

TOPIC: Voices

‘Who do we listen to?’

Goal of the meeting: To discern which voices in our lives are speaking truth, and which are speaking lies



Game: “Which way do I turn?”

Have one or two volunteers (kids) leave the room.

Place two other helpers on different sides of the room. One helper has a candy bar and the other a cup with a little water. The helper with the candy can only speak the truth and the helper with water can say anything he wants to, even if it's not true. Each must try to get the volunteer(s) to come to his side (you may want to choose and prepare your helpers before the meeting).

Then bring in the first volunteer from outside the room, blindfolded, and place them in the middle of the room. Tell the person they need to listen to the voices of the two people on opposite sides of the room. Each one has something to give them, however only one of them is telling the truth. They must decide which one it is and move toward that person to receive their gift. Tell them not to move right away but listen to what the volunteers have to say.

The game may go something like this: One helper might say, “I have a candy bar for you.” The other helper may respond, “I have 10 dollars to give you, and he’s going to put shaving cream on you.” The first one responds: “No, he’s got water he’ll pour on your head. You should definitely come here,” and so on.

After a bit, you might ask them if they want help from the group. Then the group can also give their opinion. Once they move to their chosen side, they either get candy or water on their head. Then bring in the next volunteer and repeat the process.

Questions:

To help the leader prepare, *possible* answers are given after each question in italics. The purpose of the discussion is for the young people to express their thoughts. Leaders should mostly share their ideas at the end of the discussion.

1. Question to each volunteer: *Why did you decide to go the way you did?*

2. There are many voices in the world telling us which way to turn. What are some of these voices? (Write down their answers on a board).

Teachers; parents; friends; media; influencers; music or sports celebrities; coaches; Bible; pastor; own inner voice; etc.

3. Some voices are more reliable than others. Rate the answers in question #2 by reliability (on a scale of 1-5).

Ask the kids to rate them by holding up a number of fingers. (Estimate an average rating for each voice and write the ratings on the board).

4. What makes a voice more or less reliable?

The person caring; knowing the person well; being a generally good person; past experience with them; motives; life experience; if they love God; etc.

5. Why would some voices lie to you?

Money; to hide something; to manipulate; to make others like themselves; they believe it's the truth even if it isn't; etc.

6. Divide the kids into four groups and pass out a slip to each group with one of the following questions (print the slips at the end of the lesson). See if their group can come up with 4-5 false messages besides the two examples for their question.

Group 1: What are some messages that false unreliable voices might say about your future?

Group 2: What are some messages that false unreliable voices might say about your family?

Group 3: What are some messages that false unreliable voices might say about your self-worth?

Group 4: What are some messages that false unreliable voices might say about behavior choices?

Then have groups report back their answers.

7. How can we not be taken in by voices that don't tell us the truth?

Choose who to listen to wisely; listen to more than one voice; take time to think things through; know what the Bible says;

8. Would you say God's voice is reliable? Why?

He made each person; He knows the future; He wants what is best for His children; He's a loving father; He has a plan; Yes, but sometimes it's hard to know what He's saying

9. How can we hear God's voice?

Get His Word into our lives; read it; study it; use it to consider what other voices are saying; put His Word into practice; spend time with Him;

WRAP-UP:

1. There are many voices telling us what to do (read the answers to question #2).

2. Some voices are more reliable than others.

Every voice has a little truth in it, otherwise no one would listen to it.
But some distort the truth or tell flat-out lies.

3. God's voice is the most reliable because He made us; He knows the future; He knows what's best for us. We need to follow God's voice (repeat the kids' answers to question #8).

According to the Bible, God wants us to be guided by His voice:

"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'" (Isaiah 30:21 NIV).

And Jesus said:

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27 NIV)

4. Get to know God's voice as well as you can, so you can tell which human voices are speaking truth and which ones are telling lies.

How do you spot fake money? In banks, tellers spend a lot of time studying and handling the REAL money, so that when the false money comes, they can spot it.

Get a GRIP on God's Word. Read, study, memorize and meditate on it. When His Word is in you, it helps you recognize which voices you can trust.

Group 1: What are some messages that false unreliable voices might say about your future?

*You need to be rich and famous;
You will never amount to anything*

Group 2: What are some messages that false unreliable voices might say about your family?

*Your parents don't love you;
You can never be as good as your older brother;*

Group 3: What are some messages that false unreliable voices might say about your self-worth?

*You're unlovable;
You are only as good as you look;*

Group 4: What are some messages that false unreliable voices might say about behavior choices?

*Everyone's doing it, so it must be right;
As long as it doesn't hurt anyone else there's nothing wrong with it.*
