



SERMON GUIDES

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add in any optional scriptures and questions if needed, then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Visit woodlakeumc.org/sermonessentials for weekly sermon guides, devotionals, and more or if you have questions, contact Jill Perrin at jperrin@woodlakeumc.org.

Me and My Big Mouth – Quick to Listen | WEEK #1

01.

INTRODUCTION

We all know what it is like to be hurt when someone doesn't listen long enough to understand us? Have you ever gone away from a conversation thinking they didn't understand me? Have you ever gotten in trouble because of your big mouth? The Bible has some advice for us all.

02.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The reason we get in trouble is because we are thinking about ourselves and not the one we are talking to. We often start thinking about our answer before the other person finishes talking. **Read James 1:19-21.** What does James say about the proper speed to listen and the proper speed to respond?
2. When you communicate with others, try to pay attention to what they want to say. Do you understand what they said? Remember you might not agree with what they have said. What are the topics that you find you disagree with other's opinions? What steps can you take to find out why people believe what they believe?
3. James the brother of Jesus didn't believe he was Christ until after the resurrection and yet he became a leader in the church in Jerusalem. His letter to Christians contains good advice on practical living. **Read James 1:19-21.** What does this passage tell us about relationships? This applies not only to Christian relationships but also all other relationships.
 - Note that these verses apply to both men and women. Are both sexes guilty? In what ways?
 - Children and parents can be guilty, because parents want to give advice to children that they don't want to hear or vice-versa. Give an example of such a conversation.
4. Pastor Gordon reminded us that that we may be right but it could cause us to lose relationships. Be slow to anger. Anger is both a decision and a result. Anger is a hasty, misinformed, relatively destructive conclusion. Remember everything everyone does, says and believes makes sense to them. You may think I don't



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know why they do that, say that or believe that. Are you assuming they think like you? Remember we each have different ages, races, sexes, geography and schooling and culture. Get to know their story. What are differences that have affected your conversation lately, especially unresolved differences?

5. In Steven Covey's best-selling book "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" he states "Seek first to understand then to be understood". Andy Stanley says "I don't criticize anything or anyone I don't understand. How do these statements agree or disagree with our scripture readings in James?
6. Remember there are three agendas – ours, theirs, and God's. What is the divine agenda? God wants us to be right with each other. Jesus came to reconcile us to God and one another. Does your agenda line up with God's? In **James 1:21** it states "Get rid of all [take off like a coat] moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent. Humbly accept the word that is planted in you that can save you (and your relationships).



NEXT STEPS

1. Listen then Speak.
2. Love one another.
3. Don't settle for being "right".
4. Make things right with one another.
5. Save the relationship.