



LISTEN TO EACH OTHER'S STORIES

🕒 15 Minutes

PURPOSE:



Every person has an opportunity to listen to another person's story.

We all have a story to share. Our stories include deep valleys of challenges and mountaintops of joy. In order for stories to be shared in a meaningful way, there must also be a listener. Growing as listeners is one of the most important ways we can grow as brothers and sisters and ministers of the Gospel.

This week we will each take time to listen to each other's stories. They will be timed and without interruption. As listeners, we must continue to listen to understand. This practice will help us grow closer to each other and build deeper relationships with our neighbors.

SETUP:



Have a timer to keep track of when partners need to switch.

Optional:

- Let everyone know earlier in the service that there will be an interactive time happening today.
- Have a slide with today's focus and a timer to know when to finish.

INSTRUCTIONS:

🟡 Organize Members 🟠 Leader Instructs 🟢 Members Practice 🟣 Reflect and Report



1

Have everyone stand up and find a partner to sit next to during this time. Pause to make sure everyone finds a partner.



2

In less than one minute, explain the vision for this time. Emphasize the importance of continuing to learn how to be a good listener. You can share a scripture or a personal example to help.



3

Instruct the pairs to take turns sharing their stories with each other. The first will share for 4 minutes without being interrupted or asked any questions. The other partner will listen. After the 4 minutes, the listener will have 1 minute to share 2 observations that they had about the person's story from listening. Then, the partners will switch. You will let everyone know when the switching is happening.



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4

The first person shares for 4 minutes.



5

The listener will have 1 minute to share 2 observations that they had about the other person's story.



6

The second person shares for 4 minutes.



7

The listener will have 1 minute to share 2 observations that they had about the other person's story.



8

Close by sharing this Overflow connection: Listening well to each other also prepares us to listen to our neighbors. Have each person write down the name of one person whose story they would like to listen to this week.

LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS:



What did you observe about the congregation listening to each other?



When can your church regularly practice a rhythm of listening to each other?