

Listening to God

Even though we may not be able to visit our friends and family at the moment, we are never alone. God is always with us and listening to our prayers. God also wants to speak to us and encourage us. Why not take some time to practice listening and hearing what God is saying today.

Find a quiet space away from distractions. Make sure you are comfortable.

Pray and ask God to speak to you.

Wait and Listen.



Words

You might hear God speaking to you in your head using words or just have one word that you think of clearly.

God can speak to us in many different ways, the more we practice the easier it becomes to recognise His voice. Just like you know the voices of people in your family, we can learn to tune in to God's voice.

Here are some of the ways God might speak to you.

Pictures

You might see a picture in your mind in the same place that you see things when you are imagining.

Feelings

You might experience a feeling from God – this could be a feeling for you or a feeling that somebody else has that God might want you to pray for.

Bible Verse

God might remind you of a verse from the Bible.

Presence

Sometimes you might not hear God but that does not mean that God is not with you. It is also good to just spend time with God in silence – ask God to help you feel that He is close to you.

Smells & Tastes

You might be able to smell or taste something that isn't there.



Is it God?

We need to have faith that what we have heard is from God, but should also test it and ask...–

Does it match with what I know God is like?

Does it match what God says in the Bible?

What does it mean?

Sometimes we need to take time to ask God to explain what we have heard or seen.

If you are still not sure why not talk about it with a grown up you trust. Sometimes God might use pictures or images from the Bible that we don't know yet but that somebody else could explain for us.

A message to share



We can also ask God for pictures or messages to share with other people. Here are some things to remember when you share words from God with others.

- 1 Corinthians 14 v 3-4 explains that God gives us messages to share **strength, encouragement, and comfort**. Only share a message if it is kind and matches what God is like and what the Bible says.
- Let the person think about what you have shared and decide for themselves how to respond to it.