



Exploration Stations

Day 2

Bible Point: God hears you.

Bible Story: David escapes Saul and writes psalms to God.
(1 Samuel 23:1-14; Psalm 86)

Bible Verse: “I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy.”
(Psalm 116:1)

Consider This:

- ◆ Saul, jealous of David’s popularity, kept David and his men on the run. But David repeatedly resisted opportunities to harm Saul, in spite of the danger he faced daily. Not only did David have to flee from Saul (his own king), but he also chose to fight the Philistines (his people’s enemy) at the same time!
- ◆ Abiathar the priest brought the ephod to allow David to speak with and listen to God. A chestpiece attached to the ephod contained the Urim and Thummim (Exodus 28:30), small metal or stone objects. Priests used these to ask God “yes” or “no” questions, to seek his guidance and will.
- ◆ David posed no small threat to King Saul, since David’s army numbered around 600 men!
- ◆ After David escaped Saul in Keilah, the Ziphites located David and planned to deliver him to Saul. During this time, David wrote Psalm 54, in which he cries out, “Listen to my prayer, O God. Pay attention to my plea.”
- ◆ Scholars are unsure exactly how long David ran from Saul. However, some historians estimate it to be around seven years! During that time, David had countless reasons to call out to God in desperation, triumph, sorrow, and loneliness.
- ◆ Since some psalms don’t list an author, it’s unclear how many David wrote. However, Bible scholars believe the shepherd-king wrote at least 73 (and possibly more) of the 150 songs in this book!

Why It Matters...

Kids can tell you *exactly* what it’s like to be ignored or unheard. They know what it feels like to talk to a busy parent or teacher who responds with a distracted “Mm-hmm.” They’ve been that hand, waving in the air, that didn’t get called on to share an answer. And even when someone *is* tuned in, kids may not have the words to express what they’re feeling. What a gift to discover that God hears every whispered worry or spoken celebration. The God who treasures us is eagerly awaiting conversation with us! Today help kids realize that not only does God hear our voices...but God also hears our *hearts*!



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Voice Changers

Invite kids to experiment with the “voice changer tube” to hum, talk, or make other noises, first with nothing on the end. Then help them try making sounds with cellophane or wax paper on the end, using the rubber bands to hold these materials on. Encourage them to notice how different sounds result.



Supplies

- ◆ paper towel or toilet paper tubes
- ◆ cellophane
- ◆ wax paper
- ◆ rubber bands

Say: **We can talk to God**
in whispers, in song, or any way we need to, and he'll listen.
God hears us! *(You are treasured!)*

Supplies

- ◆ 3 or 4 different containers that you can't see through (like tiny gift box, paper lunch bag, water bottle, plastic container)
- ◆ Small items like: paper clips, beans, water, buttons)
- ◆ small, clear cup

Make Some Noise

Fill each container partway with one type of item. Leave one of each small item on the table to help in guessing.

Say: **What do you hear when you shake these containers? Look at the things taped to the table to try to guess which is in each container.**

Have kids shake the different noisemakers and guess which of the objects or the water is inside each container.

Say: **You heard the interesting sounds that were made. They all made different sounds, kind of like how we all have different things to say to God. No matter what we say, when we talk to God, **God hears us.** (You are treasured!)**



Supplies

- ◆ blocks
- ◆ small toy figures

Hidden in the Blocks

Build various structures where they can hide toy figures. Get creative with the kinds of things they build, such as a cave, a home, or a barn.

Say: **We made places for our toys to hide. In our Bible story, we'll hear how one of God's friends hid and asked God for help. God heard him, and **God hears us!** (You are treasured!)**

