

Way of Depth

MMBC WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP
CHAPTER 6

TABLE TALK

Choose ONE person at your table to partner today for Table Talk

Have you spent regular time in prayer? When?

Have you spent time in God's Word?

Have your words built up or tore down others or self?

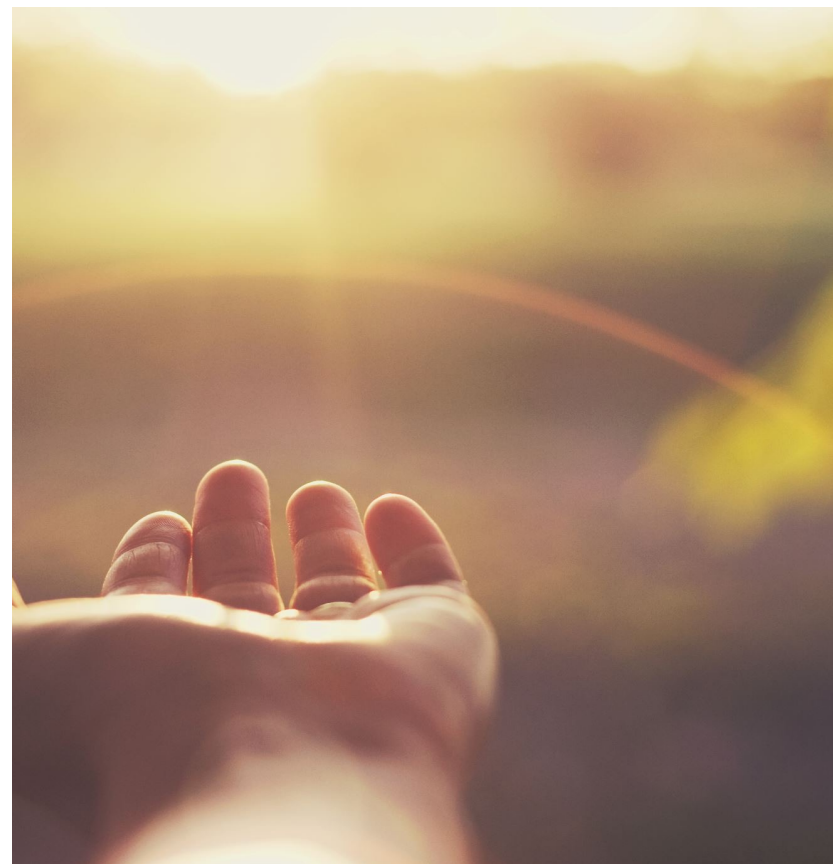
Have you exposed yourself or contributed to gossip?

Have you been committed to your words?

Have you put yourself in a better light to those around you?

Do you feel you missed any opportunities to talk to people about the Lord?

Share your memory verses together.



REVIEW

“ALONGSIDERS ARE NEVER ASKED TO BE PERFECT, BUT THEY ARE CALLED TO BE AUTHENTIC, TRUSTING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO EXHIBIT LOVE, TRANSPARENCY AND VILNERABILITY TO OTHERS.” (pg. 48)

REVIEW

Jesus Exemplified **Authenticity**

- In the Common places of living life
- Lived authentically
- Displaying love
- Transparency
- Vulnerability to others

Alongsiders Live with Love

Love is both an unconditional acceptance of people and a volitional choice to seek another's highest good.



Alongsiders Live Transparently

Transparency is a willing to expose my personal struggles, fear, and life issues inside the safety of friendship.

“Standing in the gap for you”

Alongsiders are
Vulnerable to others

Vulnerability does more than
share needs or hurts.

It invites people into one's life
to help support, encourage, or
correct me in times of need.

Alongsiders Share Their Stories

Sharing the woven God-
theme of your life

“BAG-LADIES”

BREAK OUT

WITH YOUR PARTNER FROM TABLE TALK

Draw your spiritual journey on your bag (if you did not do your homework).

If you have events, people, etc. done put them in your back.

Goal of the lesson is to pick one of the events, etc. and share with your partner.

Tell your story. Partner, listen to the story and learn.

Way of Depth
Alongsiders Go
Deep in
Relationships

Going deep is Connecting
Discovering their story

Requires AUTHENTICITY

Alongsiders LISTEN

JAMES 1:9

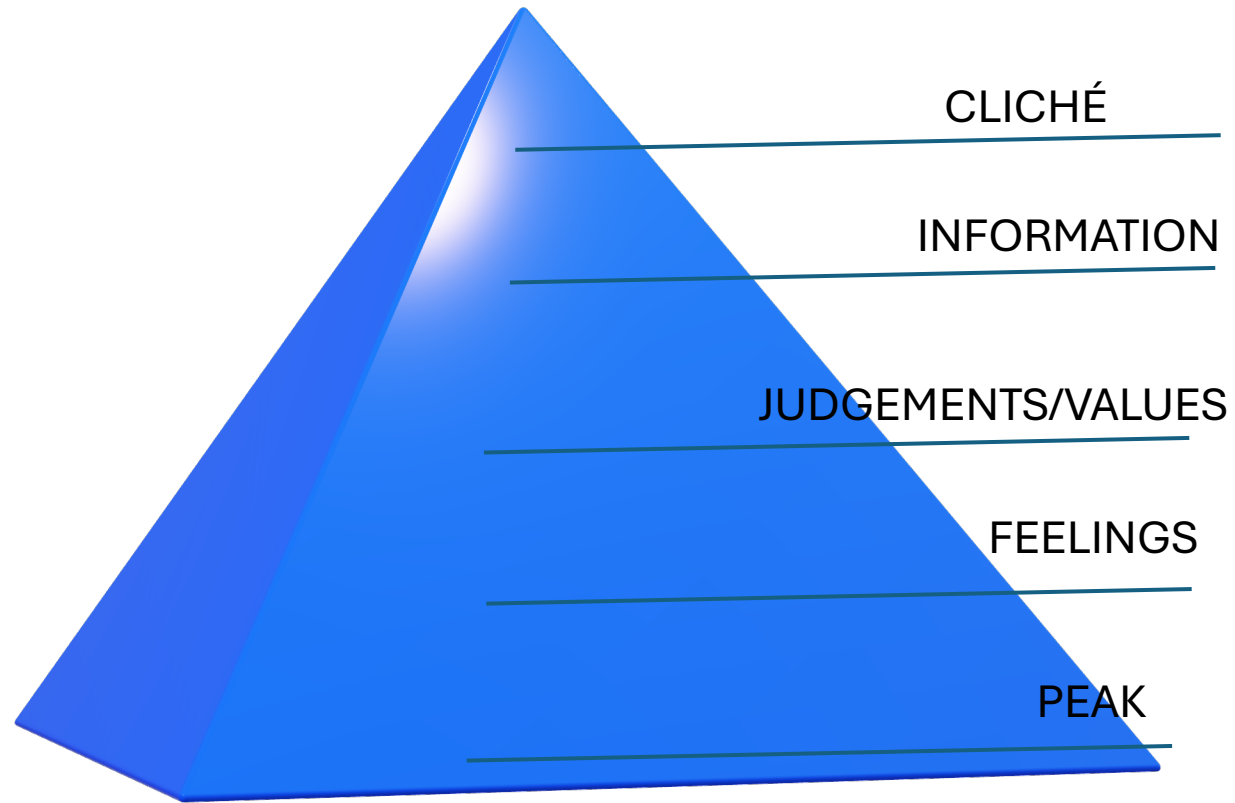
PROVERBS 18:13

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LISTENER?

LISTENING

- REQUIRES DISCIPLINE, EFFORT AND INTENTIONALITY
- Goes from the less personal, revealing to the depth of another's life
- Walk with others authentically to go deeper in their lives
- Depth is “where Jesus wants to transform us”

Communication



LISTENING

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Life Together"

"Avoid a kind of listening with half an ear that presumes already to know what the other person has to say"

- Impatient, inattentive
- Waiting for the chance to speak
- Already formulated response
- Ready to reject the other's view point
- Unfocused on the speaker and focused on everything and everyone else (texting, social media, self)



GOOD LISTENING REQUIRES PATIENCE

- Attentive listening
- Concentration
- Listen to the entire train of thought
- Disciplined (consciously keep the focus)
- Spirit-powered to keep on hearing

GOOD LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE

- Embraces
- Flows from a humble heart (Phil 2:3)
- Looks to the interests of others (Phil 2:4)
- Patient and kind (1Cor. 13:4)

GOOD LISTENING ASKS GOOD QUESTIONS

- Perceptive
- Open-ended
- Watches non-verbal communication
- Meekness, gentleness to ask careful, genuine leading questions



GOOD LISTENING IS MINISTRY

- God wants us to be available
- Care enough to listen and listen seriously

GOOD LISTENING PREPARES US TO SPEAK WELL

- Ministry is to listen well, quiet for the moment (Proverbs 18:13)
- Resists defensiveness
- Non-judgemental stance
- Trained not to give opinion or response until the whole story has been heard
- Responses are “seasoned with grace” and grounded in spiritual truth from God’s word.

GOOD LISTENING REFLECTS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- Opposite of listening well is a chatty spirit that is drowning out the voice of God
- Grace is the dynamic of Christian fellowship
- Speak His grace into the lives of others

Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines (2016). David Mathis. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

HOMEWORK

- Practice CARING by LISTENING to a friend or family member this week practicing asking deeper questions, remembering what they share, do acts of kindness based on what you have gained in your conversation.
- Start assignment for THE WAY OF THE WORD (Chapter 7)