

Listening Guide

[1] How do you personally relate to God’s love? Is it a real part of your life or a theoretical idea?

[2] After hearing the words of the hymn at the beginning of the lesson and the section following it about God’s love, how would you explain or describe what it means to be loved by God?

[3] Are there specific ways you can think of that you share God’s overflowing love with someone?

I. Tapping Into God’s Power

[4] Would you say that at this time in your life you are “filled with the Spirit”? If not, have you considered following the instructions in this section to let the Spirit fill and empower your life?

[5] Before we can share the good news with honest sincerity we have to be experiencing it. Earlier lessons in this course walked us through some practices that make our Christian life vital and vibrant. Can you honestly share the gospel as “Good” news because of what God is doing in you?

II. Sharing Your Own Story

[6] If you became a Christian later in life, follow the helpful exercise described in this section. If you grew up in a Christian home and have known Jesus in a personal way for most of your life, share some of the reasons why you believe your life has benefitted because you are a Christian. Meditate for a while on the wonderful privilege of being a Christian and thank God for His early intervention in your life. Then write your story and rehearse it so you can tell others how Jesus is changing you.

III. A Simple Presentation of the Gospel

[7] Restate the truth of Romans 3:23 in your own words. Think about how you would explain it to a child and then how you would to an adult.

[8] Repeat the exercise you completed on Romans 3:23 for each of the verses that walk us down the Romans Road. It’s important that we not sound like we’re giving a prepared speech when presenting the gospel so it’s important to read the verse, or have the person you’re sharing Christ with read it and then follow it up with a brief explanation to open dialogue.

[9] Read over the prayer at the end of this section a few times and then “personalize” it so it sounds like your own way of speaking.

IV. Evangelistic Dialogue

[10] God used Philip to share the gospel with the eunuch because Philip was ready at a moment’s notice. Think back over the lessons in this Spiritual Formation Basics course and list some ways you have discovered that will help you be ready when God wants to bring a seeker into your path.

[11] Think about the various relationships you have with people who have not come to Christ and select one who you would particularly like to see accept Him as Savior. Pray that God will give you opportunities to share the Gospel with that person. Then for each of the five things we learn from the story of Philip and the Eunuch consider how it could guide you to be a witness to that person.

[12] Consider how you will approach the person you have prayed about using the advice this lesson offers. The key point is that after you have finished sharing your faith with this person the door is still open – and preferably – opened more widely to continue the conversation.

V. Waiting for the Harvest

[13] After engaging with this section of the lesson, pray for the person you plan to share the gospel with – and pray for yourself as God’s witness. When people don’t immediately respond, we may feel they have rejected us because they didn’t accept our message. This “waiting for the crop to bear fruit” can be a difficult process.

VI. Where to Go From Here?

[14] For each of the three points in this section, briefly write out any part of your Spiritual Life Growth plan that you have not already completed. Some have found that blocking out a few hours or even a half-day of prayer, meditation, goal setting and planning helps put their life on a growth trajectory that they can actually follow. If we get off course because life gets too crowded for a time we can reenter our plan later on if it’s written down.

[15] Review the objectives.

Practice telling your testimony to someone a few times.

Pray that God will lead you to someone who will express spiritual interest.

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

After you have completed personalizing your Romans Road presentation, ask another Christian person to let you practice your presentation a few times until you feel comfortable talking it through. You could also have a helpful ministry to your friend by encouraging him or her to practice giving the presentation to you.