

Christ Community Church

B.L.E.S.S. Community Group Guide // April 25 - May 1, 2021

Take some time to share:

One thing that you are thankful for this week.

One thing you are in need of (try and stick to one thing and personally related).

How can the group help?

Week 3 – Listen

Message Big Idea - In order to BLESS our neighbor, Jesus invites us to listen.

Scripture - Luke 18:35-43

Icebreaker & Opening Thought

1. Have you ever misread a lyric, like really misheard? Would you sing the song as you'd heard it?
2. Christ-followers are known more for talking than for listening. Additionally, as a society, we seem to be losing the skill of listening, treating it as an afterthought instead of a vital part of relationships. The art of having a conversation requires deep thinking and authentic listening, something that can be cultivated and taught. What do you think it takes to be a good listener?

Bible Discussion

3. Read Luke 18:35-43, what stood out to you?
4. Read John 5:1-9, what struck you about this interaction with Jesus?
5. If Jesus, the Son of God, stopped to listen to the people around him, what's stopping us?

Life Application

6. Read this quote from David Augsburger and discuss your experience with being heard: "Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable."
7. We often fake-listen, just waiting for our turn to talk or to turn the conversation to something that affects us. How hard is it to listen without actively formulating a response?
8. Listening is a humbling act; it requires admitting that perhaps we can't anticipate what the other person wants to talk about or that maybe their needs are different than we'd thought. What does it feel like to actively listen?

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Challenge - Make a plan this week to truly listen to the people in your life by beginning to pray, "Jesus, help me to listen today." Have a conversation where your only goal is to discover what your friend or colleague needs. As you listen, ask yourself if this is a practical, emotional, or spiritual need? Can you meet their need?

Week 3 – Leader's Guide

Message Big Idea - In order to BLESS our neighbor, Jesus invites us to listen.

Scripture - Luke 18:35-43

Icebreaker & Opening Thought - The goal of this is to get everyone talking and sharing something comfortably. The opening thought introduces the main idea of the night, don't worry about getting too deep into the conversation yet, that will come.

Bible Discussion - As a group read through the Bible sections slowly. Sometimes it can be helpful to read it in a different translation or read it twice in two different translations. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers in discussing scripture. Be sure to invite everyone to share; it can be intimidating at times for people to discuss the Bible – be sensitive to that.

Life Application - Read the quote and let people share what comes to mind. Listening is a life skill we may think we already do well, but most of us could work to cultivate that skill in our relationships. It might just be the thing that our friends, coworkers, family members, and neighbors need.

Challenge - Make a plan this week to truly *listen* to the people in your life by beginning to pray, "Jesus, help me to listen today." Have a conversation where your only goal is to discover what your friend or colleague needs. As you listen, ask yourself if this is a practical, emotional, or spiritual need? Can you meet their need?