

Small Group Study Guide



November 4, 2018

“Active Listening”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son into this world to reconcile us to you and to each other. Forgive us for the times we hurt others with our words just to prove we are right. Help us to get right with one another wherever we have broken relationships. So would you give us the discipline to slow down and listen first when we face conflict. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

James 1:19-21

19 Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. 20 This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. 21 Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you.



INTRODUCTION

We all know what it is like to be hurt by someone who just couldn't listen long enough to understand us. Maybe in their attempt to be right, they damaged a relationship that could have been saved with a little patience and curiosity. You've probably been on the other side of that coin too. Taking the verbal offense may have won the argument, but you lost relationally. What if we didn't settle for being right, but tried to make things right instead? The longer we listen, the more we learn, and the better chance we have of protecting ourselves from our own mouths.

When we speak quickly and listen slowly, we lose our chance to understand. We undermine the value of our relationship. This week practice making listening a priority.

QUESTIONS

- 1) How was conflict handled in your family when you were a child?
- 2) In most circumstances when you are angry, do you tend to blow up or get in a bad mood and turn inward?
- 3) Do you think of yourself as "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry"? What is it about ourselves that often makes that very difficult?
- 4) What are some practical ways to make listening a priority in a relationship?
- 5) You may win an argument but have you really won anything if it damages a relationship? God wants us to make things right with one another not hurt others just to prove we are right? Have you ever damaged a relationship by trying to be right? If so, have you tried to make things right in that relationship? If not what can you do to move in that direction?

FINAL APPLICATION

Pray for God to give you the discipline to slow down and listen first when you face conflict.