

I Am Cornerstone, I Am Sent
Week's Topic: Listen
Discussion Guide: March 19, 2023

CHECK UP:

Memory work: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. -Colossians 4:23

What is one name you prayed for this past week?

OPEN:

- How good of a listener do you think you are? What makes you think so?

READ and ASK: 1 Kings 19:9b-18; Acts 17:16-34; Luke 18:35-43

- What do we learn from these texts about listening?
- Why do you think Jesus asked the blind man, "what do you want me to do for you?"
 - o Have you ever felt like the blind man? How so?
- How does Paul model "listening to the lay of the land"?
 - o Why is that important in being a missionary?
 - o In what way can "listening to the lay of the land" be important to living as one who is "sent"?

APPLY:

- Why do you think we have a hard time listening to people around us?
- Have you ever felt unheard? What are those experiences like for you?
- When was the last time you truly felt listened to, known, and loved?
 - o What makes those moments so special?
 - o Why is the above important to remember when we are living on mission?
- Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week? Who might you be able to B.L.E.S.S. this week?

The Ferguson's describe the four H's of listening as:

- History: "tell me your story." "Where did you grow up?"
- Heart: "What's your favorite (team, restaurant, vacation destination)?"
- Habits: "What are into?" "What do you like to do with your free time?"
- Hurts: "How are you doing with (name the situation)?"
 - o NEXT STEP: Read through the listening questions below, how can you utilize the 4 H's of listening in one of those contexts? Do you have a person(s) in mind?

Memory Work:

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. – Ephesians 5:15-16

Next Week's Reading:

Matthew 9:9-13

Listening questions:

At home:

- Do you know your neighbor's names? If not, how can you introduce yourself?
- Who in your neighborhood just had a baby? Can you naturally offer something?
- Who is elderly or disabled? What might they need help with?
- Who is around your age or in a similar life stage? Can you invite them into your space or home?
- Are there single moms or dad around you? How might they need help from time to time?
- Do your neighbors know each other? Can you do something to bring them all together?
- Are there other people who follow Jesus in your neighborhood? If so, can you partner together to look for and meet needs?
- Do you know of birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events happening? How can you help someone celebrate?
- Who has moved in recently? How can you help welcome them to the neighborhood?
- Is there anyone in your neighborhood who doesn't fit the profile of the majority? How can you help them feel loved and valued?
- Is there someone who lives around you who has served or helped you? Is there a small gesture you can make to show your thanks?

At work:

- Do you know your coworkers names? If not, how can you introduce yourself?
- Has anyone had any major life changes?
- Has there been a death in anyone's family, or are they or someone in their family ill?
- Has anyone at work just had a baby? Can you naturally offer something, take a meal, or a small gift card?
- Is there someone at your workplace or school who doesn't fit in, is different, or gets bullied? How can you help them feel loved and valued?
- Is there anyone new to your workplace? How can you help them feel welcome?
- Are there others in your workplace who follow Jesus or are curious about faith? How can you engage in conversations about faith or let them know you are a follower of Jesus?
- Do you know of birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events happening? How can you help someone celebrate?
- Do any of your coworkers hang out together after work? How can you join in or initiate a gathering?

- Are there ways you can support your coworkers after work? Do you have a coworker who plays in a band or has a hobby that you can support them in?
- Is there a coworker who always goes out of their way to help or serve you? How could you acknowledge their kindness or express thanks?

Where you play:

- Where do you go frequently? (Gym, library, sporting events, music venues, restaurants, cafes, bars, bookstores, recreational leagues?) How can you get to know the people you see frequently at this place?
- Can you take opportunities to make a significant encounter something more? It may be a barista, bartender, someone checking you in at the gym, or running beside you on a treadmill.
 - o How can you listen and express care for that person with whom you regularly interact?
 - o How can you do more than simply come in and out of these places undetected, and instead begin to look for small and big ways to appreciate, engage with, and encourage people there?
 - o How can you make this place a better and more positive place?
- Is there someone you have favor with? For example, does the manager of the gym, the barista at your café, or the wait staff at your favorite restaurant enjoy talking to you? How can you listen to and bless those people?