

Devotional – Listening

ODIOM



Opening

- Today we learned some Communications skills.
- Now, let's see what the bible says about being a good communicator...
- Read, or someone read Teaching verse. FYI: The memory verse is further down

James 1:19

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

Devotional

Big picture

Do not let anger make you say something hurtful.

- The bible says, being a good communicator is all about being a good listener!
- That's right! By listening you are communicating with others WITHOUT SAYING A WORD!
- You are communicating LOVE to others by listening. Others are more important than being heard or being right! (Love your neighbor as yourself.)
- Can you think of a time when you talked over someone else without listening first? We all do it. But that doesn't make it right, or Godly.
- Next, the Bible says to be a good communicator we need slow down and think before we speak. Not to speak s-l-o-w-l-y. Not to say nothing, but to *wait & think before you talk*.
- Does anyone know why you might want to wait before you say something?
 - It gives you time to cool down if you are angry. To think about a Godly approach.
 - Gives you time to think more clearly. Wiser answers may float to surface.
 - Gives time for the Holy Spirit to speak to you what to say.
 - Shows respect to others especially your elders to let them speak first.
 - Builds your self-control "muscle" (Self-control = Fruit of the Spirit)
- Lastly, the Bible says a good communicator doesn't let anger make you say something hurtful.
- Has anyone ever said some angry words? Did anger help? Do you regret saying them?
- Getting angry happens, but you need to have self-discipline to not hurt others with your words.
- Angry words are like bombs! They hurt people. More than we may know.
- Best to not say anything and give it to God, rather than exploding on people with anger.
- Remember! Good communicators: Listen, Wait, and Speak kindness.
 - Fruit of the Spirit --> love, patience, kindness

Outdoor Skills

Elective 10: Communications/Signaling

Memory Verse #1

Ask if anybody knows it yet and can say it? Read it together 2X Consider having a memory verse pamphlet for kids take home.

Ephesians 6:13

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Topical Questions

1. Who is someone you know who is a good listener?
2. Why is it so easy to say something hurtful when you are angry?
3. Does getting angry make you feel better? But does it help the situation?
4. Did you know that Jesus went so far as to say getting angry with someone was murdering them?
5. When was a time that you said something before thinking about it?

Closing Prayer

Encourage them to listen, to wait, and to not say something hurtful. Remind them of the fruit of the spirit.

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We welcome suggestions for improvements to this lesson to woodlands.worthy.life@trailife613.org.

View devotional online at <https://www.trailife613.org/woodlands-trail-devotionals/mountain-lion/listening-outdoor-skills-communications>

