

GO DEEPER

BOTTOM LINE

**FOLLOWING JESUS
MEANS BEING READY
TO HEAR GOD'S
WORD**

MEMORY VERSE

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

BIBLE PASSAGES

DAY 1: Read - Jeremiah 17:9, Psalm 51:10, Proverbs 3:5-6

Jesus knows the condition of our heart is very important. Our heart often guides us. What does the Bible say about our hearts? Jesus wants us to know that we can trust His Word and for us to let His Word into our hearts. Let's go deeper this week and see what softening and weeding God wants to do in us so that we are ready to hear His Word and let it into our hearts!

DAY 2: Read - Matthew 13:3-4, 18-19

Paths were formed when people walked often in the same place. The soil was packed down so seeds that fell on a path just sat right on top. You can imagine birds would quickly eat up these seeds! This soil represents someone who hears God's Word, but does not understand. The message does not even take root before Satan snatches it away and he is looking for opportunities to do that. When you hear God's Word but don't understand it, what could you do that could help you?

DAY 3: Read - Matthew 13:3, 5-6, 20-21

Although soil around where Jesus was teaching may have appeared to be good, the people he was talking to knew that it was often only a thin layer of soil. When a farmer would dig through the soil he would quickly hit rocks. In this soil, plants would grow up quickly but die when it got hot because the roots were not strong. This is like the person who hears and believes God's Word, but when hard things come in life they quickly forget what God has said. Is there a hard time you have been through when you struggled to remember God's Word?

DAY 4: Read - Matthew 13:3, 7, 22

This soil represents people who hear God's Word, but are influenced by worldly things. Things like sports, games, money and friends are not bad things, but when they become a distraction or more important than following God's Word, they are like thorns that are choking out your ability to grow in a relationship with God. What in your life can distract you from spending time with God?

DAY 5: Read - Matthew 13:3, 8-9, 23; James 1:22

What do you think is more important, hearing what is right or doing what is right? Why? God wants us to spend time in His Word every day. When we are reading God's Word it helps us to remember what He says so that we can do it! Do your actions show that you hear God's Word?



LISTENING OR HEARING

Materials: Paper, Pen, Container

Gather your family or some friends and line up to play a game of telephone. Ahead of time write some silly messages on pieces of paper and place them in a container. Have one person pick one and whisper the message into the ear of the person beside them. Have each person whisper the message to the next person until the last person says the message they heard out loud. This message will likely be different than the original message shared. Talk together about how easy it is to not hear things correctly or completely. You could listen to all the words of Jesus but not really hear them and it is very difficult to obey something you did not really hear. The heart that is made of good soil is the heart that tells the Lord it wants to not only listen to His Word but obey it, a heart that wants to be made more like Jesus. We need to prepare our hearts to hear and receive God's Word.



MEMORY CREATION

Materials: Paper, Markers, Scissors

Make a reminder that God wants us to listen for His voice, and one way we can do that is by memorizing His Word.

Draw and cut out a large heart on a piece of paper. On one side write the bottom line for this week, "Following Jesus means being ready to hear God's Word". Turn your heart over and on the back write the following verse:

"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Psalms 119:11

Place your heart by your bed and read the verse every night. Ask God to help you memorize His Word.



SIMON SAYS

Materials: None

Play a game of 'Simon Says' with your family. Take turns allowing different members to be Simon. After playing a few rounds talk about it:

- What do you need to do to be really good at Simon Says?
- What happens if you are not listening carefully?
- What happens if you do not obey what you hear?

Good listening isn't just a skill for a game though. You have to be a good listener at home and at school. But is it enough to just listen? No, we also have to obey what we are hearing. James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."