

CHARADES

WEEK 2 John 10:22-30

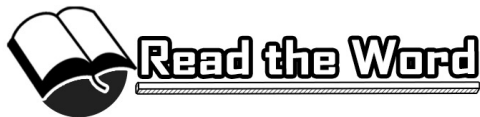


Let's play charades! Prepare a set of words that your kids know and can guess. Write each word on a piece of paper and roll them up and put them in a box. Each person will draw from the box and will act out the word, without saying anything. All the other participants will try and guess the word. After the word is correctly guessed, the next person will draw another word and the game continues.

When somebody guesses the word correctly, he and the person who acted out the word each gets a point.

After the game, ask: Did you think the game was easy or difficult? Do you think it would have been easier if the person could speak?

It is always easier to understand a person when he is able to speak. This is the same with God! Everything would be much simpler if only we knew what God wants to tell us. The question is not so much if God will speak to us because He always does. The question is, do you know how to listen to God's voice?



Read John 10:22-30.

At this time, people came to Jesus and asked Him if He was indeed the Messiah. But they have already seen many miracles performed by Jesus but they still would not believe. And Jesus answered them saying,

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." - John 10:27-28

The people who kept asking him did not really want to follow Him. That was why no matter how many deeds and miracles Jesus performed, no matter what Jesus said, they will not recognize that the Messiah was right in front of them. Jesus' voice was already so loud yet they could not hear.

You see, the more you spend time with someone, the more you will learn to recognize not just his voice but even what he says. Ever heard someone use the phrase "That's what my father (or mother) would say"? They say this because they know their parents so well that they can predict what their parents are going to say. It's like they can hear their parents' voice in their heads.

The same goes with our relationship with God. When you have spent time with God, when you have spent time reading His word, you will know in your heart what it says. The longer the time you spend with God, the more you will understand His heart, such that even when you do not hear Him say it, you know His heart and you know His commands. Obeying Him will not be hard to do.

But for someone who has never read the Bible, the commandments written in it will not make sense to him. Why? Because he does not know God's heart. For instance, the commandment to "love your enemies" will not make sense to people who do not follow God. But if you are God's sheep, you know that this is what God wants and you will follow it because you know God's heart. And you know what? If we always follow God, He will make sure to protect us in every way, just like what the verse says, "...no one will snatch them out of my hand."



Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- Do you think you would be able to recognize your parents' voice even if you are blindfolded? (You can try it out and see)
- Will you follow the voice of someone you don't know (like a stranger)? Why or why not?

7-12 years old

- Whose voice have you been following lately? God's? Your friends'? Or others' (like trends in social media?)
- Would you like to know what God wants to tell you? How do you think you can do this? How do you devote your time in hearing God? Do you set a time and space for you to hear God?

Kid/s to Parent:

- How do you recognize God's voice?
- Are there people who help you hear what God is saying? Who are they and why them? In what way can you say that God is speaking to you through them?

God is constantly speaking to us in many different ways. The key for us to recognize His voice is to build a habit of prayer, devote our time in reading His Word, surround ourselves with godly people so that we can learn to follow and hear Him.



Dear God,

Thank You for speaking to us and giving us so many ways to connect with You. I pray that You'll help us to build a habit of praying and reading the Bible and that You will surround us with people who can help us hear You so that we can hear and understand what You want us to do. In Jesus' name,

Amen!



How can you recognize a person's voice?

Scientists have learned that our sense of sight and sense of hearing are strongly interconnected and this interconnection is what allows us to recognize a person's voice on the other end of a telephone line. Two parts of our brain go to work when we hear a familiar voice. The visual part of our brain recalls and allows us to picture the person who owns the voice and the auditory part allows us to hear the voice. These two parts then work together through a series of processes to associate the two together and help us identify the person.

Amazingly, God created us to be able to recognize His voice even without seeing Him visually or hearing His voice audibly.

Are you hearing Him?