



### 3 Listen to God

Communication is a two-way street. The spiritual discipline of listening to God places us in the receiver's seat. Drawing near to God through listening involves more than our ears. There are different ways that we listen to God. Scripture, or the Word of God, is often understood as God speaking to us as we listen to what God has to say to us. We can also listen to God through nature, music, words in church, friends, and our conscience.

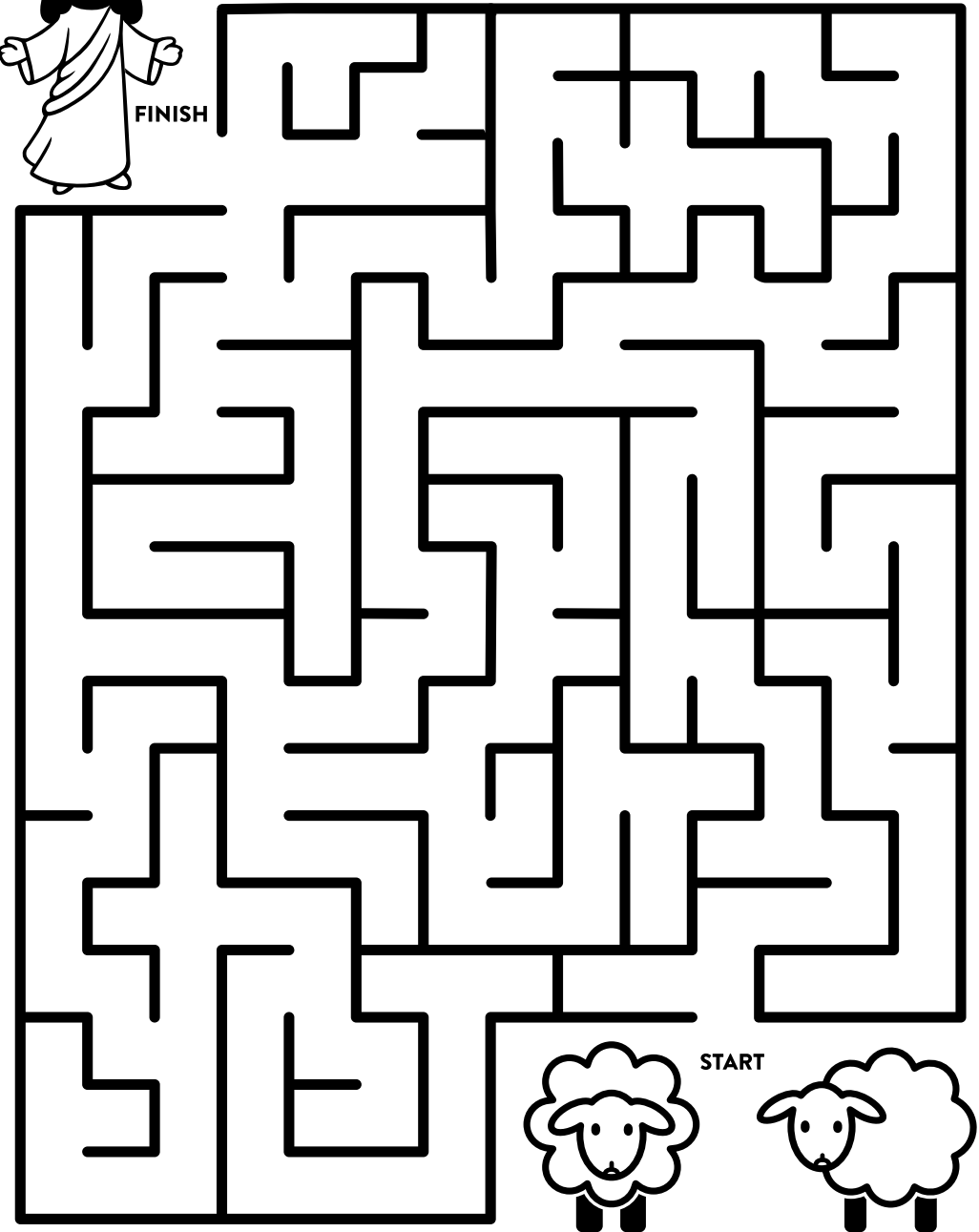
- God doesn't usually speak in a big booming voice or from a cloud in the sky. Sometimes, God speaks through the words or actions of others. Sometimes, God shows us something. Practice your God-listening skills. What happened today that was God telling you something? Maybe it was a hug or a beautiful sunset. Maybe it was kind words to a stranger or a prayer in church that reminded you that God is with you.
- Read Bible stories about some people who listened to God and see what happened. Read from a Bible or a Bible story book such as the stories suggested from *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible* (Flyaway Books, 2018):
  - Genesis 12:1–4a; 17:1–16 or "Abram and Sarai Find a New Home" (p. 26)
  - Exodus 3:1–12 or "Moses and the Special Holy Place" (p. 90)
  - 1 Samuel 2:18–3:20 or "Samuel Tells a Hard Truth" (p. 106)
  - Matthew 4:18–22 or "Follow Me!" (p. 206)
  - Luke 1:26–38 or "How Can This Happen?" (p. 186)

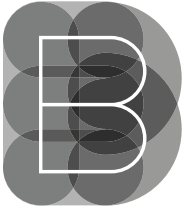
Dear God, listening isn't always easy. Help us fine tune our listening skills so that we may hear what you want to say to us. Open our ears and our hearts. Amen.



FINISH

Jesus is calling for his sheep. They know his voice. Help the sheep find him.





## BIBLE STORY

Based on John 10:11-15, 27

People were arguing about Jesus. They all saw him doing miracles, but they could not agree if his powers were good or bad. Some people thought his powers came from God. They wanted to follow Jesus and learn from him. Others thought Jesus was dangerous. They thought his power might take away their power. People did not know if they could trust Jesus. So Jesus told them this story:

I am the good shepherd. I will protect my sheep and even die if it means keeping them safe. Sometimes, a shepherd will hire people to help watch the sheep. But these workers do not care about the sheep as much as the shepherd does. If a hungry wolf came near, the hired help would run away and save themselves. They would leave the sheep behind to be scattered and in danger. But watching the sheep is more than a job for me. I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me. And this is also how it is between me and God. God knows me, and I know God. I know the sheep so well that I will die for them.

“Baa! Baa!” Listen!

“Baa! Baa!” I hear them. I know them. I will call to them, and they will listen to my voice. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.

