

# Prayer Ministry

## Small Group Study Guide

### Lesson 7: Role of Witness Exercise

#### #1: Listening Exercise

Pair up and sit facing each other. One person takes the role of speaker and tells about one formative event or circumstance in his or her life. Share briefly about the event, and then explain how it affected you. The other person takes the role of listener to hear the account but does not speak. The listener may encourage with nods, smiles, or other nonverbal expressions. The speaker will share his or her story for two minutes (timed), and then the pair change roles and repeat the exercise.

Discussion:

- How did it feel to be heard?
- What was it like to listen without being able to give verbal response?

#### #2: Listen and Feedback Exercise

Pair up again for another listening exercise, choosing different partners than in the first exercise. The speaker tells about one formative event or circumstance in his or her life (it may be a continuation of the one begun previously). This time the listener provides feedback by affirming the emotions and responses, and asking clarifying or encouraging questions. Do not give advice or offer solutions. Rather, you may state: "That must have been a sad time," or other appropriate comments. You may ask: "How did you feel at that moment," or other simple questions to draw them out. The speaker will share his or her story for three minutes (timed), and then the pair change roles and repeat the exercise.

Discussion:

- How did your experience as speaker change when feedback was allowed?
- How did your interaction as a listener change when you could affirm and ask?
- What difference does it make for a person to be truly heard?
- Who controls the direction, tempo, and content of the story?
- What risks are there for the role of listener?

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### **Sharing: Role of Witness**

In this exercise you will act as a witness for God. Get into groups of 5 or 6 and sit in a circle facing each other. Pray silently. Ask God to give you a word or message to share, and then pray for each person in your group. Listen to what He tells you. Use a timer to keep this step to no more than five minutes.

Next, take turns to share the word or message you heard. Look at the person for whom the word is given. Address them by name and share the message that the Lord gave you for them. Do not embellish or explain; simply report.

Discussion (large group):

- How did it feel to receive a word from the Lord from a witness?
- How did it feel to deliver a word or message?
- Who provides meaning to the message?
- What has this exercise done to increase your confidence as a witness for God?
- How will this experience change the way you pray with people?

### **Caring: Role of Witness**

We use a stone of remembrance as a physical reminder of a spiritual transaction. Samuel, the priest, anointed a rock and named it Ebenezer as a memorial to an act of God. Joshua commanded a representative of each of the twelve tribes to bring a stone up from the middle of the Jordan River as a lasting memorial to their crossing.

Discussion:

- What are some of the ways you benefit from a physical witness to a spiritual event?
- What have you used as a testimony in the past?
- How have you seen important events commemorated?
- Brainstorm different ways to use physical things to act as a witness in your prayer times.