



[www.light-wave.org](http://www.light-wave.org)

**Listening for Mission**

## **Session One: 360° listening**

### **Welcome**

Tell the group about someone you know who is a really good listener. How has their good listening made a difference to you?

### **Worship**

Praise God for listening to us and make some time to listen to him. For example, use the words which Eli told Samuel to say to God, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." Then play some quiet music and seek to receive anything God might want to show you. As you engage with the YouTube clip and Bible today, ask God what he is saying to you for your situation.

### **Word**

Listening is part of loving.

As Christians, we are called to:

- Listen to God through prayer
- Listen to our Church and its traditions
- Listen to people – their hopes, fears, needs and joys
- Listen to and be aware of ourselves – our feelings and experiences

This is sometimes called 360-degree listening because we are listening all around.

1. Watch the story of Taste and See on YouTube  
(*Cable Street*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxGSFQxSrIo>)  
Pool your ideas on how listening in different directions plays a part in the story.
2. Look at the story of Jesus in Luke 2.46. What exactly does Jesus do here?
3. If you can, make a list of examples from the Old and New Testaments of people listening/ researching before embarking on something God wants them to do. If not, task one person to do some finding out before the next session.

## Witness

What group or community has God called you to reach out to as a small group? Is it people in a particular village or workplace, people of a particular age group or gender, people with particular needs or interests? (If you are unsure, pray about this).

The following questions are ones which it would be good to work through as a small group. Plan a specific time or times to work through these together – for example, at your next small group meeting, and before moving on to session 2.

- Each share why you want reach out to the people you have identified, and your personal vision for that.
- What do you think God is doing already in this community?
- Where do you think the needs are, and the points of darkness or difficulty?
- What gifts and resources do we bring?
- Who might our partners be? (Churches? School? Charities?)
- What will be the cost of doing what you have in mind (financial/ emotional/ time costs)?
- What will make you shout “Hallelujah!” in one year’s time, and in 5 years?
- How can we find out more about the community we think we may be called to serve?

Pray for each other and particularly about any issues which have cropped up for you tonight.

NB: These small group notes are based on the Booklet “Listening for Mission” available from [www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk).