



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** A Whole New You  
Fall Year 1, Lesson 24

# New Ears

**Take Home Point:** \*Tune in to God's truth and tune out the world's lies.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** John 8:42-47; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:3-4

**Key Verse:** John 10:27: "My sheep respond to my voice and I know who they are. They follow me."

**We will help kids know:**

- We need to hear the difference between Satan's lies, which are the lies of this world, and God's truth.
- Through faith in Christ we have the Holy Spirit who gives us a new way of listening, so we can hear God's truth with understanding.
- The Bible is a clear voice of God's truth if we would quiet ourselves long enough to listen with faith—the ears of our heart.

**We will help kids feel:**

- Discomfort over how easy it is to listen and believe the lies of this world.
- Confident that God will speak to us as we listen to him with ears of faith.

**We will help kids do:**

- Discern lies from God's truth.
- Examine their Bibles for his truth and take time to listen to what God is saying. Identify some of the lies they are tempted to listen to and pray that they might better tune in to God's truth.

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# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p><b>Small Group Warm-Up</b></p> 	3	<p>Kids play a game where one purposely answers a question with a false answer. It leads them see that sometimes it is hard to distinguish the truth from a lie.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3x5 inch card or small slip of paper with the word “truth” written on it for each kid except for one, which will have an “x” in the middle of the word to look like “truxth” (p.12)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Large Group</b></p> 	<p>4</p> <p>7-10</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Interactive Presentation:</b> <i>Marty Morpheus Explains New Ears</i>---A game illustrates tuning out the world and listening to God’s truth.</p> <p><b>Video:</b> Jesus uses God’s word to refute Satan. (Jesus tempted in the wilderness---- Matthew 4:1-11)</p> <p><b>Object Lesson (Optional):</b> “Itching Ear.” Examples of what we might hear from the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explorer or scientist outfit for Marty Morpheus (see lesson 21)</li> <li>• plastic butterfly, or some butterfly-likeness</li> <li>• simulated cocoon made from wetted and dried paper or a wad of masking tape.</li> <li>• a Bible</li> <li>• sayings (see p. 9-12) written and pasted on sections of poster board and thumb tacked or fastened to a background. (Wall, easel, whatever you have.)</li> <li>• video clip from <i>the Miracle Maker</i> Published by Family Home Entertainment, 2000. To purchase go to <a href="http://www.booksofthebible.com">www.booksofthebible.com</a>.</li> <li>• <i>Optional:</i></li> <li>• a plastic ear from a novelty store,</li> <li>• necklace or lanyard, sayings on poster board sections</li> <li>• a feather</li> </ul>
<p><b>Small Group Application</b></p> 	4	<p>Kids discuss how they, like Jesus, can use God’s word to refute the lies of Satan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a Bible reference book for each group, such as a Bible concordance, Bible Dictionary, topical Bible, etc.</li> <li>• handout, “How to Use a Bible Concordance” for each student (p. 13)</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

**As kids gather:** *Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.*

**Begin:** *Review the group covenant signed by all. This can be as simple as reading it and reminding all that they have signed it. (See lesson 16.) Welcome new kids and invite them to sign the covenant.*

*Each child will need a 3x5 card or small slip of paper with the word “truth” written on it. One student will receive a card with an “x” in the middle of the word to look like “truxth”.*

## **We are going to play a game called “Truth or Lie.”**

Pass out the cards and tell the students to leave them face down until they hear the directions. Explain that you will give them all a question. One person in the group will have a card that has the word “truth” with an “x” in the spelling. That person will answer the question with a lie. The rest of the group will answer the question with the truth. After everyone answers the first question out loud, each person will then tell who they think is the liar. The liar should tell a lie and point to someone else as the liar. After all guesses are in, the liar reveals himself or herself.

Repeat the directions if kids are unclear, then say:

**The first question is “What was a really cool place that you once visited?” When you pick up your card and look at it, don’t let anyone else see. If you have an “x” in the middle of the word “truth”, then you are the one who will tell the lie. If not, then you tell the truth.**

After round one, pick up the cards, shuffle them, and pass them out for round two and so forth. Questions for future rounds:

- I once had an accident that really scared me. It was when...
- There is something at my house that most of you probably don’t have. It is a...
- One thing that I made with my own hands that I think is pretty special is a ...
- One of the most fun adventures I ever had with my friends was when...

After discussion, conclude with:

Sometimes it is difficult to tell the truth from a lie. Did you know that there are many lies that Satan tries to tell us? In the Bible, Satan is called the Father of lies. He uses messages from the world to trick us with his lies.

We want to be able to recognize the lies that he tells and instead tune in to God's truth. God wants us to listen and understand what he is telling us. He will always tell us the truth. So today, let's *\*Tune in to God's truth and tune out the world's lies.*

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**Interactive Presentation:** *Marty Morpheus Explains New Ears*---A game illustrates tuning out the world and listening to God's truth.

**Video:** Jesus uses God's word to refute Satan. (Jesus tempted in the wilderness--- Matthew 4:1-11)

**Object Lesson (Optional):** "Itching Ear." Examples of what we might hear from the world.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to John 8:42-47 and Matthew 4:1-11 in their Bibles.

**Who is the father of lies?** (*John 8:44. The devil or Satan.*)

**How did Satan lie to Jesus in the video (or Matthew 4:1-11)?** (*He tried to tempt Jesus to prove he was the Son of God by changing stones into bread and jumping from the highest part of the temple. Satan also tried to bribe Jesus into worshipping him.*)

**What did Jesus do to combat Satan's lies?** *(He used God's word or truth from scripture. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, 7, 10: "Scripture says..." in answer to every lie.)*

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**If people believe Satan's lies, who will they not believe?** *(God)*

**In John 8:42-47, Jesus told his listeners that they couldn't understand him because they belonged to their father, the devil or the father of lies, and could not understand truth.**

**How then can a person understand God's word or truth?** *(They must believe in or belong to God.)*

**Jesus tells us in John 10:27-28a, "My sheep respond to my voice. I know who they are. They follow me and I give them eternal life." In other words, believers have new ears to hear Jesus' voice.**

**When we believe in Jesus, we become new a new creation and the Holy Spirit gives us "ears of faith." What does it mean to have ears of faith?** *(When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit gives us "ears of faith" to understand God's word.)*

**2 Timothy 4:3-4 says, "For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." (NIV)**

**What do itching ears want to hear?** *(That which suits their own desires. God's Word translation says, "They will follow their own desires and surround themselves with teachers who tell them what they want to hear.")*

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**How does Satan lie to Christians today? What is the number one lie you hear from the world?** *(Example: We can be our own god and control our own lives and do whatever we want.)*

**How can we, like Jesus, answer back to Satan's temptations or the world's lies?** *(Read and know God's word and hide it in our hearts.)*

**What is the number one truth you hear from God's word?** *(Examples: God loves us so much that he gave his Son to die for us so we can have a relationship with him. We need a savior to save us. All we need to do is believe in Jesus as our Savior to have eternal life.)*

## Do you belong to God?

### Application Activity:

*Supplies: Bible concordance, Bible dictionary, Bible encyclopedia, topical Bible and/or other such references, handout, "How to Use a Bible Concordance" for each student*

**Today we learned to listen to Jesus' voice and *\*tune in to God's truth to tune out the world's lies.***

**How do we tune in to God's truth? We have to know and study his word.**

**What if you don't know for sure if a teaching is true or not, or you don't know the exact Bible verse to support a truth from God? Some tools you can use are Bible concordances or Bible dictionaries. Some Bibles have these tools in the back.**

Give kids each a "How to Use a Bible Concordance" handout. Read through it together and have kids look up some of the Bible references listed. Show them your Bible reference book and look up the same topics or think of other topics and look up. Have kids find the Bible verses for these topics. You could also let them take turns looking up topics in these references or paging through the books or table of contents to see the topics of study.

Conclude by restating the take home point: ***\*Tune in to God's truth and tune out the world's lies.***

### Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the gift of faith so we can be believers in Christ. Thank him for the power of the Holy Spirit to hear and understand God's word. Pray for determination to hide God's word in our hearts so to hear God's voice above the lies of Satan and this world.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

## Large Group Presentation

### **“Marty Morpheus Explains New Ears”**

Audience Participation Presentation

*In advance, the presenter portraying Marty Morpheus will make an arrangement with a student who will seemingly be pulled out as a volunteer during the presentation. The presenter will explain to the volunteer the “trick” of the game called “Hear what I am thinking.” He will explain that the volunteer will try and identify the object the rest of the kids selected while he is out of the room. When the volunteer returns to the room, Marty will ask him/her if some random objects are the selected one. The volunteer should say “Unh-unh”, “I don’t think so” or shake his head or give some other negative response for about 3-5 objects. When the volunteer finally answers with the single word, “No”, the volunteer will know that the very next object Marty chooses will be the correct object.*

*Of course this gets fun when some ad-libbing is done and the volunteer actually pretends to hear the presenter’s thoughts. The kids will likely guess that there is some type of clue system, but may not figure it out since they will probably think Marty is giving the clue, not the volunteer.*

*The dialogue might look something like the following. The presenter, in this case, Marty Morpheus, will claim that he can simply think about an object and the volunteer will be able to hear his thoughts. The volunteer will be able to “hear” which objects the presenter points to are the false ones and which the correct one is.*

Begin with:

**Hello, I’m Marty Morpheus, the famous explorer and discoverer of new species. My specialty is to find creatures that have emerged as new from something old. For example, my favorite is the butterfly. Once a caterpillar crawled into a cocoon and then emerged as a new creature, a butterfly.**

**Though that is amazing, it’s not as amazing as the new creature we have with us today. This creature is called a believer. Our “New Creatures Manual,” the Bible... Hold up Bible...says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared and a new way of living has come into existence.” So let me call up a believer and look at the new creature that he is.**

Call the volunteer forward. Say:

**The first week, we learned the believer has a new heart. His hard heart has been replaced with a heart that says, “I trust you, God, and I want to do what you want.” We also learned how God trades the old mind for a new mind. We learned how the believer has new eyes**

so that he/she can see the way God sees. Today we will hear that a believer receives new ears to tune in to God's truth and tune out the world's lies.

Let me give you a demonstration. We will play a little game today called, "Hear What I am Thinking."

Believer, I want you to leave the room so you cannot see what we do. But when you return, I will ask you to listen to my thoughts and identify the very object that these boys and girls will point out to me. Now, off you go. (Volunteer leaves area.)

Have one student pick an object in the room. Then say:

**When the believer returns, he/she will be able to understand my thoughts and identify the correct object you have selected. Ready? Shall we test it?**

Call the volunteer back in and point to two or three false objects before going to the true object. Repeat the trick, having the volunteer turn his/her back to the room or cover his eyes, not looking at any of the objects the presenter chooses. Of course, he/she will get it right. Let the kids try to guess the secret of the clue. Finally give them this hint:

**Don't tune in to what I say, but tune in to what the volunteer says. Now see if you can figure it out.**

Repeat the trick one more time to see if the kids can figure out the clue. Then say:

**Who were you listening to in this game? If you were listening to me, you were listening to the wrong person. Though this was a game and there was a trick involved, it illustrates an important truth. Sometimes we listen to wrong messages in the world like in secular music, TV, or movies to get examples of how we should live our lives. But believers in Jesus have new ears to tune in to God's truth and tune out the world's lies.**

Jesus tells us this in John 10:27-28a, *"My sheep respond to my voice. I know who they are. They follow me and I give them eternal life."* In other words, believers have new ears to hear Jesus' voice. Jesus speaks to us very clearly in God's Word. That is how God tells us the truth.

Here's the real trick: ***Make sure to listen. We have to tune in to God's voice. Remember, it is very important to know the Bible because that is how we hear God speaking to us. Let's see how well we do.***

Here are some common sayings. Do you think they can be heard in God's Word?

The following sayings should each be written and pasted on a section of poster board and thumb tacked or fastened to a background: i.e. a wall, easel, or whatever you have.

- A penny saved is a penny earned.
- Cleanliness is next to godliness.
- Money is the root of all evil.
- Do your best to walk in God's ways and you shall reap eternal life.

Have the kids give thumbs up if they think it is a message from God's Word or thumbs down if they do not think it's in God's Word.

*None of these are in God's Word. Although it is worth noting that the Bible does say, "the love of money is the root of all evil." This is an encouragement for the kids to better learn their Bible so that they can tune in to what God says. The last saying is a dangerous lie from the enemy and needs to be further exposed.*

Follow the discourse below:

**Some of these sayings like, "a penny saved is a penny earned" are from Ben Franklin. They are wise and helpful even though they are not in the Bible. However, this last saying, "do your best to walk in God's ways and you shall reap eternal life" is a very dangerous lie that most people in the world believe today. They believe if you just try your best to be a good person, you can earn your way to heaven.**

**If that were the case, you would not need Jesus as your Savior. You would be your own savior. You would be your own god. You could earn your own way to heaven. Even some people who are very religious and those who do a lot of religious things, might think God owes them heaven. This is wrong as well.**

**Listen to the next Bible reading from John 8:42-47. In this section of the Bible, Jesus addresses some religious leaders who taught that people could earn their way to heaven by keeping the law and doing all the right things. These religious leaders added even more details for how people should live a more religious life and earn God's approval. Listen carefully to see if you can hear what title Jesus gives them. Who does he say is their *father*? Who does he say will be able to hear *him*?**

Read John 8:42-47 from your own Bible. Then say:

**See how important it is for us to *\*Tune into God's truth and tune out the world's lies?* Jesus called these people followers of the devil even though they were very religious – and religious leaders. He said the devil is the father of lies. These people believed those lies.**

**Could Jesus recognize Satan's lies? Yes, he could. Let's watch this brief film clip that shows Jesus when tempted in the wilderness. Notice what Satan is suggesting that Jesus do with each temptation and how Jesus answers him.**

## **Video**

Clip from *the Miracle Maker* published by Family Home Entertainment, 2000, (cued at 9:49 through 11:51). Set the counter from the title page. The starting cue at 9:49 is after Jesus' baptism when he walks toward the wilderness. The ending cue is when Jesus says, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." (*from Matthew 4:1-11*)

**Jesus used God's Word to refute the temptations of Satan. Throughout Jesus' life, Satan continued to tempt him with the same lie. "Don't go to the cross." "Don't obey the Father and his mission for you."**

**When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he was, in fact, suggesting to him that there were other ways to win the kingdom. Jesus was faithful and listened only to the Father.**

**Even when Jesus hung on the cross, Matthew 27:39-42 says, "Those who passed by insulted him. They shook their heads and said, 'You were going to tear down God's temple and build it again in three days. Save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' The chief priests together with the scribes and the leaders made fun of him in the same way... 'Let him come down from the cross now and we'll believe him.'"**

**Satan continued to use people and even some religious leaders to suggest that Jesus should follow a lie and turn away from his mission to die for the sins of the world. Jesus tuned out the devil's lie and instead tuned in to God's truth.**

The following demonstration is optional. If not presenting, go to the concluding point.

### **Object Lesson "Itching Ear"**

*Needed for the following object lesson: plastic ear from a novelty store, necklace or lanyard, the following sayings on poster board sections, and a feather.*

Attach the plastic ear to a necklace or lanyard so that it hangs level with one's heart. When placed over one's heart, this visual aid illustrates listening with our hearts, listening with ears of faith, listening with understanding or listening and tuning into God. When this ear is hung on messages from the world, it shows how it becomes an "itching ear." (2 Timothy 4:3 NIV)

Have the following sayings printed on poster board sections and tacked to a board with pins:

- Is God real? You can't see him.
- You can't trust God... he doesn't really care.
- If you do enough religious things, you can go to heaven.
- It doesn't matter what you believe, just as long as you are sincere.
- There are many different religions, but they all worship the same God.

Hang the plastic ear over the board. Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4. (The NIV translation uses the phrase "itching ears." God's Word translation does not; but you still may refer to "itching ears" as those ears that only listen to people who tell them what they want to hear.)

Use a feather to tickle the plastic ear as it is hung on the board of sayings. Continue with:

**These are examples of some messages we hear from the world.**

Read the sayings while tickling.

Conclusion:

**How should we as believers respond?** (Hang the ear over your heart and say:) ***We need to \*Tune in to God's truth and tune out the world's lies. God's truth is evident in the Bible.***

**Just as Jesus used God's Word to refute the words of the devil, we also can use God's Word. If we hide God's Word in our hearts and stop to take time to listen, God will speak in truth. That's like having a third ear... an ear over our heart... an ear of faith. This is just what Jesus meant when he said, "He who has an ear, let him hear." Let us hear what the ears of our faith say.**

**Let's pray.**

**Heavenly Father, Thank you for giving us Jesus. He listened to you and your word and not the lies of this world or the lies of the devil. He went all the way to the cross on our behalf and we're thankful. Because of your demonstration of love for us, we want to listen to you and not the lies from this world. Help us to *\*Tune in to your truth and tune out the world's lies.* In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

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# How to Use a Bible Concordance

Every verse in the Bible has a reference or “address” to let you know where to find it. For example, “*God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...*” is found in John 3:16. John is the book this verse is in, 3 is the chapter of the book and 16 is the verse.

Suppose you want to find a verse in the Bible about forgiveness. You can use a Bible concordance to find this verse. A concordance, like a dictionary, lists words in alphabetical order. References for where this word is found in the Bible are listed under it. The concordance also includes a few words or a phrase of each reference for the topic or word to help you find the context you want.

For example, when you look up forgiveness you may find:

- Psalm 130:4...But with you there is *forgiveness*,
- Acts 10:43...believes in him receives *forgiveness* of sins,
- Ephesians 1:7...through his blood, the *forgiveness* of sins,
- Hebrew 9:22...the shedding of blood there is no *forgiveness*,

When you find the word and the context you are searching for, you can then look up that reference and read the entire verse.

Other topics or questions:

How can I be saved?

- Isaiah 25:9...we trust in him, and he *saved* us.
- Isaiah 38:20...The Lord will *save* me,
- Daniel 3:17...the God we serve is able to *save* us
- Joel 2:32...on the name of the Lord will be *saved*,
- Mark 13:13...firm to the end will be *saved*,
- John 10:9...enters through me will be *saved*,
- Acts 16:30...do to be *saved*?” They replied,
- Romans 10:13...on the name of the Lord will be *saved*,”
- Ephesians 2:8...For it is by grace you have been *saved*,

Is hell a real place?

- Matthew 25:45...Then they will go away to be punished forever.
- Mark 9:48...In *hell*, ‘The worms do not die. The fire is not put out.’”
- Luke 12:5...has power to throw you into *hell*,
- Luke 16:23...In *hell*, where he was in torment
- 2 Peter 2:4...Instead, he sent them to *hell*. He put them in dark prisons.