

Learning to Listen

Luke 8:16-21

LG Questions for week of 01.24.10

Getting Started

- 1. Listening to People.** a) Paying attention when others talk isn't always easy, is it? Without naming names, describe someone you avoid talking to because of how difficult it is to listen to them and tell why you find it difficult. b) Read **Luke 8:4-21** and explain why it is imperative to listen to God's Word.

Getting Into the Bible

- 2. Listening to Share.** In **Luke 8:10**, Jesus said His reason for telling parables was to teach the truth to His followers and hide it from His enemies. a) Based on what He adds in **Luke 8:16-17**, do you think that is His will for us as well—to hide the truth from unbelievers? Why or why not? b) Share a verse which tells us what to do with the truth and one way you've personally done so.
- 3. Listening to Grow.** One of the principles of health and fitness is: "If you don't use it, you'll lose it." a) According to **Luke 8:18**, in what sense is that also true of those who hear God's Word but don't apply it? b) Describe one way you've applied God's Word and grown from it or failed to apply it and suffered loss.
- 4. Listening to Obey.** Read **Luke 8:19-21**. a) How do you reconcile what the Bible says about honoring our parents and loving our family with how Jesus responded to His mother and brothers? Do you think His intention was to be unkind to them? See **Mark 3:20-21** and **John 7:1-5** for help. b) How do His words underscore the importance of obeying God's Word?

Getting Personal and Practical

- 5. Listening to God.** When was the last time you read God's Word and felt the Holy Spirit using it to speak to you? What did He have to say and how did you respond to it? Did you obey it, share it with others, or ignore it? Compare your experience with those of your small group members and see what lessons you can learn from one another about listening to God.