

GO DEEPER**SPECIAL WORDS****FOLLOWING JESUS**

(MARCH IN PLACE)

MEANS BEING READY TO HEAR

(CUP EARS WITH HANDS)

GOD'S WORD!

(HOLD HANDS IN FRONT OF YOU LIKE AN OPEN BOOK)

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*

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

What does your heart do? It helps keep us alive by pumping our blood but it also is where we hold a lot of our feelings. If you are mad what might you do? If you are sad what might you do? If you are happy what might you do? When our heart is hurting and we are about to make a bad choice, Jesus reminds us to listen to God's Word, the Bible. **Remember: Following Jesus means being ready to hear God's Word!**

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

Go for a walk outside with your child. Ask your child what they think would happen if you put seeds on the hard ground, like the sidewalk or the road? Talk about how birds or other animals would come and eat the seeds. Ask your child where they think it would be best to put seeds if they wanted them to grow. Talk about how God wants us to let His words go deep in our hearts, just like seeds need to go deep in the ground. **Remember: Following Jesus means being ready to hear God's Word!**

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

Take a bucket or bag, go outside, and have a rock hunt! See how many rocks your child can find. Take time to look at the rocks and compare them. Ask your child if you were to put these rocks in the ground and then plant a seed in the middle of them would it grow? After they answer, talk about how it might grow, but it would not be strong. We grow strong by reading God's Word! **Remember: Following Jesus means being ready to hear God's Word!**

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

Find a garden or even a sidewalk with weeds sticking up. Ask your child to help you pull the weeds. Why should we pull weeds? After your child answers, talk about how sometimes we get distracted by our toys, friends, or TV, and forget about spending time with God. God wants us to remove the weeds so that we have room for Him!

Remember: Following Jesus means being ready to hear God's Word!

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

Play a game of "Red Light, Green Light". After playing, talk about how your child had to listen carefully to your words AND obey them quickly. If they obeyed, they were able to make it to you and win the game. If they didn't obey, they had to start all over! When we read the Bible, God wants us not just to read His Word but to obey it. Being ready to hear means being ready to obey. **Remember: Following Jesus means being ready to hear God's Word!**



LISTENING OR HEARING

Materials: Paper, Pen, Container

Gather your family 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 family member beside them. Have each person whisper the message to the next 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. 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.



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 tells us, "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."



CUDDLE CLOSE

Materials: None

Before bed pull your child close beside you and say, "God wants us to be ready from His Word, the Bible!" As you tuck them into bed, sing, "The B-I-B-L-E" (www.tinyurl.com/b-i-b-l-e-yancy). Then pray together, pausing after each phrase, to let your child repeat after you:

*Dear God,
Thank you for Your Word, the Bible. Help me to learn more about You and to grow in Your Truth.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*