



CROSSBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Listening to the Lord for Loving Others (1 Corinthians 14:3)

1. Watch the corresponding video found online.
2. After the DBS, remind people of the New Testament definition of how we hear the Lord to encourage others, also known as prophecy, that is found in 1 Corinthians 14:3. We hear the Lord for the sake of strengthening, encouraging, and comforting one another.

Some ways to experience *Listening to the Lord for Loving Others*:

After the DBS, choose one of the following options, keeping in mind that we are strengthening, encouraging, and comforting one another:

1. **Encouragement in Needs:** Break into smaller gender groups of three and share a struggle or challenge in your life. Don't pray yet, and then go back to the big group for an extended time of worship with music. As the spirit prompts, go to one or more of your group members and pray for the Lord to strengthen, encourage, and comfort him/her.
2. **Encouragement through Blessing:** Take a couple of minutes after Vision and announcements to pick an individual, couple, or family, and pray prayers of blessing. When doing this, be sensitive to a picture in your mind the Lord might give you to share with them and what it means, a sense or feeling about God's heart for them, or a way you see Jesus evident in their lives. Thank the Lord for his goodness over them, and bless them with more of his presence.
3. **Encouragement through Prayer:** Spend time as your Core experience praying for your *oikos* (the church, your lifegroup, neighbors, co-workers, family, etc). During that time, ask the Lord for his perspective on what he is doing in those spheres, and speak those words of life and encouragement over the people you are praying for.

4. **Encouragement during Worship:** During worship or an extended worship and prayer time, express the vision for being the type of church that not only loves God upwardly as an expression of worship, but also loves God outwardly toward his people. We get to be that expression of people who pray and encourage others! Share that during the worship time the group will pray and minister to others, or they can also receive prayer and encouragement by going up to someone. Make sure to not just pray for needs, but ask Jesus, "How do you feel about ____? What are your thoughts about him/her?"
 - a. Tip: If there are some people in your group who feel more comfortable praying over people for encouragement, ask them before Lifegroup if they would initiate praying for others to strengthen momentum to move about the room. Find someone new each week to ask, and encourage them to do the same.
5. **Other Options:**
 - a. Have each person write their name on a note card, and the leader collect them. Next, everyone randomly draws a card with someone else's name on it. Ask the Lord for a scripture, an encouraging word, or a picture for them. Write it down and then everyone gets their card back to read. Share feedback with each other.
 - b. Break out men and women in groups of three, and share encouragement for the person on your right.

Listening to the Lord for Loving Others coaching

1. When receiving a word of encouragement from someone else, it's always good to remember how God teaches us to respond to it:
 - a. When someone comes in humility with a word they feel is from the Lord, don't dismiss it or treat it with contempt.
 - b. Test every prophecy, letting go of what is bad and holding on to what is good. (Paraphrase of 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22)
2. To test prophecy, ask:
 - a. Does it align with scripture?
 - b. Does it bear the fruit of the Spirit?
 - c. Does it give God glory?
 - d. Confirm the word with a couple of other believers (1 Corinthians 14:29).
3. Humility is our anchor for growing in hearing the Lord for encouraging others. We can acknowledge that "We know in part, and prophesy in part" (1 Corinthians 13:9). That means sometimes we get a word wrong. If we can share and receive in humility, then we make room for stumbling as we learn to grow in this gift, and extend grace when it occurs.

Some Listening to the Lord for Loving Others scriptures

John 1:43-51

Acts 9:1-19

John 4:6-29

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 10:1-18
John 10:22-30
Acts 2:14-21

1 Corinthians 14:1-3
1 Corinthians 14:26-3
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Next Steps

As you engage in this experience, look for these ways to spur on your group and to grow personally and in community.

1. Disciple making relationship (D group)
2. Sign up for Prophetic Prayer Ministry
3. Attend the Prophetic Conference
4. Come to Jesus Hour