

## **Talking about Jesus with others - #4/5 HOW to speak? (Answer: after listening well)**

For growth groups 26/8/24

Warm up: We can take listening with our ears for granted: what are some obstacles to be able to listen well? If we were trying to summarise in bullet point form 'what makes for a bad listener', what are the main points on that list?

(Eg jumping in with my solution, not understanding the problem, less concerned for the speaker, and more concerned for me and my agenda etc.)

We're thinking about things that help and hinder talking about Jesus with others. Today our focus is on listening well in order that we can answer with the hope we have.

### **Listening Well**

The book of Proverbs has some sharp things to say in relation to listening.

[Print these three verses on a sheet for distribution? – with 1 Peter 3 on the reverse?]

Which of the following is challenging to you and why?

**Proverbs 18:2**(NIV) Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.

**Proverbs 17:27-28**(NIV) The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.

**Proverbs 20:5**(ESV) The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.

If we're summarising 'what makes for a good listener', what are some points on that list?

Which of these do you need to grow in?

### **Answering with our hope**

Our focus passage, 1 Peter 3, talks about answering those who ask questions about our hope.

While listening isn't directly mentioned, it surely part of answering well.

Pray and **Read 1 Peter 3:8-18** (with a focus on v15).

1. What response does Peter teach believers to be making to mistreatment?
2. What does it mean to 'revere' (v15)?
3. V15 begins with a connector word: 'don't be frightened BUT revere Christ as Lord']  
How is the one connected to the other? How does 'revering Christ as Lord' help us respond to suffering and fear?
4. Why do you have hope in Christ? How about we put this into words now and share in pairs?
5. What place does listening have when someone asks you to give the reason for your hope?
6. Drawing things together: which is better – if a person asking about God gets the answer to their question or feels heard by the Christian?

Pray – that we'd listen with gentleness and respect, and answer well with the hope we have.

Pray – that we'd have 25 guests registering NOW for our events; 6 attendees for 3-2-1; and 2 people turning to trust in the Lord Jesus through our ministry this yr.