



NO ORDINARY FAMILY TIME WITH GOD - WEEK 3

FOR PARENTS:

Week 3! You've got this. You are making an impact whether it feels like it or not. Stay the course. God is using this time in your family's lives. This week you'll be talking about hearing and obeying the voice of the Holy Spirit. One thing to remember and communicate to your family is that the voice of God will never go against what he has said in the Bible. Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you and your family in a way like he never has before and ask him to do great things.

WEEK 3 TRUTH FOR LIFE

Learning to listen and obey the Holy Spirit deepens my relationship with God.

THINGS YOU NEED:

- **A Bible** (preferably a Bible for every member of the family, or you can share)
- **Headphones with upbeat music ready to play.**

FAMILY TIME WITH GOD

Begin with prayer: Father God, we are so excited to spend time with you tonight. We invite your presence to fill this room and our hearts. Help us to hear and apply your truth. Help us to be more than an ordinary family; we want to be a family who experiences and shows your love to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Play "The Whisper Challenge." One person puts on headphones with music playing loudly so they cannot hear the other person. The person without headphones says an **action phrase** that can be simple or challenging. For example, "touch your toes," or "stand up and sit back down." The person with headphones on tries to guess what they are saying and act out what was said. Get ready to laugh!

Do you guys ever have trouble listening? At times, we all have trouble listening. It's easy to start thinking about something else when someone is talking. It's easy to let other things distract us. **Sometimes we even hear the words but don't do what the words say.** "Make sure you put your bowl in the sink when you're done." "OK." Later that day... "I thought I told you to put your bowl in the sink". Sound familiar? When parents instruct, children should obey, right? (Ephesians 6:1. When God instructs, we all should obey, right? Yes!

Let's read **John 16:13** together. If everyone has a Bible, have a contest to see who can find it first. When found, have one of the kids read it. Repeat if necessary.

God wants to speak to you. He wants to personally guide you and teach you every day. When he does, we must obey! How do you hear the voice of God?

1. **We hear the voice of God by reading his words in the Bible.**

Hebrews 4:12 says the Bible is living and **ACTIVE!** God speaks to us through his Word (the Bible) and instructs us how to live for him. The Bible also gives us the words Jesus spoke to us.

For older kids: Look up and read **Hebrews 1:1-3**. Talk about how Jesus shows us the very character of God. Therefore, his words are God's words. Very cool!

For little ones: Brainstorm words that your kids can remember that God or Jesus said in the Bible. What do they mean? (Suggested verses to use: John 13:34, Matthew 4:19, Matthew 19:14, Matthew 7:12)

2. **We hear the voice of God as the Holy Spirit speaks to, directs, and guides us** (John 16:13-15).

Parents, talk to your kids about times when God has spoken to you like this and what that might look like for them. Examples: Someone's name is on your mind. You have a clear direction about something you are asking God for. A Bible verse comes to mind. You feel unexplainably comforted.

3. **We hear the voice of God through other people** (1 Peter 4:11).

God can speak to us through a friend who encourages or challenges us. He can speak to us through a pastor or teacher using God's Word. He uses your parents instruct you. God often speaks to us through other people.

CHALLENGE: Start each day with a prayer together "God, help me hear your voice today, and help me respond to what you are saying." Share stories of hearing God's voice over dinner each night this week!

Pray: Father God, thank you for loving us so much. Give us ears to hear your voice in the Bible, through your promptings, and through other people. Give us hearts to obey. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.