

# S.A.F.E. Homes



Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



*So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;  
Proverbs 2:2*

## Listening – Great Communication!

Did you know that our listening skill is a big part of communicating? Whether we are trying to connect with God or one another, we have to be able to listen.

When a person engages in active listening, they are purposefully doing their best to understand what someone is trying to say. Often times when we are talking or trying to get our point across, we fail to actively listen. There is a popular phrase that has been around for years which properly describes this action and it says, "That went in one ear and out the other". This means that the person's words may have been heard, but not necessarily received, and definitely not remembered.

What if God did this to us when we prayed to Him? Every time that we get down on our knees and talk to God we have faith that He is listening. So as Christians, we have to treat others the same way that we want to be treated. This not only includes listening with our ears, but we have to listen with our hearts as well.


When we examine the story in 1 Samuel when God first called little Samuel, we can see that if he had not been actively listening, he would have totally missed out on his blessing. 1 Samuel 3:10 reads, "***And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.***"

When we practice our listening skills with one another, it only sharpens us so that we can listen to God. Let's all make a point today to put on our listening ears and hear what God wants to tell us. "***He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.***" Can you hear Him speaking to you?

**Family Prayer: Dear God, help me to learn how to get quiet before You and give You a chance to speak to my heart. I want to actively listen for Your voice and to what those around me are saying. In Jesus' Name, amen!"**

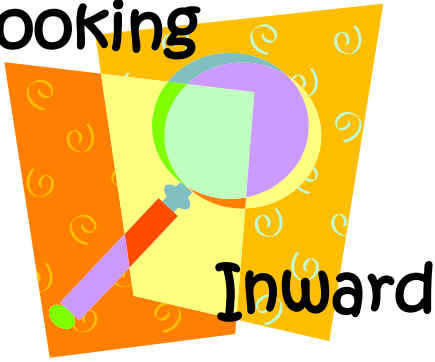


Includes  
Family  
Activities



Want more?  
Scroll down for  
Bonus Pages

Looking



Inward

Give everyone a sheet of paper and choose 1 person to be the “instructor.” Tell everyone to close their eyes and follow your instructions. Start giving instructions about what to do with the piece of paper. Some examples: fold it in half, fold the lower left corner over the upper right corner, turn it 90 degrees to the left, fold it again, rip a half-circle in the middle of the right side, etc....Once you have given quite a few instructions (at least 10 for great success), tell everyone to open their eyes and unfold their piece of paper. Even though they all received the same instructions and had the same starting material, pretty much everyone will have a different result. What conclusions can be drawn from this result?

Let's talk

Have you ever been in conversation with someone, but you knew they didn't *really hear* what you were saying? Their mind was on what *they* were getting ready to say next. How did that make you feel? How do you think God feels when we pray, and *we* do all the talking- never waiting to see what He wants to say to us? How can we practice listening for God's voice?



Make this week's outward focus two-fold. First of all, when you pray each day, make sure you take time to be still before God and let Him speak to your heart. You might open your Bible during this time and let God lead you. Secondly, practice listening, *really listening*, to those you are with. Let them know that what they have to say is important enough to have your full attention. Listen to God and others with your heart, not just your ears!

Looking



Outward

## Additional Challenges

Many times Jesus spoke to His crowd of followers in parables. His disciples questioned Him one day about this. Notice what Jesus said:

### Matt 13:13-16

(13) Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they \_\_\_\_\_ see not; and \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_, neither do they \_\_\_\_\_.

(14) And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By \_\_\_\_\_ ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and \_\_\_\_\_ ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

(15) For this people's \_\_\_\_\_ is waxed \_\_\_\_\_, and their \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_, and their \_\_\_\_\_ they have \_\_\_\_\_; lest at any time they should \_\_\_\_\_ with their \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ with their \_\_\_\_\_, and should \_\_\_\_\_ with their \_\_\_\_\_, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

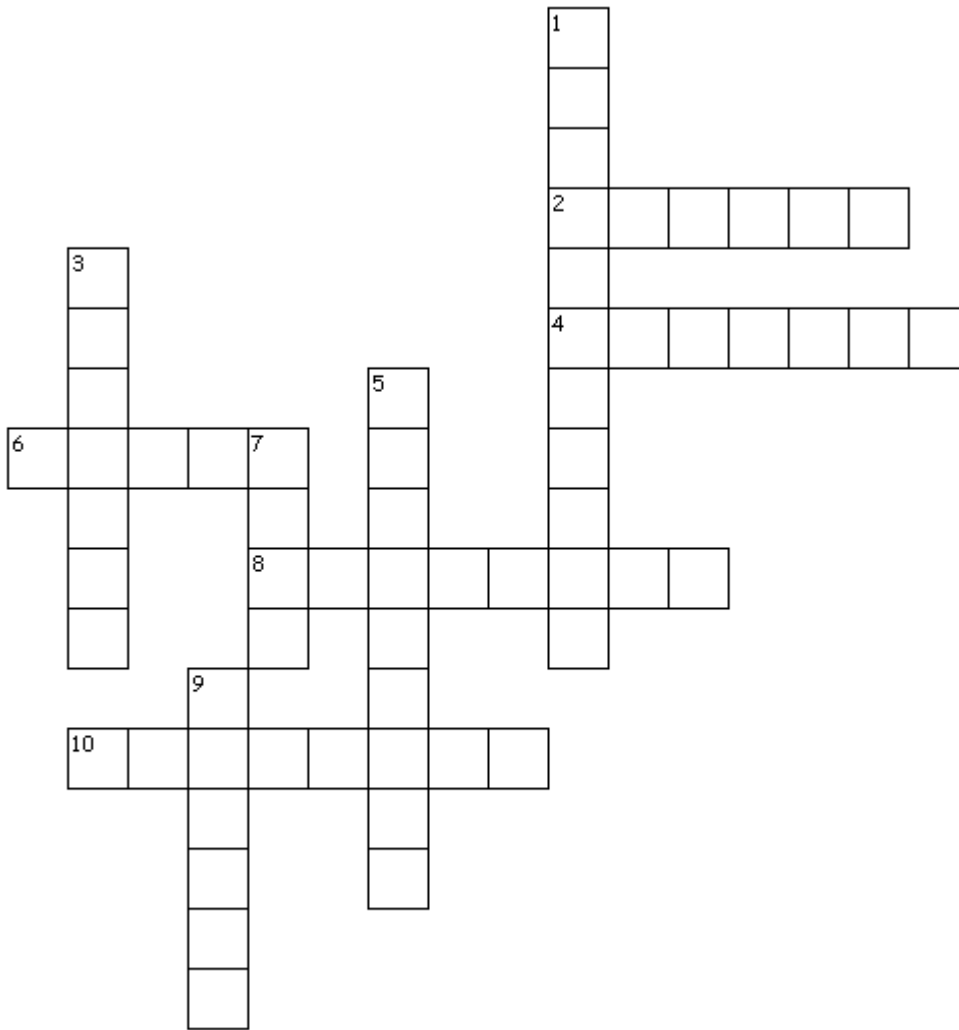
(16) But blessed are your \_\_\_\_\_, for they see: and your \_\_\_\_\_, for they \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus was referring to the scribes and the Pharisees- *the religious people of the day!*

We don't want to be guilty of the same things.

***Make sure your eyes and your ears are open to God!***

# Puzzle Page



## Across

2. God called \_\_\_\_
4. Samuel answered God, "speak so thy \_\_\_\_ heareth
6. When we pray we have \_\_\_\_ that God is listening
8. Sometimes we fail to \_\_\_\_ listen
10. Samuel almost missed a \_\_\_\_

## Down

1. God called Samuel in this Bible book
3. As Christians we should treat others the way we want to be \_\_\_\_
5. A big part of communication
7. He that hath ears, let him \_\_\_\_
9. Listen with our ears and our \_\_\_\_

# Samuel Hears God

