

## Session 1: **Loving through listening and questions**

Key question: How can we better know the people God has sovereignly placed in our lives?

Aim: To see that we love people as we pay attention to their lives, listen well and ask good questions. This care can lead to opportunities to share the gospel with them.

Intro: *How does it make you feel when someone has been really listening to you and wants to know more about the things you are interested in? (And the opposite?)* **3mins**

Bible text: *Matthew 22:34-46*

Jesus' life was marked by listening and asking questions. His teaching style has been described as '*questioning evangelism*'.

In this chapter Jesus has been addressing malicious questions aiming to discredit him. The way he listens and then asks questions reveals his authority.

Discuss together (a) How well Jesus listens (b) the effectiveness of his questions (c) what we can learn from him **12 mins**

Video: **Lee McMunn 15mins**

Practical exercise and discussion time **15mins**

1. Pair up with someone. For 2 minutes take turns asking each other questions about a hobby or interest. Practice asking questions that find out more, that can move the conversation forward, and that could open up belief questions.
2. Talk together about the people you typically spend time with. Are they like or unlike you? How could you be more intentional about showing care and interest to people who are different? What might that look like in church on Sundays and then through the week?
3. What stops you from listening well? How could we improve? What tips can you share together to remember things we learn about others?

Prayer time **15mins**

Thank God for the command to love God and to love our neighbours

Ask for help in creating and using opportunities to show God's love to other people

Pray for the new term in Buccleuch to be full of new people to meet and welcome