



Preschool Games

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*!



Day 2

Option 1: Listen Carefully

Say: Today we heard that David asked God for help. God told David what to do, and David followed God's directions. Let's play a game where we follow directions.

1. Have everyone spread out along one side of your play area while one person stands on the opposite side as the leader.
2. The Leader gives one person a series of directions to follow, moving everyone across the play area toward them.
3. Use the following directions, or make up your own.
 - ◆ Okay, friends, take one giant step forward.
 - ◆ Okay, friends, take two hops forward.
 - ◆ Okay, friends, take one baby step backward.
 - ◆ Okay, friends, spin in a circle.
 - ◆ Okay, friends, tiptoe forward three steps.
 - ◆ Okay, friends, march forward two steps.
4. As kids reach the leader, give them a high-five.

Say: David listened to God's directions. When you were told the directions in our game, you listened. God listens too! **God hears you! (You are treasured!)** When you talk to God, he's always listening.

Supplies

◆ none



Supplies

- ◆ cardboard box/bin
- ◆ sparkly pompoms or plastic gold coins (any treasure)
- ◆ various obstacles, such as a play slide, play tunnel, chair, and piece of fabric

Option 2: Treasure Hunt

Set up an obstacle course using whatever supplies you have available. You may have kids climb over a play slide or through a play tunnel. Kids can climb over a chair or jump over a piece of fabric. Get creative! After each obstacle, place a pile of sparkly pompoms or gold coins. Make sure there's at least one pompom or coin per child at every obstacle. Place the treasure chest in the middle of the play area so it can be seen from all the obstacles.

Say: All this week we're talking about treasure, so let's go on a treasure hunt!

Show kids your obstacle course. Take some time to show them what to do at each obstacle.

When you get to the treasure in our treasure hunt, you can grab one piece of treasure and run to drop it in our treasure chest. Point out the pile of pompoms or coins at the end of each obstacle and the treasure chest in the middle. **Then you can move on to the next part of our treasure hunt.**

Say: You had to be good listeners to get to all the treasure in our treasure hunt. God's a good listener too. God hears you. (You are treasured!) He listens to what you say.

Treasure Tip

If you have a large group, you may want to have kids start at different parts of the course so there's less waiting.



Option 3: Freeze!

Say: There are so many things we can hear with our ears. What are some things you can hear with your ears right now?

Let's use our ears to play a fun game. I'll play the music, and you can dance around. **But** be sure to listen carefully, because when the music stops, everyone has to freeze right where they are!

Turn on the music. Pause the music every 30 seconds or so and remind kids to freeze. Feel free to wander around while kids are frozen and admire the amazing "statues"! Then start the music again.

Say: In our game, you paid attention when the music started and when it stopped. God pays attention to *you*. When you talk to him, God hears you! (*You are treasured!*)

Supplies

- ◆ Music

