



WITNESS Sermon Study Guide

Week 6: Listening Allan Demond

Visit the [NewHope Teaching](#) page to watch or listen to the sermon

Good listeners make good witnesses. Today we will reflect on cultivating a posture of listening, both horizontally to those around us and vertically to the Living God.

Horizontal Listening

In faith conversations, we can often feel pressure to speak the right words, but real connection happens when we listen well. Horizontal listening is about truly hearing others—their questions, struggles, and stories—without rushing to respond or fix. It's the practice of being present, setting aside our own assumptions, and allowing space for genuine conversation.

Whether in business, marriage, parenting, or friendships, quality listening strengthens relationships and allows us to be better witnesses of Christ's love and grace.

1. Share a time when you felt truly heard by someone. How did it impact you?
2. Do you find it easy to genuinely listen to others, or is this a skill you are working on? What practical steps can we all take to become better listeners?
3. Who in your life might need a listening ear right now? How can you be present for them?

Vertical Listening

Listening isn't a passive act—it's a skill that requires practice. Vertical listening is about cultivating a posture of openness and tuning our hearts to hear God's voice. This kind of listening requires stillness, prayer, and a willingness to follow where He leads—even when it feels unexpected—so we can be in the right place at the right time, ready to share the hope we have in Jesus.



1. How do you currently make space to listen to God?
2. What are some barriers that prevent us from listening to God? How can we overcome them?
3. What are some practical ways you can incorporate both horizontal and vertical listening into your daily routine to become a more effective witness for Christ?

Read Acts 8:26-40

The story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch is a powerful example of how listening shapes faith conversations. Philip was both spiritually and practically present. He was open, available and obedient; willing to follow God's prompting and embrace a divine appointment (Acts 8:26 & 8:29).

Philip also practised horizontal listening. He was attentive to the Ethiopian official, slowing down to notice, listen and ask questions so he could engage in life-giving, transformative conversation that truly mattered (Acts 8:30).

1. Consider a time when you felt prompted by God to reach out to someone. How did you respond, and what can you learn from Philip's example of obedience to God's guidance?
2. Can you think of a situation where asking a thoughtful question could open the door to a deeper conversation about faith?
3. Philip was **open, available and obedient**. Which of these three qualities do you want to grow in most?

21 Days of Prayer: Your Kingdom Come

Over the next 21 days, we will be dedicating intentional time to pray for our witness. You are invited to reflect on this question: *Lord, who are You calling me to pray for and witness to in this season?*

- **Write down the names** of three people who do not yet know Christ.
- **Set a daily reminder** (e.g. 11:02 AM for Luke 11:2) to pray for them and ask God for an opportunity to listen and witness.
- **Be intentional** in conversations—practise asking deeper questions and really listening.
- **Think about 'Invitation Month'** and explore opportunities to invite people to events in April, such as church services, Easter gatherings, Alpha, and more.



As we pray, we should expect God to lead us and open doors for us to share His love and truth with others—doors we never could have forced open ourselves.

1. Who are three people in your life that you feel God may be prompting you to pray for over the next 21 days?
2. How can you commit to this and make space to actively listen to God's leading and to those you are journeying with?