

Lesson on Listening

It can often come as a shock when we learn how much of our energy in conversations is used for "ego-speaking" and self-expression rather than for listening. The following exercise is designed to help your kids become aware of how easy it is to not listen to the messages of others.

To begin, prepare four cards as follows:

Your Favorites:

1. What do you like most about school?
2. What is your favorite time of year?
3. What is your favorite Bible verse?

The Pits:

1. What bugs you the most about school?
2. What is your least favorite vegetable?
3. When were you last bummed out?

Exposing Weaknesses:

1. What is your greatest personality weakness?
2. What is your most annoying habit?
3. What is your greatest spiritual weakness?

Revealing Strengths:

1. What is your most positive personality trait?
2. What is your greatest skill?
3. What is your best spiritual strength?

Divide everyone into groups no larger than five people. Each group should be given one of the four cards to discuss. Each group member briefly tells her answers to the questions on the card to the others in the small group. After about five minutes the groups exchange cards so that they have a new set of questions. As before, the group members take turns answering them.

When all the groups have discussed all four categories, ask each person to list on a sheet of paper every fact he can remember from the answers given in the small group. Of course, those with better memories are at a slight advantage, but those who really tuned in and listened to others in their group (rather than concentrating on their own responses) will be able to recall the most. For some helpful verses, take a look at Proverbs 18:2,13; 22:17, and Ecclesiastes 3:7.