Game Plan: Growing Stronger in Faith Every Day

Large Group • Preteen

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: The Wise and Foolish Builders • *Matthew 7:24-27 (Supporting: John 10:27-28)*

Conversion Starter: How can you hear from God?

Bottom Line: Practice hearing from God.

Monthly Memory Verse: Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. • 1 Timothy 4:8 NIrV

SLIDE: Theme

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

LEADER: "Welcome, everyone! I've been loving learning practical things with you all! 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'!

WORSHIP

LEADER: "Hi, everyone! Today, I want you to think about one true thing you know about God. (*Pause as the kids think.*) Now, let's take a moment and tell the Lord, 'Thank You' for that thing you thought about. Even while we're worshipping, just tell God how much you love Him. Don't worry about the distractions around you, or what you're doing after church. In this moment, just focus on God.

"This first song we're going to sing is called, 'Your Ways Better.'

Video: "Your Ways Better" Dance Moves Video

"So great, you guys! Let's worship God always. When you leave here today, know that you can worship God all the time.

"It's time to look at our Memory Verse—that's God's truth from the Bible that we're going to try to get into our heads and hearts.

"The Bible says that training to follow God helps us right now and also for the life to come. Hearing from God is part of that training. When we listen to what God says, our hearts grow stronger and our choices get wiser. This month's Memory Verse is 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIrV). I'll read it, and then we can say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

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LEADER: Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 NIrV

LEADER: "Let's say it together."

KIDS AND LEADER: Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 NIrV

LEADER: "This connects to today's true story from the Bible where Jesus tells us that it's so important to hear His words and put them into practice. We listen to God and then we do what He says. Great job, everyone!"

VIDEO: So and So Show

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

LANDING

LEADER: "Jesus gave us a clear plan. Hear His words and put them into practice. That is how we grow stronger every day, and that's how we stand firm when life gets stormy. This week, choose one real moment to hear and do. Maybe it's at school, at home, with a friend, or online."

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "How can you hear from God?

"Think about this question now, and we'll talk more about it in Small Group. Be honest about what helps you listen to God and what makes it hard."

PRAYER

LEADER: "Let's take some time and **[Bottom Line]** practice hearing from God. Close your eyes and bow your head. Just ask God to speak to you. Just pause and don't think about everything going on around you or what you are doing tonight or tomorrow.

Pause for about 15-30 seconds while the kids listen to God.

"Lord, we love You, thank You that You speak to us. The message You gave to all those people is for us too. Lord, we want You to speak to us, but we don't just want to hear You, we want to do what You say. We want to start putting Your words into practice because they are the best way to live. Teach us to follow You because we love You. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

SLIDE: Theme