Listening Hearts 4

Session 8: Carrying God's Presence

Reminders

- Listen well
- Share discussion time
- Be kind and courteous
- Respect others' boundaries
- Limit distractions
- Maintain confidentiality

Silence Practice

“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God.”

Romans 1:1 (NIV)

“Therefore, I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice -- alive, holy, and pleasing to God -- which is your reasonable service.”

Romans 12:1 (NET)

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me,
I am sending you.’”

John 20:21 (NIV)

“And I said, ‘Lord, I’ll go! Send me.’”

Isaiah 6:8b (TLB)

SHARING PROCEDURE

- Read the question aloud.
- Let one person answer while the others listen without comment.
- The whole group pauses. Take a few deep breaths. Let what that person said sink in.
- Practice reflective listening by reflecting back what you heard the person say and allowing them to respond.
- Invite the next person to answer.
- Continue until everyone has had a chance to answer the question while the others listen, pausing briefly after each one.
- Repeat these steps for the next question.

THE QUESTIONS

- Did you practice hospitality during the week? How did it go?
- What did you learn? What worked? What didn't work? Were there any barriers to getting started?
- What steps could you take next?

Consecration & Prayer

- Share your mission verse from Session 5 and describe how you intend to carry God's presence with you going forward. How has your sense of mission changed or developed during these sessions?
- Spend some time encouraging each other with the ways you see God at work in the members of your group.
- Pray over and bless one another, asking God to fulfill his purpose in your lives.
- Read the final blessing by St. Teresa of Avila.