



Theme: Bless
“Listen”

Weekly Memory Verse:

19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. – James 1:19

Monday, Oct. 10 – Read James chapter 1. In this chapter James the brother of Jesus gets straight to the point about the importance of listening. If we are honest, we do the opposite of this verse. We are quick to speak and get angry and slow to listen. That is how our culture operates at large and it is only through the upside down nature of the Kingdom of God that we offered a different way. A way that leads to healing and wholeness. We need to be people that listen.



What relationships or situations do you need to be quicker to listen and slower to get angry? How can you fight the urge to speak and get angry first?



In James 1:12 James encourages us to patiently endure testing and temptation. How does listening help us to do that?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, Help me to be quick to listen and slow to speak. Help me to fight the urge to get angry, and instead meet each situation with patience, love and a heart and ears that are open. Amen.*

Tuesday, Oct. 11 – Read Mark 5:25-33. What I love about this story is that Jesus is on his way to an emergency. He is on a mission and yet, he finds time to listen to this women’s entire story. I’m sure this took a lot of time, and Jesus listened to every word. What Jesus models here is the heart that we need for people. Jesus makes time in the midst of an emergency to listen and to hear this women’s story.



Do you feel like you have enough time in your day to listen like this to people in your world?



How can you create space in your day to listen more?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, Help me create space in my day to listen. Help me to see the importance and the power of listening and how it impacted people around. Amen.*

Wednesday, Oct. 12 – Read Matthew 7:24. Jesus is always linking the idea of listening and doing. Just listening and not responding with action is not what God is looking for. Real listening in our relationship with God requires a response from us. That shows that we are listening.



Can you identify places in your relationship with God where you have listened but not responded? Reflect on what those moments were and why you did not respond with action.



Sometimes, the reason that we don't respond with action is that we are scared of what might happen. It is easier for us to keep things the same and not respond. Why do we feel this fear, and how can we move past it?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, Help me to not just listen to you, but obey and respond with action. Help me to overcome the fear that I feel, and help me to trust you. Amen*

Thursday, Oct. 13 – Read Luke 5:16. Jesus made it a regular practice to go away by himself to pray. Jesus needed this regular conversation with God. Jesus needed to hear from his father so that he could continue to accomplish the mission he set out to do. If Jesus needed regular time to pray and listen, we do as well.



Does your current devotional time include a time of listening? How can you build this listening in to your devotional time.



For some of us the thought of just sitting and listening feels a bit daunting and strange. Why do we feel this way, and what can you do to get over this feeling of fear or awkwardness?

Prayer: *O Lord, Help me to spend time listening. Help me to see that I need time to listen. This is a relationship and I need to listen just as much as I speak. Help me create time to just listen to you. Amen.*

Friday, Oct. 14 – Throughout Jesus' life, one of the key themes that I see is that he never really does the same thing twice. Jesus is always responding to each situation uniquely. I think this is because there is no situation or person that is the same as another and Jesus knew this and was always listening to the people in front of him and to his Father on how he should respond. He was never stuck, but listened and then responded.



We naturally tend to approach people or situations with our minds already made up. We are often stuck in our own thoughts and patterns. What steps can you take to listen first and then respond? How can you break that pattern?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, Thank you that you approached every situation by listening to the people in front of you, and to your Father. Help us to not get stuck in how we respond, but to approach every situation by listening first. Amen.*

Saturday, Oct. 15 – Read Psalm 116:1-2. We cannot do an entire devotional on listening without taking time to recognize how God listens to us. He models listening out of his love for us. God is always listening and wants us to speak with him. The more time we spend with him and know that he hears us, the more we start to listen as well.



Do you feel that God is listening to you, or is it hard sometimes to think that he is listening? Why is it hard to believe that he is listening?

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, Thank you for hearing me and listening to me. Thank you for your love and your goodness in my life. Amen.*