



Listen Up!

When God Calls My Name

Theme & Curriculum Guide 2010



THEME VERSE:

My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die. No one can steal them out of my hand. – John 10:27-28 (NirV)

This is my son, and I love him. Listen to him! – Mark 9:7 (NirV)

DAILY THEMES:

Day	Theme	Scripture
Sunday	He calls us to FOLLOW!	Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 9:9-13, Mark 3:13-19, Mark 6:6b-13, Luke 5:1-11, Luke 6:12-16 (Jesus calling of the twelve)
Monday	He calls us to TRUST!	Matthew 14: 22-33, Luke 8:50 (Peter walking on water)
Tuesday	He calls us to BELONG!	Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15-17 (Jesus calls the little children)
Wednesday	He calls us to GO!	Matthew 10, Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 9:1-9 (The Great Commission)

Daily Themes

Sunday: He calls us to FOLLOW!

Scripture: *“Come. Follow me,” Jesus said. “I will make you fishers of people.” At once they left their nets and followed him. – Matthew 4:19-20 (NirV)*

Objective: Jesus tells us to follow him. Don’t wait. Choose him.

Monday: He calls us to TRUST!

Scripture: *They saw him walking on the lake and were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said. And they cried out in fear. Right away Jesus called out to them, “Be brave! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “Lord, is it you?” Peter asked. “If it is, tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” Jesus said. So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, “Lord! Save me!” Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “Your faith is so small!” he said. “Why did you doubt me?” – Matthew 14:26-31 (NirV)*

Objective: Jesus calls us to trust in Him. Even in scary times, we should choose to trust God knowing that he will protect and care for us because he loves us.

Tuesday: He calls us to BELONG!

Scripture: *“Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them.” – Mark 10:14b (NirV)*

Objective: God’s kingdom is for you. It doesn’t matter what you look like, who you are, or what you can do. We know that Jesus made us perfectly to belong.

Wednesday: He calls us to GO!

Scripture: *“So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.” – Matthew 28:19-20 (NirV)*

Objective: We are told to share our faith and the good news of Jesus with everyone we encounter. That’s our job as believers.



CLASSES:

1. Listen...Even When Others Are Laughing

Daily Theme Category: FOLLOW

Bible Character: Noah

Key Bible Story Point: Noah was called to follow God's instruction as he built an ark during a drought when rain seemed unlikely and improbable. Nobody understood what he was doing, and many laughed at him. Yet, he was called to follow, and he obeyed God.

Life Application Point: The world doesn't always understand why we as Christians do some of the things we do. However, as Christians, we must follow God's plan for our life.

2. Listen...Even When it Seems Impossible

Daily Theme Category: FOLLOW

Bible Character: Moses

Key Bible Story Point: Against all the odds, Moses was able to free the Hebrew slaves and lead them out of Egypt. He was faced with obstacles that seemed insurmountable—an unrelenting Pharaoh, an oppressed people who could not see beyond their current situation, and physical barriers—and each time, he listened to God and followed Him.

Life Application Point: We face challenges every single day, but we cannot let them determine whether or not we will listen to what God asks us to do.

3. Listen...Even When the Sacrifice is Great

Daily Theme Category: TRUST

Bible Character: Abraham

Key Bible Story Point: Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac – the only son he had with his wife Sarah. Abraham did not understand why God asked this of him. Instead of questioning God's reasoning, though, Abraham chose to trust in what God asked him to do despite the high cost of obedience.

Life Application Point: Sometimes the price of trusting God is high. We are often called to sacrifice a number of things in order to do his will. Regardless of the cost, we must still obediently trust in God; ultimately, the reward is much greater than the sacrifice.

4. Listen...Even Through Dangerous Times

Daily Bible Theme: TRUST

Bible Character: Daniel

Key Bible Story Point: Daniel had risen and found great favor with King Darius. The royal officials did not like this. By asking King Darius to write a law forbidding prayer to anything or anyone but the king, the royal officials ensured that Daniel would have to choose God's way or the king's way. Daniel chose to obey God knowing there would be dangerous consequences. Because he chose to follow God despite the danger, he was thrown into the lion's den – but God kept him safe! Daniel served God faithfully and trusted that God would protect him.

Life Application Point: In some countries, people are not allowed to worship God or openly speak about him. Doing so could mean imprisonment or death. We should demonstrate our trust in God in all we do, no matter the danger. Even today, men and women risk their lives to share God's word and be obedient to Him.

5. Listen...Even When You Don't Believe in Yourself

Daily Bible Theme: BELONG

Character: Esther

Key Bible Story Point: Mordecai asked Esther to help save the lives of the Jewish people—her people – but she doubted in her ability to do this. She was simply a Jewish girl who had been made Queen. Even through her doubts, Mordecai reminded her that she was one of God's chosen people, and that she had been placed in this royal position “for such a time as this.”

Life Application Point: We belong to God's family and are part of a community of believers. Because of this, we can encourage one another even in times of self-doubt, knowing we all have a purpose in God's family that he has equipped us to fill.

6. Listen...Even Though You Feel Different

Daily Bible Theme: BELONG

Character: Rahab

Key Bible Story Point: Rahab's story was not typical of a lot of those who believe in God, but one day, she came to understand who God was and what he was able to do even through somebody like her. She protected God's spies as they prepared to take the city of Jericho. In return, the lives of her family were spared from destruction, and she was able to witness the blessings of God.

Life Application Point: At one time or another, each of us feels different from those around us...and not necessarily in a good way. When we feel like this, it is often hard to understand where we fit in. As God's children, though, we know we always have a place with him.

7. Listen...Even When You Don't Want To

Daily Bible Theme: GO

Character: Jonah

Key Bible Story Point: Jonah was asked by God to teach the wicked people of Nineveh about him, but Jonah chose instead to run away from the Lord. He boarded a ship to Tarshish and through an unusual turn of events, ended up in the belly of a big fish. Jonah realized his mistake and prayed to God. At this, he was released from the belly of the fish. God once again called Jonah to go to Nineveh, and this time he obeyed God's command and turned the city of Nineveh back towards the Lord.

Life Application Point: Sometimes following God's commands means choosing to give up what we selfishly want to do. Ultimately, it is not our wants that matter but what God wants of us. We must listen to what he asks of us, and we must go where he sends us.

8. Listen...Even When the Call is Big

Daily Bible Theme: GO

Character: Isaiah

Key Bible Story Point: God wanted Isaiah to be a prophet. Even though he didn't know it at the time, Isaiah agreed to a very big job. He understood God's sovereign holiness and the need for others to learn about God's ability to save, and he willingly said to the Lord, "Here am I, send me."

Life Application Point: We can be just like Isaiah. It really doesn't matter what God's call entails; it only matters that we are ready and willing to serve him. Even as children, we can serve God through small acts of kindness, setting an example for others, sharing our faith, or whatever it is God sets before us. The important thing to realize is that we serve because of who God is and not what he asks us to do.