

Listening Guide

This Listening Guide is designed to help you ask questions and take notes on what you're learning. The process will accomplish two things: first, it will help process the information in the lecture by keeping your mind engaged with the material. Second, it will allow you to collect your notes in one place for a summary of the lesson's content. If you choose to do additional study or want to teach the material to others, you will have a thorough set of notes to guide you.

You may print these Listening Guide pages separately and complete the information as you read, listen to, or watch the lessons. Or as an alternative, you can fill in the fields in this digital version and save to your computer once you are finished.

I. Knowing God Through the New Testament

[1] How many books are in the New Testament?

[2] Over how many years were the books written, and what were those years?

[3] How many authors participated in writing the New Testament?

[4] From what you learned in previous lessons, who would you say is the New Testament's author?

[5] How would you explain the difference between a New Testament author and a New Testament writer?

[6] Name some of the events that made the first century so important.

[7] What are the four literary groupings of New Testament books?

[8] Do you have a favorite grouping? In which grouping do you spend most of your Bible-reading time? Why?

[9] Why is the word *testament* appropriate for this body of literature?

[10] How actively do you participate in this “covenant”?

[11] Name one passage or story of each type of literary device (Intense drama, inspired teaching, and practical instruction) listed in this section that you find helpful and/or appreciate.

[12] Describe the relationship between Jesus becoming human and our understanding of God.

II. Gospels: Biography

[13] Take a moment and reflect on this astounding event. God Himself fertilized one of Mary’s eggs so that Jesus would be fully God and fully human. No mind can grasp the fullness of that fact in an instant. Write down how you would explain that event to a 13-year-old girl.

[14] Of the three pieces of news the angel announced to Mary, which do you think would be the most difficult to process? Why?

[15] Put yourself in Joseph’s place when Mary tried to explain her pregnancy. (Joseph didn’t believe her until the angel convinced him.) What might Mary’s thoughts be? What do you think Joseph was thinking?

[16] Mary had to travel 75 miles to Bethlehem—walking or riding on a donkey—while she was 9 months pregnant. What does that tell you about Mary (who was probably 13 or 14 years old)?

[17] What do all these events tell you about Jesus?

[18] What two great events in Jesus' life does the paragraph present?

[19] How many years did Jesus' public life last?

[20] What three major activities marked Jesus' ministry?

[21] What did Jesus present in His Sermon on the Mount?

[22] What characterized Jesus' teaching ministry?

[23] Why was it important for Jesus to invest so much time in His 12 apostles?

[24] Why did the religious leaders reject Jesus?

[25] Although He was God, Jesus experienced the full array of human emotion. What do you think Jesus "felt" during times of rejection? Fear? Anger, sadness, other?

[26] Much attention is given to Jesus' death in each gospel, yet each is a book of joy and triumph. Why do you think that's so?

[27] What do Christians today call the day Jesus came to Jerusalem for His final Passover celebration?

[28] Read this paragraph a few times and see if you can "tell the story" it presents. Try it a few times and see if you can recall most of the details. Which ones (if any) did you not remember?

[29] Select two of the truths we see about God in Christ's life, death, and resurrection that are the most significant and helpful to you.

[30] Of these two "most significant" truths, explain what makes one of them significant.

III. Acts: History

[31] Into what four headings can we divide Acts?

[32] What "power" does this section discuss?

[33] Why is it important?

[34] What happened when God's Holy Spirit distributed power to God's people?

[35] What does the graphic tell us this event is called? It is named for a famous Jewish celebration.

[36] What did Peter say people could do about their tragic error of crucifying the Messiah?

[37] How did people respond to Peter's instructions?

[38] What was the apostles' response to the Sanhedrin when told to stop preaching in Jesus' name?

[39] What do you think changed the apostles after Jesus' death and resurrection?

[40] Stephen was not one of Jesus' 12 apostles but he too preached a powerful sermon. What was the source of his power?

[41] What evidence did Luke present in Acts that stresses how opposed Saul (Paul) was to Jesus' message?

[42] What question did Saul immediately ask Jesus?

[43] What does that tell you about Saul's relationship with God?

[44] Paul's life was changed in some significant ways because he had met Christ. What are some ways people's lives should be influenced because they have met Christ?

[45] Do any aspects of Paul’s ministry stand out to to you more than other aspects?

[46] Which aspect of his ministry do you think has been most beneficial to Christians throughout the church’s history? Why?

[47] What happened to Paul’s ministry when he was imprisoned?

[48] How brightly does the flame of Pentecost burn in your Christian community?

[49] What about in your own personal experience?

[50] How does Christ’s story influence you on a weekly or daily basis?

[51] Select two of the truths we see about God through the history of the church that are the most significant and helpful to you.

[52] Of these two “most significant” truths, explain what makes one of them significant.

[53] Can you walk through Jesus’ life and state the major events the Gospels record about Him?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

This lesson presented a number of life-impacting facts. Of everything covered in the lesson, select one fact that was “most significant” to you. What made it so significant? Describe in a sentence or two how you believe a person who takes all this seriously should respond to it?