk**

Many of us suffer from “over-speak” disease. Do you know what over-speaking is? It’s when the other person is still talking and we just jump on top of their words so that we can say what we want to say. When you over-speak, you probably are not listening to much of what the other person is saying. I want to encourage you all to be more aware of your surroundings and how you are tuning in or tuning out of conversation. Listening is a skill that you have to practice. Try listening better at the dinner table or in the car and involve yourself in the conversation. When someone is talking to you, look them straight in the eye and force yourself to only focus on what they are saying or asking you to do. We honor others and we honor Jesus when we become better listeners.

Let’s Pray: **“Dear God, we all can be better listeners, and Lord, we need Your help. Help us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and definitely slow to become angry. Help us to always think the best of other people, and help us to honor You by honor others with big, listening ears. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”**



HONOR Action Card #2 says, **“When you go out to places this month, hold the door open for the people behind you, or open the car door for your mom.”** Do you think you can do that? We have to practice honoring others, and this is one simple way of doing it.

**MEMORIZE – God’s Word**



**SPOTLIGHT VERSE:**

**“LORD, may these words of my mouth please you. And may these thoughts of my heart please you also.” ~Psalm 19:14 (NIRV)**

It’s kind of funny to think of having thoughts in our hearts. We have thoughts in our head, but what this verse is really trying to say is that our thoughts, good or bad, happy or sad, come from the heart. If our heart is right, our words will be right and pleasing. If our hearts are dark and ugly, our words will often be bitter and hurtful to others.

**PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)**

Let’s pray for today’s offering: **“Dear God, bless this offering today. May we always be generous with our time, our talent, and our money. You own everything and we are just managers of what You’ve given us, so we thank You for the opportunity to give. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.”**