Listening Hearts 4

Session 4: Learning to See

Reminders

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

Silence Practice

Gospel Contemplation

- Close your eyes and imagine the scene as someone reads the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14).
- For the second reading, pay attention to a word or phrase that seems to stand out to you.
- For the third and final reading, ask God what he wants to say to you through that word or phrase.

Missional Focus: Your Definition of the Gospel

Remember: The first and most important task of any missionary is to understand and truly respect the host culture. That requires a willingness to set aside an attitude of judgment.

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.
- 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

- What did you discover about ethnocentrism? Have you noticed yourself (or others) behaving in a way that favours a particular culture at church or in society?
- What might God be bringing to your attention as you see and relate to others? Was there anything new that you realized?
- How can you apply this in your own life? Consider your situation in the same way that you considered Luke 18:9-14 during the Gospel Contemplation. What is God highlighting for you in your situation?

Pray Together

- Begin by asking God to show you a circumstance where yiou looked at someone's outward appearance rather than focusing on their heart. Wait in silence for several minutes.
- Close with a prayer, offering confession for the past and asking the Holy Spirit to remind and empower us to forsake judgment in the future.

Mission Assignment

- As you move through your week, ask God to help you look beyond the surface of a difficult person to see their true spiritual need. Pray about the situation and how God wants you to respond.