

Character – Lesson 27

Listening

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Lesson:

Verse: “Making your ear attentive to wisdom” (Proverbs 2:2a).

Suggested memory verse: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Matthew 11:15).

Focus: A person with a good character is one who can listen to others. It is important to be a careful listener when others are giving us instructions on how to do something.

Practical Application: Sometimes your mother might give you a message to pass on to someone. She might say to you “Tell your sister that dinner is ready.” A good listener will pay attention and give his sister the message just as his mother requested. Or maybe your father will ask you to clean up by putting the blocks in one bin and the crayons in another. A good listener will pay attention and put things away exactly as mommy or daddy requested. Good listeners will not forget to clean up or throw the blocks and the crayons together in the same bin. They will listen to all the instructions even if they think they know what to do. They will also do their best to follow the instructions. It may be helpful to play a listening game which gives the children a series of instructions, such as “Simon Says” or one that requires them to listen carefully and pass on a message, such as “Telephone,” to show the importance of listening.

Bible Story Suggestion: The Bible tells us the story of a man named Jonah. In Jonah’s time there was a city called Nineveh where the people were very bad. God told Jonah to do an important job for Him—it was Jonah’s job to tell the people of Nineveh that God was very, very angry with their way of living and that they should stop doing evil things. But Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. So Jonah ran away! He went to the sea and found a boat sailing far, far away from Nineveh. Because Jonah did not listen to God, God did something very interesting to get Jonah’s attention. He sent a huge storm to blow on the sea. The storm was so big that the men on the ship thought that the ship might break. They were all afraid! Jonah knew that God wanted him to go to Nineveh and that he had disobeyed. He admitted to the men on the ship that it was all his fault. Jonah told them that the only way to stop the huge storm was to throw him off the ship. So the men on the ship threw Jonah into the sea and the sea became very calm. God prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah up. Inside the belly of the great fish, it was very dark. It was like a dark pit. (Have everyone close their eyes). That’s probably how dark it was. After Jonah prayed to God and thanked God for saving him, the fish carried him safely back to the seashore. God spoke to the fish and the fish vomited Jonah out onto the dry land. God gave Jonah a second chance to listen. Do you think Jonah said “no” this time? This time, Jonah listened carefully to God’s message for the people of Nineveh. Jonah went through the great city of Nineveh for a day and did everything just as God had told him to do. He told this person, he told that person, he spoke and spoke God’s message to everyone as he walked throughout the city. The word reached everyone, and all the people throughout the whole city of Nineveh believed God.

Suggested Songs: #10 (“Inside Me”); #3421 (“I Will Listen”); 3722 (“Jesus, I am Listening”)