



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading

Cycle B

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary 65

Reading I: I Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

In this first reading from the prophet Samuel we see God calling Samuel into service. Samuel, after hearing the Lord's call for a third time, responds as his mentor, Eli the priest, advises: *Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening*. Just as Samuel the prophet was called by the Lord and committed himself to **listening**, so too are we called to **listen**. Recall that one of the three roles given to each of us at our Baptism is to be prophet as well as priest and king. To effectively carry out our role of prophet we must learn and refine how we **listen** to God in our lives.

Reading 2: I Cor. 6:13c-15a, 17-20

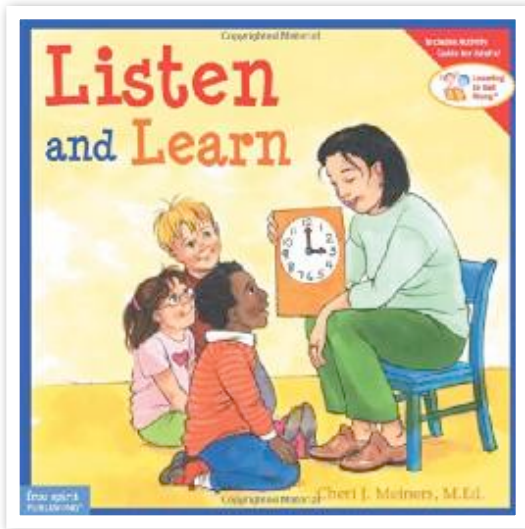
Saint Paul exhorts the community at Corinth to live uprightly and to recognize the great dignity of our bodies as made in the image and likeness of God. He reminds them and us that our body is from the Lord and for the Lord. There are a great many messages that come our way each day and we are called to *listen* to those messages that remind us to recognize our dignity as Temples of the Holy Spirit. We are called to **listen** and to hear this fact and to live and act accordingly. Again, we are made in the image and likeness of God and hold within the vessel of our body the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: John 1: 35-42

In this section of Saint John's gospel we see the call of Andrew and Simon Peter. It looks as if both had been disciples of John the Baptist, who guided them to Jesus, also known as the Lamb of God. A disciple is someone who **listens** in order to learn so that they may pass that knowledge on to others. This **listening** created a stream of vocations that would grow and spread throughout the world and the ages. The call of God is for all, and each person must be attentive in order to **listen** to hear the call.



children's
story



Listen and Learn

Written by Cheri J. Meiners
Illustrated by Meredith Johnson
Copyright 2003 Free Spirit Publishing, Inc.
ISBN-10: none
ISBN-13: 9781575421230



character
education
activity

Listening is the act of making a conscious effort to hear, to take notice, and to act or respond to what has been said.

Listen and Learn

In Cheri Meiner's *Listen and Learn*, the reader and the **listener** encounter the absolute fact that knowing and learning how to **listen** are essential the process of growing, learning and getting along with others. The book reveals all of this in very simple words and inviting illustrations in order to help children develop the skills for **listening**, understanding why it is important to **listen** and recognizing the positive results of **listening**. This book is a great resource for teachers and parents as it includes activities for **listening** practice.

Activity

Step One: Provide the students with a 5 x 7 index card or an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper with the Chinese character for the word "to **listen**." The character indicates that to **listen** one must pay attention with more than one's ears, but also with one's eyes, heart and undivided attention, essentially with being totally present to the person communicating a message.



Step Two: Ask the students to think about what it means to **listen** with one's eyes, one's heart and with undivided attention. Help them to identify facial expressions, body language and spatial relationships that encourage active listening.

For example you might invite one of the students to ask you how you are and in words answer *I'm great* but present them with a sad facial expression and slumped body in order to show them that **listening** involves more than hearing words.



case study



What could you do today?

When you go home today share with one or more of the adults in your family the Chinese character of the word to **listen**. Ask them what it means to **listen** with their eyes, their heart and their undivided attention. Share with them that you make every attempt to look at them when they are speaking so that you can see what their face and body are saying along with their words. Also try to make a commitment to remove your attention from the television or computer when someone is speaking to you so that you can give them your undivided attention. The more you commit yourself to these things the better you will become at **listening**.

Look Feel Know Act

True **listening** is an art. It is important to realize that to become really good at an art requires practice, attention, patience and time. **Listening**, especially to God, requires a quiet space and time. Now that you know more about listening, it is important that you make sure that when you pray, you are in a space that allows you to concentrate without distractions. This takes practice and you might want to build up how much time you give yourself that is dedicated to quiet time alone with God. Try to focus for a minute or two on being quiet with the Lord, and as time goes by you will become better at remaining in focused for longer periods of time.



closing tool

The book *Listen and Learn* contains many great lessons about **listening** that can easily be applied to **listening** to God that comes through to us in so many ways, one of which is **listening** and hearing the words in the *Holy Bible*. Just as the book *Listen and Learn* focuses on learning, growing and getting along with other, so too the lessons and stories from the *Holy Bible*.

Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest me, my family, my friends and those around me. Teach me, Lord, to listen with my eyes, my heart and my entire being. Amen.



**Santa Clara
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
ethics programs for communities that learn, live, pray, or work together