



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## When God Whispers

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

1 Kings 19:11-12

For all ages, this activity is a fun way to remind us that sometimes God speaks to us in quietness, even in silence. This is the old game, which some call Telephone. We can still play it with those with whom we are sheltering and those in our COVID-19 safe group or pod. To play a version with others, the game is changed so it can be played with others with video conferencing. The fun is in hearing what the final message is—how different, how crazy! When God whispers, our hope is in hearing God's message clearly and correctly!

## Telephone Game

**Getting Started.** Players must sit in a circle or stand in a straight line. They need to be close enough that whispering is possible, but not so close that players can hear each other whisper. You may want to play music for the group to listen to while individuals whisper.

**Begin the Game.** The first person in the line or circle whispers a word or phrase into the ear of the person sitting or standing to their right. **You may want to whisper bits of scriptures, lines from a hymn or praise song, or encouraging statements.**

**The Game Continues.** Players whisper the phrase to their neighbors until it reaches the last player in line.

**The Conclusion.** The last player says the word or phrase out loud so everyone can hear how much it has changed from the first whisper at the beginning of the circle or line.

## The Whisper Challenge

**Get at least one other person to do the challenge with.** You can play the Whisper Challenge with at least one friend, but you can get more friends together. If you want the chance of having more absurd sentences, gather together more friends; if you want the sentences to go by quickly, aim for one or two friends.

- You can have as many people as you want, but you may want to stick with a small group of people, since the more people you have, the longer it takes to pass around the sentence.

**Decide if you want to record it.** There are many reasons you could record a Whisper Challenge – you could post it online to get views, or you could just keep it as a keepsake to look back at and laugh at, for example. Just keep in mind that if you're recording your Whisper Challenge, you should record it with something that has full battery life, so that you don't realize that the recording stopped halfway through because the camera died! **If you record it, share it with the AMEC Department of Christian Education Facebook page, [cedoffice@ameced.com](mailto:cedoffice@ameced.com), #WhenGodWhispers #AMECED**

**Find or think of phrases.** Once you've found your friends and decided whether or not to record the Challenge, find or think of phrases that you want to use for the Challenge. Anyone else partaking in the Challenge should do the same (but make sure nobody tells anyone what phrases they're coming up with!). There are many phrases you can use in the Whisper Challenge, so take some time and see what you can come up with.

- Idioms and figures of speech are fairly common and can become quite funny.

- Nonsensical sentences can spurn some great lines.
- You can also look at messages that YouTubers have received. Many popular YouTubers who have done the Whisper Challenge have used social media (such as Twitter) to ask their followers for phrases for the Challenge. Or, if you have a substantial social media following, ask your followers on your own!
- **You may want to whisper bits of scriptures, lines from a hymn or praise song, or encouraging statements.**

**Start recording, if you choose to record the Challenge.** If you choose to record the Challenge, get a device that's has good battery life and start recording. You can use something simple like a phone, but keep in mind that most video cameras record in better quality than a phone. If you use Zoom or a similar platform, you can use the record feature.

**Get everyone to put on headphones.** The main part of the Whisper Challenge that differentiates it from Telephone is that instead of whispering the phrase into someone's ear, the players put on headphones and turn up their music. Get everyone to put on their headphones and turn on the music - and turn it up loud enough so that it's hard to hear what other people are saying.

- The person who is saying the phrase can take off their headphones while they're saying the phrase, but everyone else should have their headphones on.
- Noise-canceling headphones are best for this challenge, but they're not a necessity. You'll have to turn the music up louder if you don't have them, though.

**Have one person say a phrase.** Once everyone has their music playing, one person who was previously picked out will whisper a phrase to the person next to them or to the person they tag in Zoom and they have to lip-read (everyone else will need to listen to their music with their eyes closed—counting to 10 before they open them). It then gets passed along the line if there are any other people playing the game. Have one person turn to the person next to them and whisper a phrase to them (or pick another Zoom partner to “whisper” to).

- You may want to set a limit on how many times a person can ask you to repeat the phrase, to make sure that you don't get stuck on the same people for too long.

**Pass the sentence along.** If there are more than just you and one other person in the game, then have the “interpreter” whisper the phrase they heard to the person next to them. Continue doing this until you've gotten to the last person in the group.

**Say the sentence out loud.** Once you've reached the last person in the group, have everyone take off their headphones, and have the last person say what they heard out loud. Chances are, it'll be funny and nonsensical, especially if the sentence went through a long line of people.

- The person who originally said the sentence can also repeat what the original sentence was, to display how garbled the sentence became.
- **Switch it up.** Once the sentence has been said, switch to the next person and have them say their phrase. Continue to play the game like this, and you've got the Whisper Challenge down!

adapted from: <https://icebreakerideas.com/telephone-game/>  
<https://www.wikihow.com/Do-the-Whisper-Challenge>

