MYSTERY MANOR

Week 4

Welcome to Week 4 of our Mystery Manor Devo! This week we are learning about how we can hear from God. Just like we learned last week...God wants to talk to us! He teaches us, comforts us, and directs us when we choose to listen to Him. He has good plans for us so we can know that what He says is good and true.

Day 1: God Speaks When We Pray

Scripture Reading: Acts 10:1-4

Devotional:

Cornelius was a Roman soldier, which meant he worked for the Roman government. Many people thought soldiers like him wouldn't care about God—but Cornelius was different. The Bible tells us that Cornelius loved God, prayed often, and gave to people in need. Even though he didn't know everything about God yet, his heart wanted to honor Him. One day, while Cornelius was praying, something amazing happened. God sent an angel to speak to him! The angel called Cornelius by name and told him that God had heard his prayers and seen his kindness. Imagine how surprising—and maybe a little scary—that must have been! But this showed Cornelius something very important: God was paying attention. God didn't speak to Cornelius because he was perfect. He spoke to him because Cornelius was listening. Prayer opened the door for God to speak. God wants to speak to you just like He did to Cornelius. Prayer isn't just about talking to God but it's also about listening to Him.

Discussion:

1. Why do you think God noticed Cornelius?
2. Do you think that God hears your prayers too? Why or why not?

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You that You hear me when I pray. Help me take the time to listen to You too. I love You. Amen.

Day 2: God Can Speak in Surprising Ways

Scripture Reading: Acts 10:9-16

Devotional:

While God was speaking to Cornelius, He was also getting someone else ready—Peter. Peter was one of Jesus's disciples and a leader in the church. You might think Peter already knew everything God wanted him to know, but God still had more to teach him. One afternoon, Peter went up on a roof to pray. While he was praying, God gave him a vision. Peter saw a large sheet coming down from heaven filled with animals. God told Peter to eat them, but Peter was confused. Some of the animals were ones he had always been taught were "unclean."

God was teaching Peter that His plans were bigger than Peter's rules and habits. Even though Peter didn't understand right away, he paid attention. God sometimes speaks in ways that make us stop and think. He doesn't always speak the same way...but He always speaks with purpose and truth. He knows us personally and speaks to us the way we need it.

Discussion:

1. Why do you think Peter felt confused?
2. What should we do when we don't understand what God is teaching us right away?

Prayer:

God, thank You that You speak to me in many different ways. Help me to listen, even when I don't understand everything yet. Give me the grace to understand You and obey what You say. I love you. Amen.

Day 3: God's Voice is Loving & True

Scripture Reading: Acts 10:28,34-35

Devotional:

After Peter had his vision, God helped him understand what it meant. God wasn't really talking about food—He was talking about people. Peter realized that God loves all people, no matter where they come from or how different they seem. When Peter met Cornelius, he said something very important. He explained that God does not play favorites and that anyone who loves Him is welcome. This was a big change for Peter, and it showed him that God's voice always leads us to love others more. If something we think we hear from God causes us to be unkind, mean, or proud, then it's not from God. God's voice always matches His love and truth. God's voice will always agree with His love and His Word. God speaks truthfully to us; He will never tell us lies or things that aren't true. He is loving and true and when He speaks He reminds us of His love & truth.

Discussion:

1. How does God want us to treat people who are different from us?
2. How can you tell if something you hear matches God's love & truth?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You that You love everyone. You love all people...not just people like me. Help me listen for Your loving voice and show Your love to others. Amen.

Day 4: Listening Leads to Obedience & Joy

Scripture Reading: Acts 10:44-48

Devotional:

Peter chose to obey God, even though it felt uncomfortable and new. He went to Cornelius's house and told everyone there about Jesus. As Peter spoke, something wonderful happened—the Holy Spirit came, and the people believed in Jesus. Because Peter listened and obeyed, many people learned that God loved them too. Obeying God doesn't always mean doing something big. Sometimes it means being kind, telling the truth, forgiving someone, or sharing about Jesus. When we listen to God and obey Him, God can use us in amazing ways—no matter how young we are. Listening to God helps us to do what He asks, and obedience brings blessing.

Activity:

One-Minute Quiet Challenge:
Set a timer for one minute. Pick a Bible verse and read it out loud. Then pray and ask God to speak to you. While the timer is on just sit in silence and allow God to speak to you.
Afterwards ask:
Was it easy or hard to be still?
What helped you focus?
This teaches that hearing God often means we need to slow down.

Prayer:

God, thank You for speaking to me. Help me to listen and obey You with a happy heart. Use me to share Your love with others. Amen.

Memory Verse

"But without faith no one can please God. We must believe that God is real and rewards everyone who searches for him." Hebrews 11:6 (CEV)