

# BRIDING THE GENERATIONAL DIVIDE WITH BOOMER & Z
# EPISODE 2: HOW TO LISTEN WHEN IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE

## look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, "How did we do?" Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

**PRAYER** - Ask God to help you listen with patience, humility, and genuine curiosity, especially when you hear something you disagree with.

**Follow Up on Last Episode's Assignment**

- What did you do to strengthen a relationship with someone you disagree with?
- What did you notice about the other person—or about yourself?
- How did focusing on the relationship rather than resolving the disagreement affect the conversation?

## look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, "What does Jesus want us to know?" If you haven't already, watch this week's video: *"How to Listen When It's Uncomfortable."* Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

**WATCH: Episode 2: How to Listen When It's Uncomfortable**

**Episode Summary**

Listening can be difficult when someone we love expresses moral, social, political, or spiritual beliefs we cannot share. Both sides of a generational divide may fear rejection, disappointment, or even the loss of the relationship. Instead of preparing our response or trying to "close the deal," we can choose to listen carefully and seek to understand what the other person is actually saying.

Following Jesus does not require us to agree with every perspective we hear. Listening is not agreement, and understanding is not compromise. Sometimes the wisest thing we can do is listen with humility, build trust, and leave room for deeper conversations later.

### HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward.** For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

### ABOUT THIS STUDY

Generational differences can become deep divides over faith, politics, gender and sexuality, morality, and other important beliefs. This four-part series models how we can hold firmly to biblical truth while listening well, speaking with grace, and building stronger relationships with those who see the world differently.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What makes it especially difficult to listen when someone expresses a belief or opinion you strongly disagree with?
2. How does recognizing that people on both sides of a generational divide may fear rejection or loss of relationship change the way you approach difficult conversations?
3. What is the difference between listening to understand and listening while preparing your response?
4. How can listening carefully to another perspective strengthen your own understanding without requiring you to agree with it?
5. Where might you need to release the pressure to "close the deal" and allow trust to develop over time?

*Listen and build trust... We don't have to close the deal now.*

## WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

### KEY SCRIPTURE

**James 1:19–20 - "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires."** Listening should come before speaking. When conversations become difficult or uncomfortable, slowing down and truly hearing the other person can help us respond with humility rather than anger or defensiveness.

### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

**Proverbs 18:13 - "To answer before listening—that is folly and shame."** We cannot respond wisely to something we have not taken the time to understand. Listening well means setting aside the response forming in our minds long enough to truly hear the person in front of us.

## look forward

Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, "What does Jesus want us to do?" Commit to practical steps for living out this week's lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Proverbs 19:20
Romans 12:16
Ephesians 4:2–3
Proverbs 18:1

### THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

Have **one listening-first conversation** with someone from another generation or perspective.

Ask a genuine question and give them room to answer. Resist preparing your response while they are speaking. You don't have to voice every opinion or resolve the disagreement.

Afterward, ask yourself: What did I understand better because I took the time to listen?

### PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to strengthen my family?

### SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Share one area where you would like to become a better listener. Pray for humility, patience, and the courage to remain engaged when conversations become uncomfortable.