**How to Eat a Sermon**

**Week 7: Knife and Fork**

**Tools for listening well**

**Appetizer:**

What are some of your favorite adjectives (describing words) for food?

**Main Course:**

1. Is the Fallen Condition Focus just something that relates to Bible passages that talk about sin and salvation? Why or why not?
2. What role does our head play when listening to a sermon?
3. What role does our heart play when listening to a sermon?
4. What role does our hands play when listening to a sermon?
5. For you, which role is the strongest or most meaningful (head, heart, hands)? What is good about that? What can you learn by focusing on the other two a little more?
6. Look at James 1:19-27. What is the Fallen Condition focus?
7. What does James have to say to our head, our hearts, and our hands?

**To-Go Bag: Do one of these application activities if you are able.**

Play – Watch this video on listening: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=trbVUu6gv4A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trbVUu6gv4A) Then play the game called “Last Word Response”. Is listening all the way through a helpful skill for listening to a sermon?

Write – The next time you listen to a sermon, take notes. If you like, use Russell’s outline:

1. Us?
2. God?
3. Do?

Check Yourself – On Wednesday, ask yourself what you remember from the previous Sunday’s sermon. What helped you remember? If you were not able to remember, what is something that you could do to help you remember in the future.

Share – On your ride home from church, talk to your family about what you heard in the sermon. Answer questions that are raised or look for answers to those questions.

Reflect – Look at the Listening Checklist. Which part is easiest for you? Which part is hardest?

*Listening Checklist:*

Before the Sermon:

I expect to hear from God. \_\_\_\_\_

I respect the preacher for his/her role as God’s messenger. \_\_\_\_\_

I am well rested. \_\_\_\_\_

I am at peace with my family and friends. \_\_\_\_\_

I have read my Bible. \_\_\_\_\_

I have prayed for my preacher. \_\_\_\_\_

I have prayed for the worship service/church meeting. \_\_\_\_\_

I have prayed for my heart to be receptive. \_\_\_\_\_

During the Sermon:

I have my Bible open. \_\_\_\_\_

I have identified the supporting points. \_\_\_\_\_

I have asked what I learn about myself (Fallen Condition Focus). \_\_\_\_\_

I have asked what I learn about God. \_\_\_\_\_

I have considered how I should apply this to my head, heart, and hands. \_\_\_\_\_

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