

Activity: Hearing God



**FAMILY TIME
TRAINING**

Teaching Goal: God communicates in many ways.

Scripture: Psalm 29:3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters.
Psalm 29:5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars.
Psalm 29:7 The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.

John 12:28b-29 Then a voice came from heaven...The crowd that was there and heard it, said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Materials: A blindfold
An obstacle course (a room with chairs to maneuver around or objects to step over or under)
Sample of Braille

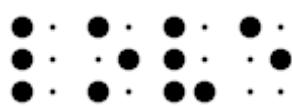
In Advance: Set up an obstacle course where participants will need to go over, under, and around obstacles. Using the pattern provided under (A.), use a straight pin to poke holes in paper and spell “love” in Braille.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Discuss last lesson
- III. Pray
- IV. Lesson and discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. ACTIVITY #1: Learn the word “love” in one or more foreign languages. Feel a sample of Braille that spells the word “love.” Learn how to say “I love you” in sign language. **There are many languages and ways to communicate. Let's learn how to say “love” in several languages:**

“Love” in Braille:



“I Love you” in sign:



“Love” in:

Spanish: el amor.
Chinese: 爱

French: amour
Italian: l'amore

German: liebe

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We're going to learn a new language that doesn't use words but uses only touch. One at a time you are going to walk through an obstacle course blindfolded. Each person going through the course will have a guide. Using only touch, not words, the guide will help you through the course. One at a time, blindfold each person and assign a guide to lead them through the course. The guide does not speak but uses touch to direct the participant. Be patient and careful as you figure out how to communicate moving forward, sideways, up and down. Let everyone have a turn being a participant and a guide.

B. DISCUSSION: How did you figure out what your guide wanted you to do?

Listen. A touch on the back meant go forward, a touch on the leg meant to lift my leg, or patting my head meant to bend down. **Was it scary to walk without seeing where you were going or what you were supposed to do?** *Listen.* Was it easier to be the guide or the blindfolded person? *Listen.* Which role required more trust? *Listen.*

People from different countries use different languages to communicate. We even invented our own language using touch to get through the obstacle course. **How does God communicate and talk with you and me?** *Listen.* Through stories and verses from the Bible. Through other believers who provide direction and wisdom. Through the Spirit's prompting us in our minds to make good and Godly choices. Through the beauty and complexity of creation. **Have you ever heard God speak to you in words?** *Listen.* God does speak using words but it is rare.

Invite a volunteer to read Psalm 29: 3,5,7. **His voice is over the waters. The Bible says God's voice breaks trees! His voice strikes with flashes of lightning.** Invite a volunteer to read John 12:28-29. **People hear the voice of God. His voice is like thunder!** Invite a volunteer to read Romans 1:20. **Creation tells the glory of God. God's voice is powerful.**

In the same way we can learn to communicate with touch, we can learn to hear God's non-verbal voice. What skills do we use when learning a new language? *Listen.* Practice, memorization, repetition.

Over the next week let's practice listening for God's non-verbal voice speaking to us. Write on a piece of paper or tell someone in the family when:

- You read something in the Bible that you feel is a message from God to you.
- You sense the small voice inside guiding you that something is wrong or right.
- You feel God's love through the care of family and friends.
- You sense God's beauty and power in creation.

C. ACTIVITY #2: Without using words, tell each family member that you love them. Sign language. Hug.

V. Close in Prayer

VI. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.