



LESSON OBJECTIVES:

STUDENTS WILL LEARN THAT:

- God's Word is the Bible, which tells us what we should do and shouldn't do to love him and others well.
- God tells us to take his Word and hide it in our hearts, which means to listen to it and learn it.
- When we listen to him and learn his Word, we are showing him that we think he is important.
- An amazing God deserves to be listened to. He made the universe!

TEACHER PREPARATION:

- Watch Week 13 Video on DVD Disc 2.
- Read the Bible story (Luke 8:4-15) and the Memory Verse (Deuteronomy 30:14).
- Other verses for your study: Deuteronomy 6:6, Psalm 119:11, Jeremiah 15:16, Luke 8:15.
- Print Exit Ticket cards (1 per child).
- Print out picture prompts for the memory verse game.
- Find a bag of seeds (sunflower seeds in a bag from the grocery store would work great).
- Hang Week 13 banner.

SUPPLIES:

(Boldfaced materials are provided with the curriculum and you can find them in the Week 13 Folder on Print Materials Disc 2. The videos are located on Disc 2 (DVD) and Disc 4 (DVD-Rom).)

- **Clive & Ian's Wonder-Blimp of Knowledge Week 13 video**
- **Exit Ticket Cards (1 per child)**
- **Picture prompts for memory verse game**
- Blank paper (2 pieces per child)
- 1 bag of seeds (see notes from Teacher Preparation)
- Glue
- Markers/crayons/colored pencils
- Bible(s)
- Banner for Week 13
- Cards or Paper Slips for Banner

SCHEDULE:

INTRO (5 Minutes)

VIDEO (15 Minutes)

BIBLE STORY (15 Minutes)

MEMORY VERSE (5 Minutes)

YOUR TURN (20 Minutes)

EXIT TICKET (5 Minutes)

INTRO:

(5 minutes)

SAY: *Last week we learned a new way to show God our respect. Who remembers? Yes – we praise him to show our love for him. Do you remember why this is so important? Great job remembering – it is good for our hearts to praise him, God loves our praise, and we can show others how great God is by praising him. What are some of the ways we learned we can praise God? (Give kids a few moments to remember and respond.)*

SAY: *Who knows the game, “Simon Says?” Can someone explain to us how to play that game?*

SAY: *Good explanation – so it sounds like you have to be a really good listener to play that game. Good listening isn’t just a skill for a game, though. You have to be a good listener at home and at school. It’s also really important in our relationship with God. He tells us that we can show him our love for him by listening to him. Sometimes listening is really hard, so let’s see what Clive and Ian learn so we can be better listeners.*

VIDEO:

(15 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Week 13 Video, Banner for Week 13, Cards or Paper Slips

Watch Week 13 Video from DVD Disc 2 (DVD) or Disc 4 (DVD-Rom).

SAY: *Now let’s spend some time seeing what truths we learned from Clive and Ian’s exploration.*

Break into small groups to discuss the video, with an adult leader for each group. As the kids talk, write truths directly on a couple of cards. The cards will go on Week 13’s banner.

Make sure these questions are addressed as kids recall their knowledge:

Q: How do we listen to God?

A: We listen to his Word, which is the Bible. Listening means not just hearing, but learning his Word and following what it says.

Q: Why should we listen to God’s Word?

A: Everything God’s Word teaches is true. We want to show respect to God by listening and we need to know his truth to know how to live and love in ways that honor him.

BIBLE STORY:

(15 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Bible(s)

SAY: *Who’s ever tried to grow a plant? What kinds of things do you need for a plant to grow well? Yes – good soil, sun, water, and protection from pests like bugs. God says that our hearts are like soil, and that his word is like seeds that need to grow in the soil. Jesus told a kind of story, called a parable, about this idea. It’s called “The Parable of the Sower.” “A sower” doesn’t mean someone who sews with needle and thread. This is a different kind of “sow,” which means to plant. So “a sower” is someone who plants seeds, like a gardener or a farmer!*

Read Luke 8:4-15, The Parable of the Sower. You can have a student volunteer read the story out loud.

Discuss this question in small groups or as a whole class:

Q: What were the 4 situations Jesus described?

- A: 1) Seeds fell on the path, and birds ate the seeds.
2) Seeds fell on rocks, and after they grew, they withered because they had no deep roots.
3) Seeds fell in thorns, and the plants were choked by the weeds.
4) Seeds fell on good soil, and they grew many healthy plants and made a lot of fruit!*

Q: What things can keep us from having a heart that listens to God?

A: God’s enemy, the devil (the birds). Not really listening and following (rocks). Listening to other things in life more than to God (the weeds/thorns).

Q: Why does listening to God help grow good things in our hearts?

A: God’s truth teaches us about his love and his ways. When we listen to his love and follow his ways, we honor him and he gives us fruit in our hearts, like patience and peace and joy and gentleness.

MEMORY VERSE:

(5 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Picture prompts for memory verse game

Remind the kids that God tells us that we can know him by knowing his word and hiding it in our hearts.

Today’s verse is:

DEUTERONOMY 30:14

But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

Read today's verse over with the kids a couple of times out loud and talk about it for a few minutes. Talk about how listening to God means putting his word in our hearts and mouths so we can follow his truth, like the seeds put in the soil from The Parable of the Sower. You may want to write the Memory Verse on a poster board or white board for the kids to reference during the game.

MEMORY VERSE GAME:

Have the 4 picture prompts ready. Hold up the 4 picture prompts for the 4 sections of Deuteronomy 30:14. Tell kids that they are going to say each part of the verse as you hold up each picture prompt. Work on the 1st phrase until the kids know it pretty well before adding the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th phrases.

Picture of child hugging the Bible:

"But the word is very near you."

Picture of mouth speaking:

"It is in your mouth"

Picture of word in heart:

"And in your heart"

Picture of child holding a piece of fruit:

*"So that you can do it.
Deuteronomy 30:14"*

- As they are working, go around the room and ask them to explain what each of the sections represents (e.g. "Thorns" represents the things we listen to more than God.).

When their 8 sections are finished, have the kids add pictures of fruit in the "good soil" section and some of the words that show the fruit that a listening heart grows: peace, patience, love, joy, self-control, goodness, gentleness, kindness. You can find a list of these fruits in Galatians 5:22-23.

EXIT TICKET:

(5 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Exit Ticket (1 Per Child)

As kids finish their Your Turn activity, have them go over the questions on the Exit Ticket and practice their Memory Verses. Encourage them to discuss the questions with their parents and share the picture ideas for the Memory Verse.

YOUR TURN:

(20 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Blank paper (2 pieces per child), 1 bag of seeds, Glue, Markers/crayons/colored pencils

SAY: *We're going to make a picture story of the parable we learned today. We'll call it "The Listening Hearts Collage."*

- Hand out 2 pieces of paper to each child.
- Demonstrate how to fold the paper in half and then fold it in half again. Open the paper up and show how it made 4 sections on the page.
- Have them make 4 sections out of a 2nd piece of paper too.
- Have the kids label their 8 sections as: Path 1, Path 2, Rocks 1, Rocks 2, Thorns 1, Thorns 2, Good Soil 1, Good Soil 2.
- Show them how they are going to draw the settings for each section (the path, the rocks, the thorns, and the good soil) on each section. Then explain that in the 1st section of each setting they are going to show the sowing of the seeds. They will glue seeds on their pages instead of drawing them. On the second section of each setting, they will show how the seeds either did not grow or did grow.
- For example, Path 1 will show the farmer sowing seeds on the path. Path 2 will show people trampling the seeds and birds eating them.