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December 28 – January 3 "Heanken. O ye People"

1. <u>Telephone Hearing Activity</u> – D & C 1:14 reminds us that we need to "hear the voice of the Lord." Can we hear the Lord even if we can't see Him? What does the voice of the Lord sound like?

- Use cups and string to make a string telephone (instructions found here).
- Take turns having two people stand in different rooms while sending messages to each other through the phone.
- Was it possible to hear that person even though you couldn't see them?
- Is it possible to hear the Lord even though we can't see Him?
- Talk about ways we can hear the Lord (through the scriptures, when we pray, when the prophets speak, through good/bad feelings the Holy Ghost gives us, etc.).
- <u>Revelation Practice</u> When God talks to us, it is called "revelation." Lots of times, He talks to us through our feelings. Listen to a song about Christ that helps invite the Spirit (such as "<u>Because</u>" by Shawna Edwards). Have everyone pay close attention to how their hearts feel while listening. If your heart felt happy, that's a type of revelation! God was helping you know and feel that Christ is real.
- 3. <u>Clue Game</u> Joseph Smith got lots of revelations from the Lord and felt like he should share these with others, so he put them into a book. These are what we'll be studying this year. Cut apart and find each of the clues for the new book we're studying this year (on page 5 below). As each is found, discuss what it means with the family. Then explain that this book we'll be studying this year is called the Doctrine and Covenants.
 - These "Family Study Fun" activities would be great for older kids as well.
- 4. <u>Real-Life Situations</u> One thing the introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants says is, "These sacred revelations were received in answer to prayer, in times of need, and came out of real-life situations." What are some times of need we've had or we might have? Can the Lord help us with those? List situations we might be in and have them answer "Yes!" or "No!" to show if that's something Heavenly Father and Jesus can help us with. Help them see that They can help us with anything. There are lots of people alive, but the Lord can and will see, love, help, and guide YOU.
- 5. <u>Warnings</u> D & C 1:4 says, "And the voice of warning shall be unto all people." One way the Lord helps us is to give us warnings. He warns us because He loves us and wants us to be safe. What kind of warnings might we get?
 - <u>Personal Warnings</u>: Read "<u>Sledding and the Spirit</u>" and discuss how the spirit warned him to try to protect him. Sometimes we get personal warnings through the Spirit. This is usually through feelings that we have.
 - <u>Warnings from prophets</u>: Sometimes the prophets warn us about dangers. What are some warnings prophets have given us?
 - Sing "Follow the Prophet" and testify that we will be blessed when we follow their words.

- Crystal from theredcrystal.org has an awesome warning sign activity to go along with this as well (found at <u>this link</u>).
- 6. <u>I Can Hear the Voice of the Lord Family Plan</u> Is it easy to feel good feelings and hear the Lord's voice when we're being rowdy? What are some ways we can be better at hearing the words of the scriptures and feeling the Spirit while we listen to them and study them? Make goals for specific things we can do to improve our scripture study/Come Follow Me studies this year while we study Doctrine and Covenants. On pages 3 or 4 below, write/draw specific things we will do. You can either use page 3 to have everyone write/draw on, or give everyone their own individual pages from page 4. We'll probably have our girls draw pictures of themselves sitting and listening reverently.
 - Remind them that President Russell M. Nelson blessed us to be better at hearing the voice of the Lord in the 2020 Christmas Devotional:

"Now, as an authorized servant of the Savior, I would like to invoke a blessing upon each of you, my beloved brothers and sisters. May you and your families be blessed with peace, with an increased ability to hear the voice of the Lord, and receive revelation with an enhanced capacity to feel how much our Father and His Son love you, care for you, and are ready to guide all who seek after Them."

7. <u>Elephant Ear Treats</u> – Use puff pastries to make elephant ears as shown <u>here</u> while reviewing how we can better use not only our ears but also our hearts to hear messages from the Lord.

Additional Ideas:

Fun/silly "Listening Ears" craft https://i.pinimg.com/originals/d0/b7/4c/d0b74cbb6dbc74f21e6d95bd837c4a65.jpg

Chapter 23: The Doctrine and Covenants Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_iTrTlanQ9Q

More ideas at: www.theredcrystal.org





