



GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

These additional games and activities can be used throughout the God Speaks series. If you want to integrate more movement and facilitate more interaction in your lesson, check out these options. We've included tips to make the games and activities inclusive for all kids and have designated which games are intended for each lesson in the series.

GAME 1: SILENT CHALLENGE

SUPPLIES: pool noodle, chairs (1 per kid), floor dots (1 per kid, optional)

This game works great with the God Calls Out to Samuel lesson!

In this game, kids will communicate nonverbally to put themselves in order based on birthdays and other criteria.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Younger kids may not know the order of the months. If there are a lot of younger kids in your group, consider having them line up in height (shortest to tallest) instead.

Gather kids. **Let's play a game that sounds pretty easy! All that you have to do is to line up in order of whose birthday is first! We'll start with January at this end** (point to one end of the room) **and go down to December at the other end** (point to the other end of the room)! **Sounds easy, right? The only catch is that you can't talk or make any sounds with your mouth! You can only use your hands, body, and**

facial expressions to communicate. When you think you are in the right order, we will see how you did!

When the kids have completed the first round, invite them to line up according to other criteria, such as by age (youngest to oldest), number of pets, number of siblings, etc. Then gather kids back together.

It was hard to get in order without being able to talk, wasn't it? But you found other ways to communicate! We may not often hear God's audible—or out loud—voice, but He still speaks to us in other ways. But one person who heard God's voice was Samuel. How amazing it must have been to hear God's voice loud and clear!

GAME 2: CHARADES RACE

SUPPLIES: note cards or slips of paper (1 per kid), writing utensil, bowl

This game works great with the Samuel Anoints David as King lesson!

In this charades relay game, kids will take turns acting out different words or phrases for their teams to guess.

Ahead of time, write simple words or phrases on note cards or slips of paper. Here are some ideas: dog, airplane, train, banana, elephant, bike, boat, baseball bat, swing, brushing teeth, eating a hot dog, climbing a ladder, butterfly, diving off a diving board, tent, monkey, flipping burgers, birthday cake, roasting a marshmallow, and any other words or actions you want to add. You will need one note card or slip per kid. Fold the cards or slips in half and place them in a bowl.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. The leader holding the bowl can be ready to whisper the word or phrase to prereaders.

Make It Inclusive: If there are kids in your group with physical restrictions, have each group sit around a table with the bowl of cards in the center. Each kid will pull a card and act out the words while seated. When the team successfully guesses, the next person gets a turn to act.

Gather kids and help them form two equal teams. Have teams line up next to each other at one end of the room. On the opposite end of the room, have a leader hold the bowl of charades cards. **For this game, the first person from each team will race to the person holding the bowl, pull a card, and then race back to the team.** Demonstrate this for the kids by walking to the bowl, grabbing a slip, and walking back to the kids. **That person will look at the card and try to get her team to guess the word or phrase on the card by silently acting it out. She may not talk, mumble, or make any sounds. When the team guesses correctly, the next person in line can race to get a new card to act out. You will do that until each person on the team has had a turn to act. The first team to guess correctly for every person wins the game!** Answer any questions kids have, then begin.

Once one team has finished, give the other team a chance to finish as well. Then gather kids back together.

It was hard to communicate without talking, but you all did a great job! God can communicate to us in many ways too. Today in God's big story, Samuel listened to God and anointed David as the next king of Israel. If it had been up to Samuel, he would have chosen the next king based on outward appearance. However, because Samuel knew the voice of God—even when God wasn't talking out loud—Samuel knew to anoint David because God looks at the heart.

GAME 3: LINK AN ELBOW

WONDER INK RESOURCES: upbeat music from the [God Speaks Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

This game works great
with The Kingdom
Divides lesson!

In this game, kids will link an elbow with their partner as quickly as possible.

Leader Tip: Some clever kids may try to stay near their partners as they move about the room. Encourage everyone to stay as far from their partners as possible until they hear, “Link an elbow!”

Gather kids and help them each find a partner. **Let’s play a partner game that calls for speed and teamwork!** Explain that kids will move about the room freely as music plays. The sillier they move or dance the better! The only rule is that they cannot be anywhere near their partners while the music is playing. When the music stops, you will shout, “Link an elbow!” and kids will find their partners and link elbows together. The last pair to link up will be eliminated. You’ll continue to play until there is just one pair remaining.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Take the elimination element out of the game and just let kids play for fun!

Play upbeat music from the [God Speaks Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids move and throughout the room. After about 30 seconds, pause the music and shout: **Link an elbow!** Allow kids to find their partners and link elbows with them. The last pair to link elbows can stand to the side and cheer for their friends as the game continues. Keep playing until just one pair remains. Then gather everyone together.

Great job working together with your partners! Each time you linked your elbows, you were truly connected as one team! Today in God’s big story, we learned about a sad time in Israel’s history when the kingdom did not stay connected. King Rehoboam (RAY-oh-boh-am) chose to listen to bad advice, and as a result, Israel split into two. With God’s help, we can make better choices and listen to godly advice!

GAME 4: BLOWN AWAY

SUPPLIES: masking tape or cones, drinking straws (1 per kid), table tennis balls (2)

This game works great with the God Whispers to Elijah lesson!

In this relay, teams will race to see who can move a table tennis ball across the room the fastest using only the air they blow through a straw.

Ahead of time, mark start and finish lines at opposite ends of the room using masking tape or cones.

Gather kids and help them form two equal teams. Give each kid a straw and give each team one table tennis ball. Invite each team to form a single file line behind the designated start line.

This is a relay race where you're each going to move your team's table tennis ball across the finish line using only the air you blow through your straw. Then you will pick up the ball, run it back to your team, set it on the ground, and tag the next person in line who will then do the same thing. If you're physically able, demonstrate this by getting on your hands and knees and blowing through a straw to move a table tennis ball. Show kids where the finish line is. (If you're not able to demonstrate, invite a leader or older kid to do so.) **The first team to get through every person wins!** Give kids a chance to ask questions, then say, "Go!" to start the race. After all the kids have had a turn and one team has won, gather everyone together.

Awesome job! It took a lot of breath to blow the table tennis ball across the room, didn't it? Your breath reminds me of the wind that God used to speak to Samuel in a gentle whisper. Sometimes God speaks loudly, and sometimes He speaks softly, like a gentle blowing breeze!

GAME 5: WONDER TRUTH LETTERS REVIEW

SUPPLIES: sticky notes (24 per team), paper clips or resealable baggies (4 per team), pen, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

Works great as a review of the God Speaks series!

In this game, kids will race to place the missing letters in each of the God Speaks lesson Wonder Truths.

Leader Tip: For Preteens. To make the game more challenging, give kids blank sticky notes and have them write a missing letter on each.

Ahead of time, write the following letters on sticky notes (one letter per note). Each team will need one set of 24 sticky notes. And each set will be divided into four piles (one pile per lesson Wonder Truth). Use paper clips or resealable baggies to keep each pile separate:

Pile 1 (for Lesson 1 Wonder Truth): O, D, E, A, K, S

Pile 2 (for Lesson 2 Wonder Truth): D, O, O, H, R, T

Pile 3 (for Lesson 3 Wonder Truth): G, W, U, F, L, V

Pile 3 (for Lesson 4 Wonder Truth): O, N, P, K, X, Y

In large print, write the following Wonder Truths (include the blanks) for each team on a whiteboard:

Lesson 1: G _ _ SP _ _ _ _

Lesson 2: GO _ L _ _ KS AT T _ E HEA _ _

Lesson 3: _ OD _ ANTS _ S TO _ OLLOW GOD _ Y AD _ ICE

Lesson 4: G _ D CA _ S _ EA _ TO US IN UNE _ PECTED WA _ S

This game works best with teams of about six kids. Therefore, if your group is large, plan for more than two teams. Be sure to prepare a set of sticky notes and write out the Wonder Truths (with blanks) for each team. If your group is small, everyone can work together on one team!

Gather kids and help them form equal teams of about six. **Let's play a game to help us review what we've learned during our God Speaks series!** Explain that for each lesson in the series, kids will work with their teams to complete the Wonder Truths written on the board. Start by giving each team the first pile of sticky notes, which includes the six letters missing from the Lesson 1 Wonder Truth. Point out the Lesson 1 Wonder Truth on the whiteboard that each team will use. When you say, "Go," kids from each team can take turns grabbing one letter note and sticking it on the board where it belongs. The first team to complete the Lesson 1 Wonder Truth wins that round! Encourage the older

kids on each team to help the younger ones as needed. Play four rounds, one for each lesson's Wonder Truth. After each round, take a few moments to review that lesson's Bible story with the kids. For your reference, here is a summary of each story:

Lesson 1: God Calls Out to Samuel (1 Samuel 3)

Wonder Truth: God Speaks

In God's big story, God calls out loud to a boy named Samuel. Samuel thinks Eli the priest is calling to him, so he goes to Eli. This happens several times before Eli realizes that God is calling to Samuel. So, with Eli's help, Samuel also realizes it is God speaking and listens to His message.

Lesson 2: Samuel Anoints David as King (1 Samuel 16)

Wonder Truth: God Looks at the Heart

In God's big story, Israel's first king—Saul—has turned from God, and God has a new king in mind for His people. God tells Samuel to go to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the new king. Samuel goes to Bethlehem and expects God to choose one of Jesse's oldest, strongest sons. But God looks at the heart and chooses Jesse's youngest son, David, to be king.

Lesson 3: The Kingdom Divides (1 Kings 12)

Wonder Truth: God Wants Us to Follow Godly Advice

In God's big story, King Rehoboam (RAY-oh-boh-am) is afraid Israel might split and chooses his friends' advice over that of wise elders. Their bad advice leads to the very split the king wanted to avoid! Jeroboam (Jer-roh-BOHM), leader of the northern kingdom, also listens to unwise advice, which leads the people to worship false gods called idols.

Lesson 4: God Whispers to Elijah (1 Kings 19)

Wonder Truth: God Can Speak to Us in Unexpected Ways

In God's big story, Elijah is afraid for his life, so he runs into the wilderness. While in the wilderness, God cares for his needs by sending an angel and providing fresh bread and water. Then God tells Elijah to stand on the mountain. While Elijah is on the mountain, a strong wind, an earthquake, and a fire come. But God is not in any of those things. Then God comes to Elijah in the most unexpected way—a gentle whisper.

When the kids have filled in the missing letters in all four Wonder Truths, encourage them with these words: **God spoke to His people long ago in the Bible, and He continues to speak to His kids today. May God give each of us ears to hear His voice and hearts to obey!**