

# The Christian Family At The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Unit 6 “Learning To Listen To Each Other”

### Opening Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, you love each of us and consider us sinners to be precious members of your family. You invite us to speak to you in prayer often, and promise to hear us. You know our needs, our troubles, our feelings. Help us to learn from you to listen, to truly listen to our family members as you are a good listener to us. Amen.

**Unit Goal:** To study the scriptural aspects of listening to each other.

**Key Scripture:** “My dear brothers, take note of this, everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.” James 1:19, 20

### Unit Lessons:

#### 1. Listening - God’s Invitation

- I Peter 5:7                      - Matthew 11:28                      - Psalm 62:8

Discuss: How does God communicate with us that he is willing to listen? How can we communicate our willingness to listen?

#### 2. Listening - Jesus’ Example

- John 4:1-26                      - Matthew 14:13, 14                      - Luke 18:15-17  
- Luke 18:35-43                      - Luke 23:39-43

Discuss: What aspects of effective listening did Jesus demonstrate?

### 3. We Listen - To Our Spouse

- I Corinthians 13:4-8a

Discuss: How do we apply this chapter to listening to our spouse?

### 4. We Listen - To Our Children

- Proverbs 22:6

- Ephesians 6:4

Discuss:

- When do parents' efforts to train become exasperating to the child?
- When did listening, or a lack of listening, help/hinder the relationship with our child/children?

### 5. When No One Listens - God Listens

- I Kings 19

- Psalm 50:15

- Hebrews 13:5,6

Discuss: How do God's promises help us in times of loneliness?

### **Unit Activities:**

- God's perfect love empowers us to love him and others (read I Corinthians 13:4-7)
- this reading will explain how a loving person will treat others
  - on a 3x5 card, write each of the descriptions of love; at meal time, have each family member take a card and tell of a time when someone showed him/her this kind of love.
- Discuss what family members can do to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard.

- Discuss why seeking first to understand is fundamental to being understood.
- Be aware of how you listen. Are you making eye contact, or rolling your eyes, etc.? Listen with the eyes, heart and mind.

**Unit Commitment:** Each participant is invited to write a personal goal, which blessed by God, will further individual and family growth.

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**Unit Song:** “Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening”

Speak, O Savior, I am listening, as a servant to his lord; Let me show respect and honor to your holy precious Word. That each day, my whole life through, I may serve and follow you. Let your Word e'er be my pleasure and my heart's most precious treasure.

Oh, what blessing to be near you, and to listen to your voice! Let me ever love and fear you; Let your Word still be my choice. Many hardened sinners, Lord, flee in terror at your Word, but to all who feel sin's burden you give peace and words of pardon.

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; let your words in me take root. May your Spirit e'er be near me that I bear abundant fruit. May I daily sing your praise, from my heart glad anthems raise, till my highest praise is given in the endless joy of heaven.

**Closing Prayer**

Lord, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to meet together again, giving us the opportunity to discuss another aspect of Christian family living. Give us the desire to try to use some of the ideas of listening to each other as we continue to grow as Christian families. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

