**Learn in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**How do I fulfill God’s mission?**

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” ([Matthew 28:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt28.19))

*As Christians, God wants to work* in *our life in special ways. He saves us, heals us, changes us, and helps us. But His work doesn’t stop there. God wants to work* through *us, too. He also equips us with exactly what we need to send us out and serve His kingdom here on earth. These sessions will look at how God wants to use us in His mission.*

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| ***You Will Need*** *•* ***Group Activity Page****, one per student* *• Pencils or pens, one per student* *• Small prize for the winning student****Getting Ready*** *• Print copies of the* ***Group Activity Page****, one per student.* *• First time leading* Learn *for Youth? Look here for the* [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)*.* |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming. Your friendliness here can create comfort levels that encourage student participation later.*

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| **QUESTION**What is the best vacation spot you’ve ever visited or hope to visit? |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Ask for the Holy Spirit to teach students how to be open to God’s ministry opportunities for them. Offer any prayer requests from students or pray for challenges they’re facing. Ask that God allow today’s session to uniquely inspire students to listen more closely for His voice.*

• *Optional: Have students pray for one another in groups.*

**Introduction**

Did you know that God wants to use your life to make a difference in the world? All of us—old, young, quiet, outgoing, put-together, or messed up—can be used by God. Our role is to respond to His direction. Let’s consider what that looks like for us today and start thinking about it through something fun.

**Group Activity**

**Can You Follow Directions?**

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| ***You Will Need*** *•* ***Group Activity Page****, one per student* *• Pencils or pens, one per student* *• Small prize for the winning student****Getting Ready*** *• Make copies of the* ***Group Activity Page****, one per student.* |

Today, we’re going to see who can follow directions quickly. I’ll hand you a list of instructions. Read all the way through the list before beginning. When you’ve completed your list, bring it to me. The first person to complete all of it will win a prize.

• *Give each student a copy of the* ***Group Activity Page*** *and a pencil or pen.*

• *It’s important that you tell the students to read the instructions all the way through before beginning. Some instructions will clearly show who read to the end before starting. Once the game has started, let them figure it out without interference.*

• *Determine who the winner is.*

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| **QUESTION**If you didn’t hear me say to read all the way through before beginning, why do you think you missed what I said? |

You might not have caught it at the beginning, but I specifically said that you need to read all of the instructions before completing any of them. Everyone had the same instructions, but only some responded correctly. In a similar way, God wants to use each of us—but it’s up to us to listen and respond to His instructions every day. Let’s watch the video before we look at what the Bible says about how we should respond to God.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever had a time when you believed God was speaking to you? Tell us about it. |

God wants to speak to all of us, and He wants us to listen and respond when He does. He speaks in many different ways. Today we’ll look at a story in the Bible of someone who heard God’s voice through a vision and responded in obedience.

**God Wants to Guide You**

Read [Acts 9:10–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.10-12).

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| **QUESTION**What specific details did God give Ananias to guide him? |

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| **QUESTION**How do you think Ananias felt when the Lord gave him this assignment? |

God gave Ananias a difficult assignment, so it’s good that he knew exactly what God said. It would be awesome if we could always hear God’s voice clearly just like we hear other people talking. But most of the time, God speaks to us in other ways. These are just as important and powerful as how God spoke to Ananias in a vision.

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| **QUESTION**What are some different ways that we can hear God’s voice guiding us? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think we sometimes struggle to hear God’s guidance in our own life? |

**Did You Know?**

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| Straight Street, the street where the Lord told Ananias to find Saul in [Acts 9:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.11), still exists today. In Damascus, Syria, this street was called Decumanus Maximus and was the longest east-west street in the city. The road was the most important and active road in the city well into the twentieth century until the development of highways. |

**God Wants to Use You**

Think about this situation with Saul. God could have just healed Saul to help him see again. God was already working in a special way with Saul. A few verses earlier in this chapter, Jesus supernaturally intercepted Saul’s plans. Instead of more direct contact, God decided to include one of His followers as a part of Saul’s next miracle.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think God wanted to use Ananias to accomplish His plan? |

Ananias wasn’t one of Jesus’ twelve disciples or a church pastor that we know of. He was a believer. That probably means he was a lot like you and me.

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| **QUESTION**What does this teach us about the types of people that God wants to use? |

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| **QUESTION**What excuses do people make to claim God can’t use them to make a difference? |

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| **QUESTION**Think about your own life, relationships, and spheres of influence. How could God use you to make a difference? |

God wanted to use Ananias to make a difference in Saul’s life, but it was up to Ananias to choose to respond in obedience.

**It’s Our Responsibility to Respond**

Read [Acts 9:13–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.13-18).

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| **QUESTION**Why did Ananias hesitate to obey God’s voice initially? |

Several influences could have affected Ananias’ decision to obey—fear, what other people were saying, and even the threat of arrest. But that didn’t keep him from obeying God’s instruction.

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| **QUESTION**Why is obedience to God so important for His followers? |

Later in Acts, we find out that Saul (who also went by the name Paul) became one of the most influential Jesus-followers in the history of the world! He made a huge difference for God, including writing many books of the New Testament. One key moment in starting Saul’s powerful ministry happened when Ananias heard God’s voice and responded in obedience. Like Ananias, we have a responsibility to listen to God and respond when He speaks to us.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think some people refuse to obey God today? |

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| **QUESTION**What was the end result of Ananias’s obedience to God’s voice? |

Sometimes, responding to God’s voice leads to instant results. Other times, we may never see the fruit of our obedience to Him. We have to remember that God controls the results; we control our obedience.

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| **QUESTION**Can you think of a time when the Lord told you to do something, and you did it? If so, what was the result? |

**Reflect**

**I Respond to God Daily**

Just like God spoke to Ananias and Saul, God wants to speak to us, too. Though we may feel discouraged or frustrated, God wants to encourage us. Even if we get off course, He wants to lovingly correct us. Like He did for Ananias, God has clear guidance and direction for our life.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how our life demonstrates what we’ve learned from the Bible. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

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| **QUESTION**What are some practical things you can do to hear God’s voice more clearly in your life? |

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| **QUESTION**How is God speaking to you today regarding how He might want to use you to make a difference? |

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| **QUESTION**What’s the primary thing in your life that keeps you from always obeying God? |

**Activate**

It’s easy to complain about not hearing God’s voice and do nothing about it. But there are things we can do. Are we devoting time and attention to listening for it? Are we willing to disconnect from distractions to make room for Him to speak? One of the best ways to hear God’s voice consistently is to read His Word.

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| **QUESTION**When is the best time and place for you to study God’s Word and make time to listen to Him? |

**Conclusion**

Every one of us can contribute to God’s mission by listening and responding to Him daily. I want to challenge each of us to make time this week to listen for God to speak to our heart and to obey what we sense He says to us.

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*The absolute first step in hearing God’s voice is surrendering your life to Him. God sent Jesus to save you and me because He loves us. He knows everything about us, including the choices we’ve made in life. Yet, He still wants to have a relationship with us and lead us toward the amazing future He created for us.**Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Prayer**

God, thank You for the truth that You still speak to us. We want to hear Your voice and respond to You when You speak. Help us to be obedient every day. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Don’t forget to check the Bible Engagement Project app for the personal devotions! They help you dive into God’s Word. Remember to take time to listen and hear His voice, too. I’ll see you next time!