

IDENTITY & SELF-ACCEPTANCE | WEEK 8

WELCOME & WHO YOU ARE

LEADERS GOAL

Help students want to be a better listener.

SCRIPTURES

James 1:19

Psalm 116:1-2

ACTIVITIES

Telephone game with a twist
Thanks for listening note

PRAY

SUPPLIES

- Blank greeting cards and envelopes, one per student
- Pens
- Bible marked and open to James 1:19 and Psalm 116:1-2
- Chairs arranged in a circle

BOTTOM LINE

Listening helps us
understand others better.

AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

“Walking in someone else’s shoes” makes me think of when we’re little and walk around the house in our mom and dad’s big shoes. Does anyone have pictures of them doing that?

What did you learn this past week by walking in someone else’s shoes or seeing things from their perspective?

STORY CONNECTION

When we’re little wearing our mom and dad’s big shoes, do we have any worries or cares?

In Freaky Friday, Ellie and Katherine have their own concerns or worries. What are they worried about?

Katherine

- took out a second mortgage on the house to grow her catering business. A cover story with Down the Aisle, a major wedding magazine, will make or break her business.
- is balancing work and motherhood
- is worried about not switching back in time to actually marry Mike

Ellie says, “Being an adult is super un-fun.” (Script, p20)

Ellie has her own problems.

- She can't miss school another day because she has too many (11) unexcused absences. She could fail grade 10. (Script, p20)
- At one point, Ellie's friends hate her. (Script, p64)
- She is worried about possibly having to marry Mike if they don't switch back. Yuck!

Katherine says, "What were you thinking skipping class? You have responsibilities. You're grounded for a month!" (Script, p48)

She also says, "Kids fight. This will blow over." (Script, p64)

Are they showing empathy and compassion for each other?

We start to see a turnaround as they keep walking in each other's shoes. It happens at the parent-teacher conference. Everything comes out...tests are dumb, Ellie doesn't study, Katherine's a smoker, Ellie has a belly button ring, Ellie's dad passed away, and being a helicopter parent.

Despite the wild parent-teacher conference, on their way out, Ellie says, "Thanks for listening to me in there." (Script, p48)

I think of another moment in Freaky Friday, in Biology class, when Monica, Karl, and Ellie are talking about the Hunt. Ellie says, "My mom is under real pressure. Tonight is the rehearsal dinner! The whole weekend is being photographed by Down the Aisle magazine!"

Karl says, "And you care about that...why?" (Script, p33)

When we take time to listen and actually care about the other person and what they are going through, we understand them better. Then we can show empathy and understanding.

OUR STORIES

On a scale of 1-10, how important is it to you that someone listens?
Tell us why.

What makes a good listener?
Why might someone not listen well?

When we take time to listen and care about the other person, we understand them better.



TRUTH & TREASURE

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. James 1:19 NIV

Remember, God is a great listener!

I love the LORD, because he heard my voice. He heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. Psalm 116:1-2 NIV

DISCOVERY TIME

GAME | Telephone Game with a Twist

Small Group Leader whispers a phrase to the first student who passes it around the circle until the last student stands up and acts out the phrase. Did everyone listen well and pass the message along correctly?

Phrases:

- Pat your belly and stomp your right foot
- Do 5 lunges while flapping chicken arms
- Sing Happy Birthday in your highest voice
- Pretend you're walking through sticky mud
- Hop like a kangaroo while clapping
- Do slow-motion karate kicks
- Pretend to ride a roller coaster and scream
- Eat an 4 scoop ice cream cone before it melts everywhere
- Walk like a robot, then malfunction dramatically.
- Juggle three invisible watermelons

GAME | Thanks for Listening Note

Give each student a greeting card and envelope to write a thank you note to someone they feel is a good listener and a good friend. They can choose to give that note to the person as an encouragement, or if they're not comfortable doing that, they can keep it for themselves as a reminder that they do have good listeners in their life.

GAME | Moods (based on the board game)

Lay out mood cards in a deck, face down.

Mood cards read: amused, snobbish, forgetful, surprised, nervous, happy, annoyed, suspicious, arrogant, clueless, envious, girlish, grouchy, bashful, mysterious, in love, tired, frightened, silly, apologetic, bossy, bored, manly

Students take turns choosing a phrase card and one mood card to say the phrase in. The rest of the students can guess what mood they think they are reading in.

Phrase cards:

- There's gold in them thar hills.
- It tastes like chicken.
- Being number two is okay.
- Elementary my dear Watson.
- You have something in your nose.
- Please stay seated until the ride has stopped.
- Is this going to be on the test?
- I think it's starting to work.
- It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...no it's a bird after all.
- What's for dinner, mom?
- Rome wasn't built in a day.
- You're a winner all right.
- Blondes do have more fun.
- Would you like fries with that?
- Are we there yet?
- Four score and seven years ago...
- Was I snoring again?
- To be or not to be, that is the question.

Weekly Challenge

Look for opportunities this week to be a good listener. Put down your phone, nod your head, smile, look them in the eyes, ask questions...all the things we said makes a good listener. Do that this week!

PRAYER

God, it's good to be reminded to see life through someone else's eyes. It helps us value different perspectives and show empathy. Help us to get better at showing empathy and love, staying patient and kind to others. Amen.