



## CONVERSATION STARTER

Who in your life would you say is the best listener? Why'd you choose them, specifically?

## DEEPER

NOTE: This would be a good time to reflect on how group members are doing in their memorization of James 1 if you've accepted the challenge together.

### Read James 1:19-20

#### Quick to Hear

1. Joe mentioned pride as being one of the reasons we're often slow to listen. Where do you see pride most often hindering your ability to listen? (Ex. Marriage, parenting, leadership, politics, theology, conflict) How so? How does that often play out?
2. How might your media habits (news, social media, podcasts, etc.) be shaping your ability to listen deeply, to others and to God? Are these platforms or others hindering your attention span and focus?
3. Think about the example Joe gave of the hypothetical religious/philosophical debate you might have with a co-worker. How is a lack of compassion and being quick to listen incompatible with each other? Can you think of examples of this in your own life and relationships?
4. What practical steps can you take this week to grow in being "quick to hear"?

#### Slow to Speak

5. What diagnostic question from the sermon hit you most deeply? Which one most resonates with you? Can you think of a recent conversation you had where asking these questions would've been helpful? (You may need to refer back to the manuscript.)
6. Read Ephesians 5:4. In what ways do you struggle keeping this command? Are there specific people in your life you feel more inclined to filthiness, foolish talk, or crude joking when you're around them? What about them makes it easier?

### **Slow to Anger**

7. Read Ephesians 4:26-27. What is the difference between righteous anger and sinful anger? Do you think you're personally able to tell the difference when you're angry?
  
8. Are you normally slow to anger? Or is it easy for you to get angry? When you do have anger, do you usually hold onto it for an unhealthy amount of time? Or is it short-term? How do you resolve it?
  
9. How well do you do at reconciling with others who've wronged you? What about when you're confronted by someone you've wronged?
  
10. Is there anything you're going through right now that is causing you to be angry with God? If so, how can your Life Group pray for you?

### **Final Thoughts**

11. What else from the sermon lingered with you this week? What questions or thoughts did it stir up?

## **NOTES**

## **GROUP PRAYER**

Pray that your Life Group and Gateway Church would be marked by humble listeners, gracious speech, and a slowness to anger, so that the world would see the character of God in his people.