

Self-disclosure Questions/Icebreakers

Have you ever failed to listen closely enough to a conversation, only to realize you missed something important?

Scripture – Romans 10:5-17

Suggested Prayer

Father, grant to all our conversation that we might be enriched by the death and resurrection of your Son and filled with the fruit of his Spirit.

Sermon Take-Away – If you need/want to review it, Pastor Colin talked about...

1. Come with a settled conviction that God speaks through His Word.
2. Come with a healthy appetite – use the pressures of your life to increase your appetite for the Word of God
3. Learn to use a knife and fork – learn to make application to your own life

What was your take-away from this week's sermon?

Discussion Questions – Choose as few or as many as you'd like.

1. Paul says that "faith comes by hearing" – but what is so special about *hearing*? Why doesn't Paul say that faith comes by *seeing*, instead? What makes *hearing* the gospel especially effective in bringing about faith in Christ?

2. Jesus said that, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." How does the neglect of hearing God's Word result in spiritual starvation? Have you ever personally experienced this?

3. Many people find it difficult to receive God's Word from a mere man or woman. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13 – does the messenger invalidate the message? What makes the Word of God effective? Read Ephesians 4:11-15. How does this passage encourage us to think about receiving God's Word spoken by others? How should this change the way we listen to them?

4. A person's spiritual health is very often decided by whomever that person chooses to listen to. Read Ecclesiastes 7:4-6. Why do people sometimes take foolish counselors? What is the mark of a foolish counselor?

5. A fruitful life of service often begins with *listening*. In Colossians 1:3-6, Paul says that the gospel that is growing and bearing fruit all over the world is also at work within the Colossians. What kind of fruit was it bearing in them? How does faithful listening to the gospel produce fruit like this?

Suggested Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, give us ears that hear the gospel and hearts that rejoice at the sound of your name.