

A young boy is shown from the back, wearing a red t-shirt and a tan baseball cap. He has his hands clasped behind his head and is looking up towards a bright blue sky with a few wispy white clouds. A large white thought bubble is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image, containing the text 'How to hear from GOD...'. Two smaller white circles lead from the bottom of the thought bubble towards the boy's head, suggesting a connection between his thoughts and the text.

How to hear from
GOD...

 **OAKWOOD**
CHURCH
FAMILIES

How to Hear from God

God wants to speak to His children—young and old. He wants us to know and follow His voice.

**"I am the good shepherd.
I know my sheep, and my sheep
know me. They know me just as the
Father knows me and I know the Father.
And I give my life for the sheep. I have other
sheep that do not belong to this sheep pen.
I must bring them in too. They also will
listen to my voice. Then there will be
one flock and one shepherd."**

JOHN 10:14-16

God speaks to His children in many ways.

Would you like to hear from God?

**Let's be quiet right now, and ask God to help us to listen
and hear Him speak to us.** We call talking to God, praying.

**"Jesus, please help me to listen to you. Help my heart and mind
to be quiet so I can hear you. Amen"**

If we really want to hear something well, what do we need to do?

God's Word says,

"Be still, and know that I am God"

PSALM 46:10

Let's practice!

Take one minute to be still. Set a timer. Don't say anything. You can keep your eyes open or shut. Don't move around. Just think about God and how much He loves you.

1. How did it feel to be still and quiet for one minute?

2. Did God give you any special thoughts while you were quiet?

The more you practice being still, the easier it will get. You can even be still for longer periods of time!

One way God speaks to us is through His Word, the Bible.

The Bible is God's love letter to us. We need to read it to know how much God loves us, and how He wants us to live. God may speak to us while reading or listening to the words in the Bible, or with a quiet reminder in our hearts when we need it most.

Let's practice!

Read or listen as someone else reads verses from God's Word. Be sure to listen carefully to the words.

"So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock. But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash."

MATTHEW 7:24-27

1. What is God trying to tell us in these verses?

2. What does God say about listening and obeying His Word?

The Bible says that sometimes God speaks in a gentle whisper.

The Lord said, "Go out. Stand on the mountain in front of me. I am going to pass by." As the Lord approached, a very powerful wind tore the mountains apart. It broke up the rocks. But the Lord wasn't in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. After the earthquake a fire came. But the Lord wasn't in the fire. And after the fire there was only a gentle whisper."

I KINGS 19:11-12

The world is a noisy place. There are many things that will keep us from hearing God's voice. We must find a quiet place and listen carefully to hear God's gentle whisper.

Let's practice!

Close your eyes. Choose someone in your family to whisper a phrase into each person's ear. When everyone has heard the whisper, have each person say the phrase out loud.

1. Did everyone hear the same phrase?

2. How did it feel to have someone whisper in your ear?

3. What did you have to do to make sure you heard and understood what they said?

4. What kind of "noises" might keep you from hearing God's gentle whisper in your heart?

Another way God speaks to His children is through His creation.

God's Word says,

**"The heavens tell about the glory of God.
The skies show that his hands created them.
Day after day they speak about it.
Night after night they make it known.
But they don't speak or use words.
No sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into the whole earth.
Their words go out from one end of the world to the other."**

PSALMS 19:1-4

Isn't that amazing?! God can speak to you through clouds in the sky, a beautiful tree, a fragrant flower, or a tiny animal. These things don't speak or use words, yet God can speak to you through them!

How? It can be different for each of us. Sometimes just seeing something beautiful that God made reminds me that He loves me and that He is with me. Other times, I can feel the warmth of the sun on my face, or a gentle breeze and it makes me feel God's presence. During storms, He reminds me of His power and protection. How about you?

Let's practice!

1. Go outside. Look around you. Do you see something that God created?

2. What might God be saying to you today through His creation?

When we begin looking at God's creation and listening for His voice, God will speak to us and tell us how much He loves us.

Another way God speaks to us is through thoughts or dreams.

When they align with God's Word, they are from Him. God will never tell you something that goes against His Word. We must be sure to read God's Word, to know that these thoughts and dreams are from God.

Do you remember Joseph, Mary's husband? God spoke to Joseph in his dreams.

"This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit."

MATTHEW 1:18-20

Let's practice!

1. Has there been a time that God gave you a special idea or a picture in your mind or dream?

2. How did it make you feel?

When this happens to me, I like to write down the idea or thought that God gave me in a special notebook. This way I can pray about what I've heard and study God's Word to find out what God wants me to do.

The Bible is filled with stories about conversations that God has with His children. He can speak to you in any way that He feels is necessary to get your attention—even a burning bush! The important thing is to always be listening for God's voice and then to do what He says!

Let's say thank you, God, for the way He speaks to us!



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