



Start by Listening
Proverbs (various)

1. What does Proverbs 22:17-18 teach?

2. What does Proverbs 5:13-14 teach?

a. Why is this the case?

b. Why does Proverbs emphasize the importance of listening so much?

3. Summarize what each of the following verses teach: Proverbs 18:2; 12:15; 29:20.

4. Read Proverbs 18:13 and explain why the following pieces of practical advice (from the sermon) will help you become a better listener:

a. Pause for 3 seconds -

b. Notice body language –

c. Withhold judgment –

5. From #4 – in which of the 3 areas do you need the most work? Why?

6. According to Proverbs 18:17 – what should you ALWAYS remember when listening to someone about a situation?

7. What is a person of understanding able to do according to Proverbs 20:5?

- a. What is the difference between a closed-ended question and an open-ended question? Why are open-ended questions usually more helpful to ask?

- b. How does good listening establish trust with people?

- c. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best), how are you doing with taking interest in *other people* when speaking to them, opposed to simply talking non-stop and *dominating the conversation*? Why is this the case?

- d. Why is dominating conversations a sign of selfishness?

- e. Why should you find ALL people interesting?

- f. Why is listening well to others a sign of your spiritual maturity?

- g. How does poor listening point to your pride?

- h. If you say the sweetest things to people, but won't take time to listen to them, what will be the impact of your kind words *over time*? Why?

8. Why is it helpful to think of a conversation like a tennis match?

- a. Write out 5 questions you could ask a new person that you just met to express interest in them.

9. Why will people who are deeply impacted by the gospel listen well?

10. What relationship could you grow most at in listening better? Write down one take-away for yourself from this message.
