

**WEEK 1**  
LESSON OUTLINE



**BIG IDEA**

Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.

**BIBLE**

Mark 10:46–52; Proverbs 18:13;  
James 1:19

**ABOUT THIS WEEK**

Music plays in the background of almost every store we enter, but how often do we actually listen to it? This week, we'll look at the story where Jesus stopped to listen to a man named Bartimaeus. By slowing down to pay attention to what was happening in the lives of the people around him, **Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.**

**WHAT?**

From homework, friends, and sports to plays, music classes, and parents, life can sometimes feel really packed. When we're overwhelmed, it can be challenging to be aware of what is happening inside of us, much less what is going on in the lives of others. What would it look like to better respond to people by taking a beat to listen first?

**SO WHAT?**

In Mark 10, Jesus was walking through Jericho. Bartimaeus, who was blind, heard Jesus was near and called out to him. The crowd around Jesus shouted at Bartimaeus to be quiet. But this only made him even louder. He wouldn't stop until Jesus heard his cry for help and healing. What's amazing is that he stops and asks Bartimaeus what he would like him to do. Jesus asked him about his needs and showed everyone watching how to listen well.

Listening is a well-recognized pathway to care for others in the Bible. To keep us from responding in silly or hurtful ways, Proverbs 18 encourages us to listen and ask questions before we take action, speak, or react to others. When we don't listen before jumping in and acting, we can do things that aren't helpful or worsen a situation. Even with the best intentions, we can accidentally hurt those we want to help if we're not listening to what people need. Learning to listen before speaking will take some practice, and this is okay because **Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.**

**NOW WHAT?**

When we ask questions and let others speak for themselves as Jesus did, we open ourselves to understanding them more deeply. Here are a few ways you can do that this week.

- **LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND.** Listening to understand isn't about finding solutions immediately or seeking an opportunity to share our wisdom. After someone shares something, practice waiting a few moments before you respond.
- **REPEAT WHAT THEY'VE SHARED.** Before giving your thoughts, repeat what you heard them say. In addition to making sure you understand everything, it can also help you internalize and empathize with what they are going through.
- **ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP.** The last part of listening to others is asking what it would look like to come alongside them in prayer and help them with your actions. It's about giving them the space to verbalize their feelings, needs, and hopes but then joining them in the places where they need help.

All of this will take some work, but it's worth it because **Jesus shows us listening is worth repeating.**