

SHARING TOGETHER

DRAWING NEAR BY SHARING OUR HEARTS WITH ONE ANOTHER

WEEK 2

Memory verse:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”
(1 Cor. 13:4 NIV)

- I. Introduction:** Today we want to focus on learning to show love by learning to share and _____ to each other’s hearts together. We want to learn that love makes it safe for others to share their hearts. Love pays attention, is open and real, listens kindly, and empathizes with each other.

“Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted and keep a humble attitude.” (1 Peter 3:8 NLT)

- A. As we said Sunday, community happens when we take the risk to really know and be _____.
- B. One of the key ways this happens is when we authentically _____ our joys and sorrows together.
- *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”*
(Rom. 12:15 NKJV)
 - *“Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*
(Gal. 6:2 NKJV)
- C. Jesus modeled this with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-27)

Many powerful things happen when we learn to do this:

1. Our hearts become open to hear and _____ a word from God.
 2. Stagnant hearts start to _____ with hope again
“Moab has been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs, not poured out from one jar to another-she has gone into exile. So she tastes as she did, and her aroma is unchanged.” (Jeremiah 48:11 NIV)
 3. People become aware of answers, God’s _____ inside of them.
“Though good advice lies deep within the heart, a person with understanding will draw it out.” (Prov. 20:5 NLT)
- D. This kind of sharing is different than ordinary conversations. It requires transparency, _____ and risk. Most are willing to talk about things around them, few about things that are within them. The depth of community will be determined by the depth of confession. The more our security is in Jesus the less fear we will have in openness.

II. **We build an environment that makes it safe for community to happen when we learn to master the art of loving through listening.**

Ways to love by listening:

- A. Pay _____. Love involves laying down agendas, opinions, and distractions to listen to someone's heart. One of the highest expressions of love God shows us is in the way He pays attention and cares to know all about us. (Psalms 139)
- B. Care and remember _____. Knowing is more than information; it is little things, that we discover we share in common that make us close. *"Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered."* (Luke 12:7)
- C. Hear more than _____. Look beyond what sounds wrong; believe the best about what they want to be and can choose to become.
- *"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* (I Cor. 13:7 ESV)
 - *"A friend is someone to whom you can pour out all of the contents of your heart both the wheat and the chaff. Knowing that they will keep the wheat and with the breath of kindness blow away the chaff."* –a Bedouin Proverb
- D. Empathize. Stand where they _____; see the world with them. Call out who they really are, the hope that you can share even as you understand where they stand.
- E. Stand in _____ for each other. *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* (James 5:16-17 NIV)

(Answers: listen, known, share, receive, flow, wisdom, vulnerability II. attention, details, words, stand, prayer)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Describe in a one word adjective what you were most like as a kid? Is there a person you can remember who was the best at listening to you?
2. Can you describe a time you felt God listening to you and standing with you in a hard place?
3. What would you describe as one of the biggest enemies of sharing hearts and true listening that you've faced as a family or in relationships?
 - a. Fear of being vulnerable
 - b. Busyness, in a hurry
 - c. People with agenda's and "chips on their shoulder" that make it feel not safe
 - d. Pride
 - e. Other
4. Would you be willing to share a pearl with the group today? What is one sorrow we could pray for you about, and one joy we could rejoice with you about?