

# CHILDREN CHURCH LESSON

## HEARING GOD II

**TEXT** John 10:1-10, Psalm 23

**MEMORY VERSE** John 10:4 "When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice."

**Or** John 10:4b "... his sheep follow him because they know his voice."

### STORY – DO HEARTS HAVE EARS

"Baba Kemi, what am I supposed to do? Several packets of biscuit and the drink that the children take to school have disappeared again." Mrs. Akinwale said to her husband as they sat together in their bedroom.

"Hmm," Mr Akinwale said thoughtfully. "And it was just two days ago that you reminded the children again not to take the biscuit or juice without your permission."

"Yes. That is why I'm upset. What can I do?"

Mr Akinwale was quiet for a moment. "Pray. That's it. Pray. Pray that God will speak to the heart of the person who has been taking it."

"That's Segun." Mrs Akinwale sighed. "I'll pray."

"Let's pray together." Mr and Mrs Akinwale joined their hands together and they prayed for all their children, but especially for Segun.

After the midweek service two days later, Kemi was excited as she shared what she had learnt in church.

"I am so happy that in addition to Daddy and Mummy, I can go to God when I am not sure about something. I have learnt that although I am not an adult, God can and wants to speak to me. If it's something good and I'm not sure of doing it, God can speak to my heart and encourage me. If it's something bad, God can speak to my heart to tell me not to do that thing."

"Do hearts have ears?" Ade asked.

Kemi laughed. "Yes, they do. Not like the one on your head though." She added as she noticed Ade feeling his ears and trying to imagine ears like that on his heart.

"Does God really want to talk to a child like me?" Segun asked.

"He does. Remember Daddy read the part of the Bible where Jesus said that the disciples should let the children come to him? That's the truth. God cares about all of us no matter our age." Kemi paused and then continued. "A little correction in what I said. God can speak to us and he does speak to us often. We are the ones that sometimes don't listen."

"Hmm." Segun said softly.

Two days later Segun went to the place where his mother kept the biscuit and drinks. It wasn't that he was hungry. He just felt like taking a packet of biscuit. As he reached for it, it seemed as if he heard a voice. He looked around, but there was nobody there. He tried again, but it was as if someone was telling him not to take it. He turned around and went back to his room without taking anything.

A week later when he finished practicing the math problems his mother had given him, Segun felt a little hungry and went to take a packet of biscuit. As he tried to take it, he felt uncomfortable. He was a little hungry and he knew that lunch time was still far away. He thought about taking the biscuit, but this time he could hear his mother's voice in the background telling him and his siblings that if they wanted biscuit, they should ask her first.

Segun went to the sitting room, but he didn't see his mother, only Ade who was watching TV. He then went to his parents' bedroom but no one was there. He returned to the sitting room. "Where is Mum?" he asked.

"She went to the garden to get some vegetables for lunch." Ade replied.

"Okay." As Segun was thinking of what to do, he heard his mother entering the kitchen.

"Mum, may I have a packet of biscuit? I'm a little hungry."

"Have you finished the work that I gave you?"

"Yes, I have."

"Okay, you may go and take one, just one. I will look at your work later."

"Thank you mum."

When Segun came out of the store his mother handed him a cool drink. "Here take this and enjoy it with your biscuit."

"Thank you, mum." Segun gave his mother a hug and went to the dining room.

That night as Mr and Mrs Adebisi were getting ready for bed, Mrs Adebisi spoke up. "God answered our prayers," she said.

"Which one of them?" Mr Adebisi asked.

"The one concerning Segun. Since that day he has not taken any biscuit or drink. Today, he actually asked for permission to take a packet of biscuit."

"That's wonderful. God is great."

## QUESTIONS

1. Who is the eldest child?
2. Who asked the question "Do hearts have ears?"
3. Does God about children?
4. What did Mrs Adebisi do with the problem mentioned at the beginning of the story?
5. Who spoke to Segun when he wanted to take the biscuit the first time?
6. Why do you think Mrs Adebisi wanted the children to ask for permission before taking the drink or biscuit?
7. Mention two things that Mrs Adebisi did when Segun asked for permission to take a packet of biscuit?

## CONFESSION

I am a child of God. I recognize God's voice. I obey God. I do the right thing. I stay away from what is bad. I read my Bible. I listen to what I am taught in church. I pay attention during our family times at home. I can recognize God's voice. I am a child of God. God loves me and I love him.

## ACTIVITIES

1. **With younger children** 1) Ask direct questions about what they can do or not do without asking for permission. For example: 1. Do you need to ask before you go to the toilet at home? 2. Do you need to ask before you go to the toilet at school? 3. Do you need to ask before you watch television? 4. Do you need to ask you teacher before you play with the toys in school?  
2) You can play Simon Says
2. **With older children** 1) Discuss what they can do at home without asking for permission, and what they cannot do unless they get permission first.  
2) You can play Simon Says