

LOVE OUT LOUD

Day Four: Love That Listens

Scripture: *“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”* — James 1:19

In a noisy world, love that listens is rare. Too often, we’re quick to form opinions, quick to respond, and quick to defend ourselves—but slow to truly listen. Yet Scripture reminds us that listening is a holy act.

When we listen, we communicate more than interest—we communicate love. Listening says, *“You matter. Your story matters. Your voice matters.”* Listening love doesn’t try to fix everything immediately; it simply makes space for another person’s heart.

Think of Jesus with the woman at the well (John 4). He listened. He engaged her story. He asked questions. His listening opened the door for transformation. When we love out loud through listening, we invite healing, trust, and connection.

Parents feel this deeply. As children grow into teens and young adults, sometimes they don’t want our advice right away—they just want our ear. It’s hard not to jump in and solve, but often what they need most is space to talk, even if their words come out raw or tangled. And when the world has been unkind to them, our listening ear can be the safe place where they find comfort and strength.

The same is true in friendships, marriages, and even at work. Sometimes the most powerful “I love you” is simply, “I’m here, I hear you.”

Listening doesn’t mean agreement with everything spoken; it means respect. It reflects the patience of Christ, who hears even the cries we can’t put into

words. Love out loud is not always about speaking the right thing—it's often about being fully present.

Reflection Questions:

- Am I more focused on speaking my point or listening to understand?
- Who in my life needs me to love them by listening today?
- How does God's patience in listening to my prayers inspire me to listen better?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for always hearing me, even when my words are messy or incomplete. Teach me to love like You by listening well. Help me to be slow to speak, quick to hear, and ready to create safe spaces for others to share their hearts. May my listening reflect Your love out loud. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen