God Wants Your Attention!

**BIBLE BASIS**

The entire Bible is the story of how much God loves us and wants our attention. God spoke to the people in the Bible in many different, creative ways. He communicates with us today in personal, individual ways as well. Kids wonder if and how God talks to them. Use this session to discover that God does want our attention and to celebrate that he talks to each of us individually.

**Bible Focus:** Numbers 22:21-38

**Discovery Point:** God wants your attention!

**Worship Response:** Children will seek God and praise him for the ways he speaks to them.

**Key Verse:** “He let you hear his voice from heaven so he could instruct you” (Deuteronomy 4:36a).

**A Look at the Session**

Mix and match to meet your needs. For more ideas, see “For-Extra-Time Activities” on page 55.

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<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Kids Will Do</th>
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<td>Welcome! (up to 10 minutes)</td>
<td>Use ordinary things to try to get others’ attention.</td>
<td><em>Building Trust in God: Communication CD and DVD, CD player, TV/DVD player, ordinary classroom supplies</em></td>
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<td>Let’s Explore! (up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>Explore how God used ordinary things in interesting ways to get the attention of people in the Bible.</td>
<td><em>Hands-On Bibles, pencils, paper, markers, small balloons, tape, prepared donkey poster, “Scripture References” handout (p. 56)</em></td>
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<td>Let’s Praise! (up to 15 minutes)</td>
<td>Praise God for getting our attention in creative ways.</td>
<td><em>Building Trust in God: Communication CD or DVD, CD player or TV/DVD player</em></td>
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<td>Let’s Pray! (up to 10 minutes)</td>
<td>Commit to pay attention to God.</td>
<td><em>Sticky notes, pencils, donkey poster from Let’s Explore! Building Trust in God: Communication CD, CD player</em></td>
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Before This Session

- Photocopy the “Scripture References” handout on page 56, and cut apart the boxes to make cards. You’ll need one card for every four or five students.

- Inflate one small balloon per four or five kids, and put the balloons in a bag.

- Assemble Bible Exploration Kits (one per four to five kids): one Hands-On Bible, two pencils per child, paper, markers, sticky notes, and one Scripture reference card prepared above.

- Draw a donkey outline on poster board. Hang the poster where all kids can reach the donkey’s mouth.


- (CD/DVD) Cue the Building Trust in God: Communication CD (1) or DVD (1).

- Huddle briefly with any volunteers before the session. Answer any questions they have. Encourage them, and pray for the session, the volunteers, and the children.

**TEACHER TIP**

Bible Exploration Kits are an easy way to give each group supplies. The Jabber Mat from Group Publishing is a great tool that can be used as a Bible Exploration Kit and as a space for a Bible Crew to gather. Check it out at group.com/jabbermat.
Welcome!

**Supplies:** CD player | TV/DVD player | ordinary classroom supplies

1. Play “Into the Bible” (1).

2. As children arrive, form Bible Crews of four to five. Ask them to talk about which objects in the classroom are used to get our attention. After everyone arrives, turn off the song.

   As if giving a military command, SAY: **Attention!** Encourage kids to stand at attention. Then continue in military-command style.

   **Your mission is to use ordinary objects in this room to create an attention-getter.** You can use any combination of items you see in this room to make it. I’ll give you five minutes to create, and then you’ll demonstrate your attention-getter for the rest of us.

3. After five minutes, start the “Whisper Countdown” (2), and lead kids in whispering along with it. Then allow each Bible Crew to show its attention-getter to the whole group. SAY: **You came up with a lot of great ways to use ordinary things to get our attention! I’m so glad God got your attention today to bring you to Bible MAX!**

   **ASK:**
   - What kinds of things get our attention?
   - What are some creative ways people get our attention?
   - How does God get our attention?

   **SAY:** We can use unusual things to get attention, but sometimes we use ordinary things in unusual ways to get attention, too, like turning off the lights, whistling, or even making loud noises. But God is much more creative in the ways he gets our attention.

   **GOD WANTS YOUR ATTENTION!**
Let’s Explore!

Supplies: assembled Bible Exploration Kits (see page 49) | prepared donkey poster (see page 49) | tape | inflated balloons (see page 49)

1. **SAY:** 🐫 **GOD WANTS YOUR ATTENTION!** And he uses ordinary things, things you use every day, to get it. But imagine God making a donkey talk just so he could get your attention! Well, that actually happened to someone once! Have Bible Crews open their *Hands-On Bibles* to Numbers 22:21-38. Ask groups to read the passage together and then tell the story from the donkey’s perspective. Let each group choose how it presents the story. For example, they may choose to act it out, write an article, or create a picture book about it. Give groups 10 minutes to read and work, and circulate to offer help.

2. After 10 minutes have passed, have Bible Crews present their projects. Lead everyone in applauding all presentations.

**ASK:**
- What was it like to consider the donkey’s perspective?
- Why do you think Balaam didn’t know what was going on?
- Why do you think God used the donkey to get Balaam’s attention?
- How does God use ordinary things to get our attention?

**SAY:** 🐫 **GOD WANTS YOUR ATTENTION!** God can use things you ordinarily use in your life to get your attention. He’ll just use them in extraordinary ways.

3. **SAY:** Let’s go back to the donkey’s perspective and think about what God might say to us through a talking donkey. Have Bible Crews look at the “Who Said That?!” activity next to Numbers 23 in their *Hands-On Bibles*. Ask kids to read the instructions in their crews and each choose one statement to finish. Have someone from each crew take a balloon from the bag, and have kids write their statements on the balloon. Then ask each crew to attach its balloon to the poster near the donkey’s mouth to look like a speech bubble.

**EXTRA IMPACT**
Instead of making your own donkey poster, buy a “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” poster from a party store.

⚠️ **WARNING:**
CHOKING HAZARD—Be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons and dispose of them immediately.
4. **ASK:**
   - Why do you think God wants our attention?
   - How do you think God gets our attention?

**SAY:** God is always paying attention to us, and **GOD WANTS YOUR ATTENTION**, too. It takes two to communicate, both sides listening and paying attention. To see what I mean, let’s do an experiment.

Have Bible Crews take the pencils out of their Exploration Kits. Ask each child to hold a pencil in each hand, close one eye, and try to make the pencil points meet. After several tries, ask kids to find a partner and try it again with one eye closed still, each partner holding one pencil.

**ASK:**
   - What was it like to try this by yourself?
   - Was it easier or harder with a partner? Why?
   - How is that like connecting with God?

**SAY:** **GOD WANTS YOUR ATTENTION!** But he doesn’t expect us to figure out how to connect to him on our own. God sent Jesus to help us have a relationship with him. We can connect with God and pay attention to him through our relationship with Jesus.

5. **SAY:** Let’s take a look at some other ways God helped someone connect to him. Have Bible Crews find the Scripture reference cards in their Exploration Kits and look up the passages. Ask them to find the way God got someone’s attention and write that on their cards.

When groups have finished, have them share what they found.

**ASK:**
   - What’s the same about the ways God got someone’s attention in these passages?
   - What’s different about them?
   - Why did God want these people’s attention?
   - Why does God want our attention?

6. Ask a volunteer to read aloud **Deuteronomy 4:36a**.

**ASK:**
   - According to this passage, why does God want our attention?

**SAY:** **GOD WANTS YOUR ATTENTION** so he can teach you how to love him and love others. One way we show our love for God is by paying attention to him.
Let’s Praise!

**Supplies:** CD player or TV/DVD player

1. **ASK:**
   - Why do you think we should pay attention to God?
   - How do we pay attention to God?

   **SAY:** It’s wonderful that **GOD WANTS YOUR ATTENTION!** He wants your attention because he loves you. He wants to guide you and help you, so he sends unlikely messengers to get your attention.

   Let’s spend time praising God for getting our attention and guiding us.

2. **PLAY:**
   - “Doxology” (5)
   - “Glory” (4)
   - “Keep On” (Matthew 7:7) (2)
Let’s Pray!

**Supplies:** assembled Bible Exploration Kits (see page 49) | donkey poster from Let’s Explore! | CD player

1. Have kids return to their Bible Crews, and ask them to each take a sticky note from their Exploration Kits. SAY: **GOD WANTS YOUR ATTENTION** this week. We’re going to take some time to pay attention to God. As the music plays, I want you to write or draw on your sticky note one way you’ll pay attention to God this week. Maybe you’ll ask God every morning to speak to you that day. Or you might spend two minutes by yourself without any distractions so you can hear God.

   This prayer time is between you and God, because **GOD WANTS YOUR ATTENTION** right now. When you’ve finished writing your commitment, say a silent prayer, asking God to help you focus on him. Then bring your sticky note up to the donkey poster and stick it somewhere on the poster. I’ll know you’ve finished praying when you do that. You’ll know our prayer time is over when I stop the music.

2. Play the instrumental version of “Wonderful” (Isaiah 9:6) (11) as kids pray. Repeat the song as necessary until each person has stuck a note to the poster.

**High Fives**

**Supplies:** none

Have Bible Crews come up with a quick attention-getting high five together. Give them two minutes to work on it, then have kids find two kids from different Bible Crews to teach their high five to as they leave.
### For-Extra-Time Activities

#### WHO DID THAT?
**Supplies:** sticky notes | pens

Hand each child a sticky note and a pen to write a message about God without showing it to others. Form even-numbered groups between 4 and 12. Taking turns, have one half of each group close their eyes to receive sticky note messages on their backs from others in their group. Then let each child guess the identity of his or her unlikely messenger. Discuss how the message delivery and the messenger affect the message.

#### I-SPY PRAISE WALK
**Supplies:** none

Take a field trip around your church building, counting all the things God can speak through (art, music, helping others, architecture, and even simple day-to-day supplies). Stop every now and then throughout the building to praise God for the thing God uses to get our attention.

#### HIDING IT IN YOUR HEART
**Supplies:** working radio

Turn on the radio, and have kids take turns quickly tuning in to different radio stations. Discuss how we need to tune in to a radio station to hear it, just as we have to tune in to God. Ask each group to tune in to the meaning of the Key Verse, Deuteronomy 4:36a, by reading the verse several times.

#### CREATE A BIBLE DICTIONARY
**Supplies:** paper | markers | dictionary

Ask children to create one or more new pages, each with a new word, for the Bible Dictionary. Ask for ideas of new words from today’s session—voice and attention are two suggestions. Have them write the word on a sheet of paper in fun letters, add a definition, list Scripture references, and make illustrations. Add each page to a three-ring binder, and watch the dictionary grow!

#### THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
**Supplies:** CD player

Ask kids to read the intro page for any book of the Bible and create a motion for that book. For example, they could make a motion for rain for Genesis or do a beauty pageant wave for Esther. Play “The Books of the Bible Song” (8), and have kids do all of the motions they have learned.
Scripture References

- Genesis 22:11-17
- Exodus 3:1-4
- 1 Kings 19:11-13
- Daniel 5:1-6
- 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- Matthew 3:1-10
- Acts 9:1-8
Family Devotion

Bible Focus:
Numbers 22:21-38

Discovery Point:
God wants your attention!

Key Verse:
“He let you hear his voice from heaven so he could instruct you”
(Deuteronomy 4:36a).

Who Said That?!

I think it was the donkey. God really wanted to get Balaam’s attention, and he used a donkey to do it. See how in Numbers 22:21-38.

Imagine you had an invisible…

talking donkey

that rode on your shoulder. With your family, take turns finishing some of these sentences from the donkey’s point of view:

You did what God wanted you to do last week when you...

I’ve noticed that when you are at school, you...

I think God would want you to change the way you...

You don’t need a donkey to help you do what’s right.

Everyone who follows Jesus has the Holy Spirit inside him or her all the time. Find out more about what the Holy Spirit does by reading John 14:15-30.

It’s time to give your invisible donkey a treat!

Offer your donkey a healthy carrot snack, and eat anything your donkey doesn’t eat. As you munch, talk with your family members about how God might speak to you

when you are at school or work,
when you are with a friend,
when you are at church.

As a family, pray together and ask God to help you hear him speak to you even when he gets your attention in unusual ways!

Family Challenge

Send a message to someone in a unique way. Brainstorm with your family what some unique messengers could be, and then send a message, such as the Key Verse, with one of those messengers. You’ll be sure to get someone’s attention!