



God's Heroes Listen to God



THE MISSION AIM

God talks to His people and His people hear Him.



KEY VERSE

John 10:27 (NIV): "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me."



Pre-Mission Activity



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- A touch box (a box with a hole that a children's hand could fit through to feel the item inside but not see it) with one item in it – i.e., a fuzzy sock or a piece of felt – this can be made out of a tissue box.
- A sour item to taste – i.e., A sour candy (i.e., Warheads would be great) or a slice of lemon
- An odd tool or object – i.e., A melon baller or a tea bag squeezer
- An item to smell – i.e., Cinnamon or another spice

DIRECTIONS

SAY: Today we are going to learn about listening to God. We use our sense of hearing when we listen. What are our other senses? (*Touch, taste, sight, smell*) Let's see if we can use our other senses to identify some of the items I have brought with me today.

DO: Show the touch box making sure the recruits cannot see what is inside. Once everyone has had the opportunity to touch the item, allow for guesses.

DO: Next, have each recruit close their eyes and place in their mouths the item you brought for them to taste. (Be sure to check that there are no food allergies before proceeding with this activity). Give opportunity for the recruits to guess what the item is.

DO: Show the odd tool or object that you have brought and allow the recruits to look at it only. Again, give opportunity for them to guess what it is.

DO: Finally, have the recruits again close their eyes and smell the last item that you have brought with you. What do they think this item is?

SAY: God has given us five amazing senses that we can use to enjoy the world He has created. The only sense we have not yet experimented with today is the sense of hearing. This sense allows us to enjoy the birds singing, a favourite song on the radio and the story a friend is telling us. It also allows us to listen to our parents and teachers. Kate, Christie and Michael have been trying to listen to the Commander. Let's check in with them and see where they are today.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 – Bible Heroes Episode 5: God's Heroes Listen to God"

Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 5 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have BT-Episode_5-Heroes_Listen_to_God.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Blindfold
- Optional: a recording of some of the leaders within your church saying, "Are you Ready to Serve?" (i.e., Corps officer, bandmaster)
- Bible



MISSION ASSIGNMENT

SAY: Let's have a drumroll as we read together today's first mission (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "Local squad members, Can we recognize others simply by the sound of their voice?"

DO: Sit the recruits in a circle. Have the blindfold and recorded or live voices ready. Select an older recruit to read John 10:1-5.

SAY: John 10:1–5 talks about a shepherd and his sheep. These verses emphasize that each sheep knows the sound of its shepherd's voice. The sheep will not follow someone who is not their shepherd because they do not recognize the other's voice.

SAY: We are going to play a little game today. In this game we will see if one of our recruits can recognize, by sound alone, the voice of some of us or the voices of people you know that we have on tape. Who would like to volunteer?

DO: Place a blindfold on the volunteer. Have all the recruits move to a different spot.

SAY: I will point to a recruit and they will say, "Are you ready to serve?" Once they have said this, it is your job, volunteers, to guess who spoke. Ready?

DO: Point to a recruit around the circle and allow opportunity for the volunteer to guess who is speaking. You may point to a few recruits and then give another volunteer the opportunity to be blindfolded. If you chose to record leaders' voices from within the corps, play their voices as well.



SAY: How did you feel when you weren't sure whose voice you heard? It wasn't as easy as we thought it would be, was it? John 10:27 tells us, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me." Who is saying these words? (*Jesus*) Who do you think Jesus is referring to when He says, "My sheep?" (*Us, His people, believers*)

SAY: Well, when we left the Recon Team, three of them were squished in the cab of the van. I wonder if they have heard from the Commander yet. Do you think it was the Commander's voice that Kate heard? Let's check back in with them and see what is happening. Maybe they will have another Mission for us.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 5 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission #2.



Mission #2



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- A small piece of paper for each recruit
- Pencil for each recruit
- Reporting Sheets (see attachment page 7)
- Bibles



MISSION ASSIGNMENT

SAY: We've got our second mission from the Recon Team (reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits, gather information on the following three Bible Heroes: Samuel, Paul and Ananias. These three heroes heard God's voice in an audible way. What can you find out about them?"

SAY: Well Recruits, it looks like we are going to be looking into God's Word to learn about these heroes. Before we do that, I have a game for us to play. This game will help us as we look at the stories of Samuel, Paul and Ananias. It may help us to feel a little bit of how they felt when they heard God's voice.

DO: Set up an obstacle course in the room. Put the recruits into pairs. One member of each pair is to be blindfolded. The other recruit is to be stationed at the far end of the obstacle course. The object of this game is to have the blindfolded recruit listen to the voice of his/her partner as they talk them through the obstacle course. The first recruit through the course wins.

SAY: Blindfolded recruits, there will be a lot of talking at the same time. You need to focus on the voice of your partner. First recruit through the course, wins. Are you ready? Go!



DO: You may want to allow the partners to change places so that each recruit has the opportunity to listen for the voice of their partner. When the game is over, have everyone gather their Bibles. Sit together.

SAY: That was a difficult activity. Many voices were calling out at the same time. It is hard to focus on just one voice and to follow the instructions given.

SAY: We are going to split into three groups to look at the stories of Samuel and Paul and Ananias. Each group look up the Bible story and then come back and share what they discovered about listening to God. I've got reporting sheets to help you.

DO: Divide the group into three groups with a leader or older recruit with each group to help read the Bible story and to lead the discussion to answer the questions on the reporting sheet. (Guide group 2 to answer their questions based on what happened to Paul and have group 3 looking at Ananias.) Answers can be as follows:

- 1.) Who heard God's voice? (Samuel, Paul, Ananias)
- 2.) Where were they when they heard God's voice? (Samuel was sleeping, Paul was on the road to Damascus, Ananias was in Damascus)
- 3.) How did they know it was God? (Eli told Samuel, Paul asks, "Who are you, Lord?", Ananias hears God through a vision)
- 4.) What was God saying to them? (Samuel, tell others of my message, Paul, go into the city to be told what to do, Ananias, needs to help Paul)
- 5.) What did they do in response to God's voice? (Samuel, Paul and Ananias all listened to God's voice and did as they were told.)

DO: As the recruits are looking into the scripture be sure to mingle between the groups, giving support or helping them focus on the questions. Bring groups together and allow them to answer the questions and to "tell" the story to the other recruits.

SAY: When we played our game, we heard many voices. Although it may not have been difficult to hear the voice of our partner it was difficult to know which voice was our partner's. We needed to listen carefully so that we knew what directions were being given to us. Samuel, Paul and Ananias each heard God's voice. They followed His instructions and listened to Him.

SAY: Let's send this information back to the Recon Team. I am sure they will want to know about Samuel, Paul and Ananias and how clearly each of them heard the voice of God.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 5 (3/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.





Field Mission Project



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Chart paper or a large piece of paper
- Scripture verses written on slips of paper
- Bibles

MISSION PROJECT

SAY: Let's have one more drumroll for our last assignment for today (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "We know that God speaks to His people but Recruits, how can we hear Him? How can we learn to listen to Him?"

SAY: How does God speak to you?

DO: Allow the recruits to answer. Take responses and write them down on a large piece of chart paper.

Help the recruits to see that scripture, nature, music, dreams, visions, parents and other believers are all used by God to speak to His people. Let's look at some verses from the Bible to see what it says about how God speaks to us.

DO: Give pairs of recruits a scripture verse to look up. Give them a minute to look up the verse and decide how it is God speaks to us and then have them report back to the group adding their responses to your chart.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (scripture)

Matthew 1:20 and 21 (dreams)

Acts 10:17-20 (visions and the Holy Spirit who helps us understand and explain the dream)

Proverbs 12:15 (other believers, a wise man listens to advice)

John 8:31-32 (obeying Jesus' teachings results in knowing the truth – the right way)

Psalms 86:11 (ask God to teach us how to obey and know what's right)

James 1:5 (we can ask God for wisdom to know what He wants us to do)

SAY: Sometimes we hear people say that God told them to do something. For example, God told them to steal the chocolate bar or God told them to hit their little sister. Do you think that God really told them to do those things? Why or Why not? (God won't tell us to do something that is wrong) How do we know that God wouldn't tell us to do those things? (Because we know God and we know what is right and wrong.)

SAY: To know God we must read His Word. John 8:31-32 tells us this. His Word teaches us who God is. When we know God, we know what He would tell us and what He would not.

SAY: We need to talk to God and spend quiet time listening to Him. James 1:5 reminds us that if we are unsure of a situation we can pray to Him and ask Him to help us to know what it is we should or shouldn't be doing.



SAY: When we aren't sure, we can always talk to our parents or other believers. They can help us know if what we are hearing is in fact God speaking to us. We can pray Psalm 86:11 and know that God will teach us what to do.



Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 5 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Worship Song (suggested songs: Come now is the time to Worship, I can only Imagine, Open the Eyes of my Heart)
- CD player or other device for playing music

DIRECTIONS

DO: Choose a worship song to play during silent prayer. This will provide a backdrop of sound during prayer but may also show some of the recruits what it means to hear God through music.

SAY: Let's take some time right now to pray ask God to help us to be open to what He is saying to us. To do this, let's spend a minute in silent prayer as we listen to His message to us. I am going to play a worship song during this time you may listen to the words of this song or quietly speak to God during this time. When the song is finished, I will pray.

DO: Let your chosen worship song play through and then pray that the recruits will listen to God during the week ahead and that they will seek to listen to Him each day.

SAY: Well recruits, it looks like we have successfully completed another Mission. This week, I challenge you to spend some time not only talking to God but also listening to what He is saying to you.

NOTES



Listening to God

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-19 and then find answers to the following questions:

- 1.) Who heard God's voice?
- 2.) Where were they when they heard God's voice?
- 3.) How did they know it was God
- 4.) What was God saying to them?
- 5.) What did they do in response to God's voice?

Listening to God

Read Acts 9:1-19a and then find answers to the following questions:

- 1.) Who heard God's voice?
- 2.) Where were they when they heard God's voice?
- 3.) How did they know it was God
- 4.) What was God saying to them?
- 5.) What did they do in response to God's voice?

Listening to God

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