



Listen! to the Lord's Word

In telling the parable of the Sower to the crowds of people, the Lord began with the word, "Listen!" and ended with: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mark 4:3,9). What are some ways that we can increase our ability to listen and recall what we have heard?

Echo

With young children, you might choose a short verse for them to "echo" or repeat after you, such as: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mark 4:9). You may choose to add appropriate gestures (in this case, cupping their hands behind their ears) as they repeat the words.

Immediate Response

With older children and adults, prearrange to have everyone respond verbally or in writing after hearing the reading of the Word. (An expectation of making an immediate response can help us focus on what we are hearing.) Leave listeners in freedom to respond to whatever portion they like.

Focus on Different Perspectives

- Ask one listener to focus on the main characters: Who are they? What are they doing?
- Ask another to focus on the setting. Where does this happen? What is the time of day?
- Another listener might dramatize or illustrate a portion (letting the others identify which part).
- If you have more listeners, ask one to think of a story in the Word with similar elements. With the parable of the sower, it might be a story about a farmer, another parable about a seed, or a story in which the Lord is encouraging us to listen and obey His Word.