

BIG IDEA

Because we are heard by God, we can grow as a listener.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:35-43

ICE BREAKER

This popular kids' game is a fun way to demonstrate how when we try to listen and repeat exactly the phrase as was told to us to the next person, we often mess it up. Add an element of further distraction by making a rule that the message can't be passed along to the person next to you. That way group members will have to stand up and find a person who hasn't heard the message yet. This difference will likely misconstrue the message even more than the traditional game.

OPENING THOUGHT

Open the discussion by reviewing how vital communication is in our relationships. Discuss the impact poor communication can have on how we relate to the people around us.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

What do we learn about Jesus and how he relates to people in the story of the blind beggar? As Jesus was walking, hearing the commotion and the man shouting, he had to have known what exactly the man wanted. But instead of just giving him sight while continuing on his way, he stopped. He validated this man's worth by stopping to make a connection with him. Looking at the man, it was likely obvious what it was that he wanted. Again, Jesus validated his worth, by asking him "What do you want me to do for you?" If Jesus, who is all knowing, takes the time to stop and ask, how much more should we listen to those around us?

LIFE APPLICATION

Many in the group may have relationship scars because they've experienced loss and struggle due to miscommunication or a total lack of communication. Use the questions to explore what characteristics Jesus demonstrated when communicating with others and how we can learn from and emulate them. Discussion of how our lack of listening, or how we felt when we weren't heard can provide perspective on how to change our listening behavior moving forward.

CHALLENGE

Challenge the group to focus on listening first, then speaking, in each of their interactions during the upcoming week. Ask group members to think about how the interactions were different. Brainstorm ideas of how we can become better listeners (i.e., put the phone/distractions away, make eye contact, paraphrase what they've said to know you understand).