



GO AND... *Be Church*

Activities to help us practice listening to our neighbors.

In order to Go and Be Church, we must learn to listen. We learn to listen to our neighbors to hear their needs, we learn to listen to God and what God is calling us to do and we learn to listen to each other so we can support one another along the way as we are the church.

Below are some fun cross generational listening activities. You can do them as a family, or you can do them as a church during fellowship or on a Wednesday night. You can even do them by gathering a group of friends for dinner and conversation.

As you do the activities, think about: Why do we need to listen in order to be church? How is God calling YOU to listen and who is God calling you to listen to? What will you go and do after you listen to someone? Why is listening to detail so important? What makes listening so hard?

DESCRIBE THE PICTURE

In this activity, participants sit back-to-back, and one of them describes a picture while the other listens and tries to draw what is on their partner's paper. Once they complete their drawing, you compare the two pictures. This game functions best when the photos consist of simple objects and shapes that are easy to convey in a drawing.

SIMON SAYS

This is an oldie but a goodie that reminds participants to stay focused and keep listening all the time. You can adapt the physical level of this game to meet the needs of all participants. The leader (Simon) calls out things for participants to do. (For example, Simon says "pat your head"). Participants must do what Simon says. The trick is, if Simon doesn't say it, participants shouldn't do it. So if the leader just says "pat your head," participants shouldn't do it. If you do something and Simon didn't say to do it, you are "out". The goal is to be the last person still playing.

EYES CLOSED, LISTEN UP

This game is best played in a relatively open area and works well outdoors. One person closes their eyes, and the rest of the group guides them through a simple obstacle course. The group cannot touch the person with their eyes closed and can only give verbal commands. As a leader, you can intervene at any time for the safety of the group. Remind the person with their eyes closed that if they feel uncomfortable at any time, they can open their eyes. You will want to conduct a quick safety risk assessment and set ground rules before playing this game.

GUESS THE SOUND

[Play this you tube video](#) and have everyone try to guess the sounds.