

### James 1:19

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

### Isaiah 42:20

You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.”

### Philippians 2:3-4

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

### Acts 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. 29 The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” 30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. 31 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” 34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” 35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.



Active listening means making a conscious, dedicated effort to hear and understand the complete message of a speaker, both verbally and non-verbally, with the intent to fully grasp their perspective rather than just to respond.

### Active listening

- Being fully present in the conversation
  - Showing interest by practicing good eye contact
  - Noticing (and using) non-verbal cues
  - Listening to understand rather than to respond
  - Withholding judgment
  - Asking open-ended questions to encourage further responses
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- Followed the angel’s instructions (prompting of the Spirit)
  - Asked a question – Do you understand what you’re reading?
  - He came up and sit with the Ethiopian shared the good news
  - Philip got to Baptize him

### B-I-e-s-s Your Neighbors

**B** - Begin with prayer, how do I bless?

**L** - Listen, don’t talk, listen to their pains, their struggles and their unfulfilled dreams.

**E** - Eat meals with them, have coffee with them, it builds relationships.

**S** - Serve, if you listen they will tell you how to love them and you will know how to serve them.

**S** - Story, when the time is right we talk and share what Jesus has done in our lives.