



Week 3 – Listen

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

In order to BLESS our neighbor, Jesus invites us to listen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:35-43

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

Opening Thoughts

1. Have you ever misread a lyric, like really misheard? Would you sing the song as you'd heard it?
2. Christ-followers are known more for talking than for listening. Additionally, as a society, we seem to be losing the skill of listening, treating it as an afterthought instead of a vital part of relationships. The art of having a conversation requires deep thinking and authentic listening, something that can be cultivated and taught. **What do you think it takes to be a good listener?**

Bible Discussion

3. Read Luke 18:35-43, **what stood out** to you?
4. If Jesus, the Son of God, stopped to listen to the people around him, **what's stopping us?**

Life Application

5. Read this quote from David Augsburger and **discuss your experience with being heard:**

“Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable.”

6. We often fake-listen, just waiting for our turn to talk or to turn the conversation to something that affects us. ***How hard is it to listen without actively formulating a response?***

THINK IT OVER

Listening is a humbling act; it requires admitting that perhaps we can't anticipate what the other person wants to talk about or that maybe their needs are different than we'd thought.

- What are the personal implications (for you)?
- What are the communal implications (for our church community)?
- What are the missional implications (for those we want to BLESS)?

CHALLENGE

Make a plan this week to truly listen to the people in your life by beginning to pray, "Jesus, help me to listen today." Have a conversation where your only goal is to discover what your friend or colleague needs. As you listen, ask yourself if this is a practical, emotional, or spiritual need? Can you meet their need?