Listening Hearts 4

Session 7: Stretching

Reminders

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

Silence Practice

“I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.”

Psalm 40:1 (NIV)

Missional Focus: Learning to Notice

Discuss the following questions together:

- How does the specific language we use in church affect hospitality? What are some words and phrases we use that people in our local coffee shop would never say?
- Come up with some examples of how to turn “Christianese” into everyday language that unchurched people recognize.

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

- Jesus had no home but yet he was hospitable. Based on the reflection you did for homework, how does God show hospitality?
- Do you have relationships with people outside of the church? If yes, how might you extend hospitality like Jesus did? If not, how might you begin to develop a relationship with someone outside the church?
- Do you sense God inviting you to extend hospitality in some way or to someone in specific? If so, what is one step you might take this week?

Pray Together

- Close by praying Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV) for one another.

"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."

Mission Assignment

- If you were sensing God inviting you to extend hospitality, take some steps this week to practice being hospitable. Remember to use cultural awareness and reflective listening as you interact with others.
- Recall the mission verse you chose in Session 5. Be prepared to read it during our next session.