

SERMON GUIDES

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add in any optional scriptures and questions if needed, then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Visit woodlakeumc.org/sermonessentials for weekly sermon guides, devotionals, and more or if you have questions, contact [Jill Perrin at jperrin@woodlakeumc.org](mailto:jperrin@woodlakeumc.org).

Peacemakers | Week #2- Asking Good Questions and Listening Well

01.

INTRODUCTION

When you listen, are you really listening or are you thinking about what you want to say when it is your time to speak? To be a peacemaker we need to “listen well.” This is very important as we listen to those who think differently than we do. Pause first, as you listen to understand, rather than listen to respond.

02.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pastor Gordon talked about asking good questions and listening well. Everyone has a story. Go around the group and listen to everyone's story. Find out:

- Where they were born?
- What was the most significant childhood memory?
- What accomplishment are they most proud of?
- Who is their favorite person?
- What is their favorite way to relax?

Read James 1:18-22 in the Message:

16-18 So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.



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19-21 Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.

- What does it mean to lead with your ears? So often we let anger be a dominant emotion. In parenting and in life how can we slow down and not let anger get the best of us?
- What does it mean to make a salvation garden of your life?
- What is one thing you can do this week to ask good questions and listen well to those around you?



NEXT STEPS

- Treat everyone like they are an image bearer of God.
- Ask questions to learn.
- Listen well.