

Communication Exercise 1

(Listening)

Overview

These exercises can help you learn about the values and needs of your neighbors. **Develop an interest and curiosity about the lives of people that you meet.** We must go beyond surface conversations and develop deeper relationships and better express the love and Good News of the kingdom. Ask these questions and then add some of your own.

How this Works

Look for creative ways that you can meet and get to know new friends. Find venues that allow for deeper conversations, such as inviting someone for coffee or dinner after an event or going for walks together. Set a goal of meeting new people every week or month and seek to go deeper in your conversations with your neighbors.

Listening Exercises

- △ Ask questions to identify things you have in common with someone you don't know well. Try to identify as many common interests and experiences as possible.
- △ Enter into a conversation with someone outside your family and church circle that you don't know well. Ask how they are doing, then ask follow-up questions to learn more about what is happening in their life. Be empathetic and see if they are willing to share whatever is causing them stress. (Look for people who are not in a hurry. Feel free to offer care, and let them know you will pray about their situation.)
- △ If a concern is shared with you, follow up with the person the next week. Let them know if you have been praying for their situation.
- △ Ask five people: If there was one thing they could ask of God, one miracle, what would it be?
- △ Ask five friends and neighbors if they have any life goals. Ask them what they believe are the most important things in life.
- △ Ask five people about the biggest fears or challenges people in their friend group are facing. (We are not trying to solve world hunger or racial conflicts. Look for something more personal.)
- △ Ask five people what word or words they would use to describe the heart of God. Ask what they think God is like.
- △ Ask five people if they have any spiritual practices. What things do they do or think they could do to draw closer to God? (Don't come with an agenda and push your solution; this is a listening exercise. Feel free to ask follow up questions to learn if they have a desire to draw closer to God.)

Afterward

Thank God for your new relationship, and begin praying for the people you have met. **Ask God to show you how to better love your friends and neighbors and pray that they would feel God's love through you.** Write down people's names after you have met them and add a few notes about your conversations. List the desires and needs of the people around you and pray that God would show how you should respond.

Additional Resources

<http://www.TheJesusStrategy.com>