

#TargetPractice: Who are you listening to?

Play Simon Says

In the game Simon Says, when Simon tells you to do something, what do you do? *Do it*

What about if Simon isn't the one telling you to do it? *Don't do it*

Why is that? In the game, Simon is the authority and the only one you listen to in order to do things or not do things.

What happens if you don't follow the instructions correctly? *You're out of the game*

Who could we listen to in our lives? *TV shows/movies, commercials, celebrities, friends, social media, books, games, parents*

Are all of these good influences? Not all. For example, I recently saw a new social media trend/challenge among kids. Someone is encouraging them to put a NeeDoh cube into the microwave to make it easier to squeeze. However, the result is much different. The compound inside gets extremely hot very quickly. When removed from the microwave it then explodes and severely burns anyone nearby.

We have to be very careful about who we listen to and what we act upon. I tell Emily often that if someone tries to get her to do something that could hurt her or someone else is a good sign to stay away. No matter how much they dare her or call her a coward. Anyone doing that is not a friend and is likely afraid to do it themselves. Someone else's opinion in that case does not matter.

Also if she has any doubts about something, please talk to me or another trusted adult to get guidance.

But how can we learn for ourselves what/who we should listen to? Who is the ultimate person we should listen to and trust for our lives?

James 1:22 says, *"Do not merely listen to the word... Do what it says."*

Listening is more than just hearing something. Listening requires thought and action. It is great to learn about God and read His word, but that isn't all we should do. We need to apply it to our lives...do what it says!

Let's see what Douglas has to say about it.

[\(157\) Don't Just Listen, Do | A Sunday School lesson about obeying God - YouTube](#)

It is easy to read the Bible or hear what God wants us to do or not do in our lives. It is more difficult at times to actually do it. Especially when we have so many other influences trying to catch our attention and get us to listen to them.

But if we read God's word, talk to people we trust to give us Godly advice, pray and ask God for guidance...we will have guidance to what we should do/not do. THEN we have to actually apply it and do/not do it.