

Lesson 7.22 – Listening they do not Understand: Deep Listening

Topic: Conflict Management

Subtopic: Deep Listening

2A. Prayer and Worship

4B. Communication Skills

Class: Standard VII (Grade 7)

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

References: Matthew 13:10-17

Memory Verse: Matthew 13:16

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students would know the difference between deep listening and the listening we do everyday.

**Attitude:** Students would want to understand God’s heart as well as understand each other.

### Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** *Optional Worship.*

*Think-Pair-Share:* “What do you think was the most important difference between the disciples and the Pharisees?”

**Bible Story:** Explain that Jesus has just told the parable about the 4 types of soil and the disciples did not understand it. Have a Reader read the verses. Then emphasize the importance of listening for understanding by asking questions (see Teacher’s Notes)

**Application:** Share a story about a girl who tried hard to understand.

Have students partner with someone and practice *deep listening* using the active listening guidelines.

Write Joshua 1:8 on the board and have students *meditate* on it for 5 minutes and then write a reflection in their journal.

**Evaluation:** Do you meditate on scripture to understand God’s heart? Do you use active listening?

### Student Activities

#### Introduction

Discuss a *Think-Pair-Share* question. Answers will vary.

**Bible Story:** Reader reads Matthew 13:10-17 where Jesus explains that most people don’t really hear because they don’t really listen.

**Application:** Students learn that *deep listening* means that you try to understand the other persons heart—their feelings, motives and reasons for doing what they do. They practice *deep listening* with a partner and then practice *deep listening* to God by meditating on a scripture passage. They write a reflection on the scripture passage in their journal.

**Evaluation:** Did students understand the difference between the kind of listening we usually do and *deep listening*? Were students able to write a reflection on Joshua 1:8?

**Extension Activities:** *Worship:* Continue to open your lessons with worship if you have time. *Memory verse.* Discuss the verse and have students practice it. *Listening Game.* Have two students leave the room. Tell a short story to the class. Have a volunteer tell the story one of the students who left the room. That student tells it to the other student who left the room. How has the story changed by the time the last student tells it to the class?

## Notes for Teacher

This is a very important lesson because it points out the difference between those who hear but don't understand and those who really try to understand. This is the heart of peacemaking—listening deeply in a caring way to another. It is also the heart of following Jesus. A true disciple will listening deeply to God through meditating on scripture and try to understand God's heart.

Key Points: *Deep Listening* to others means that we use Active Listening and try to understand their heart (feelings, motives, worldview). Meditation is one way to listen deeply to God.

Introduction: Use the following *Think-Pair-Share* question. “What do you think was the most important difference between the disciples and the Pharisees?” Encourage a variety of answers. No one answer is right or wrong.

Bible Story: After the student Reader reads Matthew 13:10-17 use some or all of the questions below to discuss it.

- Neither the disciples or the crowds and Pharisees understood Jesus' parables so how were the disciples different? (They stayed around and asked questions.)
- What does this show about the disciples? (They wanted to understand. They were willing to stay longer, ask questions and try to learn more.)
- Read verse 12 again. What do you think this means? (Several interpretations are possible. One possible answer is that the disciples understood enough to know that Jesus was the one with answers and that if they stayed with him and asked questions they would learn more. The crowds and the Pharisees did not know enough to stay with Jesus. They went home without asking any questions.)

Application: Jesus was teaching His disciples that if we really want to understand something, we have to be willing to work at understand it. We have to be willing to ask questions, to listen to the answers to do a little bit extra.

*Share a story.* Once there was a girl named Kadeiza who really wanted to know how to write good papers. She stayed after class and asked the teacher what she could do to improve her papers. She wrote extra papers and asked her mother to correct her errors and help her make them better. Her friend, Leunita on the other hand, never did any more than the teacher required. If there was a writing assignment she would write just enough words. If she didn't understand the teacher's marks, she just threw the paper away. She did not try to learn from her mistakes. Her goal was to get done quickly and go do something fun. Which girl do you think will be most successful in writing, in school, in life? Kadeiza has a little bit of understanding about how to write. She is going to get more because she is working hard to do her best; she is asking questions and she is listening to the answers.

*Deep Listening.* We listen to our friends every day but sometimes we don't ask questions, we don't try to really understand their feelings. We don't work at understanding. We don't always have to use this kind of deep listening but if our friend is upset or angry we need to use deep listening. We use the techniques of active listening but we go deeper. We try to understand their heart—their feelings, what motives them, why they do what they do. This is *deep listening*. (Write *Deep Listening* on the board.) Review the rules for Active Listening. Remind students that Deep Listening means that you try to understand your friends heart—their feelings about the situation.

*Partners.* Have students find a partner. For this exercise it is best if students partner with a friend or someone they know pretty well. It is best to have girls partner with girls and boys with boys. Tell them to think about something they really want to share with their partner. They might share how they feel today and why. They might tell something important that happened to them. They might share about a time that was sad or scary. The other person will listen for one minute and they will only use **summarizing, paraphrasing or clarifying statements**. They will try to listen deeply and understand their partner's feelings. Be sure and paraphrase how the other person is feeling.

Then they will trade places with their partner and the other person talks for one minute.

After both partners have had a turn to share, ask students how it felt to have someone really listen to them. Did they feel cared for? Understood?

*Deep Listening to God.* (Write the verse below on the board as students are doing the listening exercise above.) Deep listening is what we must do if we are going to understand the Kingdom of God and what it truly means to be Peacemakers. We learn to listen deeply to God through the scripture. Several places in the Bible it tells us to *meditate* on scripture. One way to listen deeply to God is to *meditate* on scripture.

Joshua 1:8 says:

*“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”*

Often we read scripture and then walk away and forget about it. That is what the crowds and Pharisees did. But the disciples stayed around and thought about what Jesus said. They asked questions. They checked their understanding with Him. They practiced deep listening. We need to do *deep listening to God* as well as listening deeply to each other.

Practice by getting quiet and thinking about Joshua 1:8. Ask yourself these questions:

- What is God feeling and thinking as he gives this commandment?
- What does it mean for me?
- What questions do I have about this?

Have students sit quietly and think about the verse for five minutes. Then have them write a reflection in their journal.

After students have written something, close by pointing out that what they just did was one way to meditate on scripture and to listen deeply to God. If they are like the disciples and really want to understand the Kingdom of God, they need to practice this kind of meditation often.