



A PASSION FOR LIFE...

Session 3

Loving through listening & Questions

Mark 12:30-31 NIV

Love the Lord your God

with all your heart

and with all your soul

and with all your mind

and with all your strength.'

[31] The second is this:

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no commandment

greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

Questions

1. Think about the people that you tend to spend time with, are they similar to you? How could you be more intentional about showing you care and taking more of an interest in people who are different?
2. What stops us from listening well? Reflect on your own habits. How can we get better at this?
There are generally three types of listening – (1) where you listen but you're really just waiting for your chance to start talking - it looks like listening but it's not. (2) listening but all the while working out what you are going to say in argument or advice in response- once again it's not listening. (3) real listening is when we don't talk but we really focus on what they're saying and then we can demonstrate that we have heard, understood and can show some empathy to what they were feeling. Distractions also impact on our listening. Consciously putting our phone in our pocket when someone is speaking to us is a small but helpful thing to do.

3. Practice listening and asking questions:
 - a. take some time to think of some level-one questions to find out more about a persons particular hobby, interest or passion - the aim is to deepen your conversations.
 - b. Now, the more challenging bit! Try to think of a level-two question you could ask which should give you a deeper insight into their passion and may give you some opportunity to ask to share something about your beliefs.
4. Think of ways to help you remember things people have told you about themselves? This could include praying about what you've heard, writing things down straight after a conversation in your phone or notebook. Putting reminders in your calendar straight away to remind you to ask how an event or appointment they've mentioned went.

Further Bible Reflection

Even from an early age, Jesus was always listening and asking questions (Luke 2:46). He asks over 300 questions in the gospels alone.

Read Matthew 22:34-46.

Context: In this chapter Jesus has been addressing many malicious questions that were designed to trip him up. The way in which he listens and then answers reveal his authority.

Comment: Take some time to think through how well Jesus listens and the effectiveness of his questions. What can we learn from him?

Take Home

Why not re-watch the video with a notebook open, praying that God will root these principles into your heart. Watch here: apassionforlife.org.uk/lc3-view

Sometimes the best spontaneity is rehearsed. Find some time to think about the people you will likely be interacting with over the next week and jot down some questions you could ask them. You could also get into the habit of doing that before you meet with people.

Prayer

- Thank God for His Word and the clarity of His commandment to love Him and to love our neighbours
- Confess our sinfulness in putting ourselves above others and allowing that to stop us from loving our neighbours, limiting our opportunities to share the gospel.
- Ask God to help us to be more aware of our interactions with others and to improve our listening and questions so that we can have more opportunities to share the gospel.

Notes