

**The Art of Listening**  
**Week 3: Don't Be Selfish**  
**August 1st, 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:

**What is your favorite activity during this time of year?**

***INTRODUCTION***

This week we continue in **The Art of Listening** by engaging a message titled: **Don't Be Selfish**. Those aren't the words of Pastor Paul or even Madison Park; those words are straight from the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians. Our passage this week comes from Philippians 2:1-5.

***THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:1-11***

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:***

- Do you have any “encouragement from belonging to Christ?” Please take time to talk about ways your relationship with Jesus has helped you personally experience the things Paul talks about in Philippians 2:1 - comfort, fellowship, tender heart, compassion.
- How does remembering those blessings help you think about the practices Paul outlines in verse 2 - “agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose”?
- Why would living that way make Paul, your leaders, or Jesus “truly happy?”
- What is the “attitude” that Christ Jesus had?
- How can you have “the same attitude,” and what, specifically, will it look like in your life?

***LIVING IT OUT-APPLICATION:***

- **Who will you practice “Active Listening” with this week?**

***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.