

**The Art of Listening
Week 1
July 18, 2021**

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

Have you experienced talking with someone who isn't really listening?
What did that feel like?

INTRODUCTION

This is week 1 of The Art of Listening. Sometimes it can be difficult to be a good listener or engage with someone who is a good listener. We will discuss how we can be a good listener to our Heavenly Father; what he thinks of us, how we have a deeper relationship with him and intentionally focus on making that happen. It's not about religion but a relationship!

THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:13-15

Read the passage: Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURE:

- What do you notice in this text with new or fresh eyes?
- What do you struggle with?
- What surprises you?
- What encourages you?

ENGAGING THE MESSAGE:

1. What do you believe others say about you? What do you believe God says about you? Do these match up?

2. As presented in the sermon, could you "capture" a negative thought and control it? If it's helpful, please share one of those negative thoughts with the group so that you can "capture" it. Capturing a thought looks like:

- You acknowledge that you have the thought- confession***
- You control it - it does not control you - exposing it to The Light (Jesus) it loses its power over you***
- You allow yourself to feel what that thought brings to you***
- We can learn to hold a thought Captive and make it obedient to Christ***
- Where did it come from? (envy, control, approval of others, lust, jealousy)***
- Did it bring any other lies or negative thoughts with it?***
- As you learn the answers to these questions then ask Jesus***

to forgive as needed

- This will help you be aware of the next attack and fix the hole in your defense system

3. Tell of a time when your faith increased by listening to God.

4. Where can you go to hear God's voice?

LIVING IT OUT-APPLICATION:

Set aside an actual time each day this week to listen to God's voice.

Choose one way or several to be able to intentionally hear him.

CLOSING PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.