

Sharing the Gift of Jesus B-L-E-S-S

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

11/27 **B**egin with prayer—and keep praying

12/04 **L**isten to

12/11 **E**at with

12/18 **S**erve

12/25 **S**hare your story

LEVEL ONE LISTENING (James 1:19)

Start Ask a question, then **stare**

Stop “How are you?”

Start Instead ask, “Tell me what’s been **happening** ?”

Stop Never ask them to “edit” or abbreviate their answer

Start Say “Help me **understand** ” or say “Tell me more.”

LEVEL TWO Show **interest** , pay attention (John 4:1-42)

History – tell me your story. Ex. Where did you grow up?

Heart – what’s your favorite (team, restaurant, vacation spot)?

Habits – what are you into? Any **hobbies** ?

Hurts – how’s it going with (name a specific situation)?

LEVEL THREE Careful observation of a place (Acts 17:22-23)

Pain – what are the **challenges** and difficulties?

Pennies – what drives the local economy? What is protected?

People – who are the influencers? Decision makers?

Parties – what is **celebrated** ? Who is honored and how?

“Being listened to and being loved are so close that most people can’t tell the difference.”

On Your Own (better with others)

1. What observation, insight or principle did you find helpful, troubling, or eye-opening?
2. *Agree/disagree* Listening is a spiritual gift.
3. READ Mark 10:46-52. Jesus asked blind Bartimaeus, “*What do you want me to do for you?*” He’s **blind!** Why ask that?

An obvious need might stop you from asking a question and waiting for an answer. How can you get past the obvious?
4. Tell of a time when someone listened to you and you felt heard, known and loved. How long ago was that?
5. READ Psalm 40:1 and 116:1-2. The LORD “*turned his ear to me*” the word “*turned*” could also be translated “*inclined*” or “*bent near.*” God comes close and **listens** to our prayers!

Suggest three ways to let a person know you are listening
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
6. T or F Blessing others can be as simple as praying for them, asking a question and listening to their answer.
7. Simple is not the same as easy. What makes listening so difficult for most of us?