



## Are We Listening to Each Other?

Dear Group Leader,

Sometimes we have so much to say that we never stop to listen, especially to those in our family. Families have to take the time to listen to each other. Tim Elmore says that there are three basic categories of needs in families: attention, affirmation, and affection. Attention means that we need to listen. You may be surprised at what you hear.

Peace,  
Gilbert Kerrigan

### INTRODUCTION

1. Multiple Choice. A recent survey suggested that \_\_\_\_\_ people needed a hearing aid.  
5 Million, 15 Million, 25 Million, 35 Million
2. Multiple Choice. The same survey suggest that \_\_\_\_\_ people actually had hearing aids.  
5 Million, 15 Million, 25 Million, 35 Million
3. What does this tell you?

QUICK TO... Read James 1:19

1. What does someone mean when they say, "I stuck my foot in my mouth?"
2. Can you think of anyone in the Bible who had a reputation for doing this? *Peter*
3. What would be the benefit of being quick to listen?
4. Why do you think we have the tendency to speak too much and too quickly?  
*James says that those who do not keep a tight rein on their tongues show their religion to be worthless (1:26)!"*

THINK IT THROUGH Read Ephesians 4:29

1. How will we know what will be helpful "according to their needs?"
2. What are some things we can do to make sure we know what our family members need?  
*Don't let the group just say, "listen more." Ask what we can do to provide those listening moments. Examples are: 1)Plan "family chats" where everyone gets to share 2)Ask more questions when together 3) Show interest in their hobbies, friends, and work*