



Sermon Small Group Discussion Questions
February 27, 2011



Listen Well

Preacher: Doug Schillinger
Luke 8:16-21

BIG IDEA

Those who listen well put **God's Word** on clear display, experience the benefits of revealed sin, receive more from **Jesus**, and experience intimacy with **Him**!



FOR STARTERS

1. Open your time in prayer. Have someone pull out the bulletin notes and summarize the main points of the message. If you did listen to the message, share one thought that was meaningful to you. Also make sure you read through the passage—**Luke 8:16-21**. If you are doing a personal study, jot down your thoughts below—write out the main points and one thing that was meaningful to you.



DIG INTO BIBLE

2. Read through the passage and write out below the observations you have. Try to answer the who, what, when, where, and why of the passage. Write out any observations on the context—what is going on? What are the key words and ideas? What is the tone?



STUDY AND APPLY

3. It is possible that one reason we don't listen to Jesus well, or that we don't put His words into practice in our lives, is that we have forgotten the power of His Words. Take your time as you go through these verses and allow the power of Jesus' words to astonish you: **Mark 1:21-22; John 7:32-45** (notice what happened to the officials sent out to arrest Jesus); **Hebrews 1:3; Luke 7:14-15; Mark 5:41-42; John 11:43-44; Mark 13:31**. **Write out or discuss what stands out to you from these verses.**

4. **Obedience is not optional:** If we truly claim to be Jesus' followers. Reflect on the appalling arrogance and foolishness of a finite, sinful person who says to the all-knowing, all powerful Creator, "Thanks for your advice, but I think I have a better plan". Here are a few passages to get you started on a study of God's view of the importance of obedience. **Pick a few of these to look up. Discuss or write out what you learn about the importance of obedience:**
 - God rewards obedience: **Joshua 1:6-9**
 - Jesus modeled obedience: **John 5:19; 5:30; 8:29; 14:31**
 - Jesus identifies His true followers through their obedience:
John 10:27; Matthew 7:15-23; James 1:22-25
 - Jesus knows we love Him when we obey Him, and He draws close to those who are obedient:
John 14:21, 23
 - Jesus pours out bountiful joy on those who obey: **John 15:10**

5. **What is your plan** to put Jesus' teaching into practice? Here are some practical suggestions to include in your plan:
 - Spend time listening to Jesus: **Luke 11:38-42; Psalm 63:1-3**
 - Remind your soul of the power of Jesus' words (#1 above)
 - Ask God for a heart that craves instruction: **1 Pet. 2:2; Ps. 119:33-37**
 - Ask God to teach, correct, encourage, or challenge you: **Ps. 139:23ff**
 - Pray that God would draw others to Himself through your changed life:
Matthew 5:16; Ezekiel 36:23; John 15:8.
 - At the end of your study time, ask Jesus how He would like you to put the truth you have uncovered into practice in your life that day/week, even consider writing a statement starting with "I will...". **Write out your plan below and share your "I will" statements with your small group or a friend in your life who can pray for you.**