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The Church of Today!



Word Search!!!
Communication

BODYLANGUAGE	Q	H	E	P	I	V	B	L	T	G	C	T	J	E	T	N	K	I	G	T
COMMUNICATE	I	S	F	N	P	C	C	O	M	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	P	R	P	C
COMPROMISE	M	O	O	W	E	Y	Q	R	B	D	Z	A	B	X	X	U	J	J	A	E
CONSTRUCTIVE	R	B	W	C	P	T	A	W	N	B	O	H	W	S	I	K	C	Z	T	P
DISCUSSION	M	O	I	Y	U	S	S	W	D	Z	K	I	I	A	W	J	E	C	T	S
EFFECTIVE	B	I	F	K	C	N	W	I	S	D	D	V	R	I	B	B	V	T	E	E
EMPATHY	X	D	E	O	B	O	D	Y	L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	S	E	R	R
FEELING	I	I	E	A	C	D	N	E	F	F	E	C	T	I	V	E	V	D	N	H
FOCUSED	S	G	L	S	T	U	G	S	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	E	Y	G	B	O
INFORMATION	L	G	I	U	V	N	S	C	T	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	J	L	I
ISSUE	G	V	N	K	P	M	Z	E	Z	R	T	E	R	E	S	K	I	L	L	S
LISTEN	L	U	G	Y	N	Z	X	U	D	P	U	A	X	K	H	V	J	S	N	P
NEEDS	M	E	T	A	C	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	N	E	E	D	S	A	C	O
PATTERN	S	E	L	O	L	B	D	Y	B	J	R	T	T	D	O	G	A	D	P	O
POINTOFVIEW	R	G	H	N	O	I	T	A	M	R	O	F	N	I	I	S	S	U	E	G
RESPECT	A	F	F	D	B	H	J	L	P	L	A	B	R	E	V	N	N	G	V	G
RESPONSE	V	L	Z	G	D	N	N	W	D	Y	H	T	A	P	M	E	G	O	K	E
SKILLS	P	F	M	D	E	P	W	E	I	V	F	O	T	N	I	O	P	R	W	J
SOLUTION	E	O	A	G	S	V	A	B	S	S	U	L	X	E	Q	P	I	O	M	Q
UNDERSTANDING	I	B	T	M	H	K	D	N	O	I	S	S	U	C	S	I	D	I	D	X
VERBAL																				

Ridgewood Church of
Christ

Summer, Issue 6

Teen Scene

July 25, 2010

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Weekly Development: Communication Skills

Read Proverbs 18:13

In his famous prayer, St. Francis of Assisi asked God to help him to "Seek first to understand, then to be understood." This principle is the key to effective interpersonal communication.

Actually, the book of Proverbs offered identical advice ages before St. Francis penned this prayer. In Proverbs 18:13 we read, "He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame." Earlier in this same chapter Solomon offers a pointed evaluation of those who would rather talk than listen: "A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions" (18:2).

No leader who cannot communicate can lead well or long. Most leaders spend vast amounts of time and energy developing other skills, such as long-term planning, time management and public speaking. But what about taking time to develop the skill of *listening*? Those who wish to be good leaders will develop this skill. They'll practice such techniques as maintaining eye contact and rephrasing what they hear to be certain that they

have understood correctly.

Closely tied in with the skill of listening is the ability to express oneself in a nonabrasive and affirming manner. After all, "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (12:18). Wise leaders think before they speak; in so doing they select words that nurture rather than destroy. When faced with hostility they speak gently so as to subdue anger rather than stoke it (15:1).

Your degree of ability to communicate will either evoke trust or distrust in those you lead. It will instill either confidence or fear. It will determine to a large extent how eagerly your followers will follow you. How would those you lead evaluate your listening skills? What one thing could you do to strengthen your ability to listen?

Passage to
memorize
this week:

Matthew 15:18
"The things that come out of the
mouth come from the heart."



Making Sandcastles

A little boy is on his knees scooping and packing the sand with plastic shovels into a bright blue bucket. Then he upends the bucket on the surface and lifts it. And, to the delight of the little architect, a castle tower is created.

All afternoon he will work. Spooning out the moat. Packing the walls. Bottle tops will be sentries. Popsicle sticks will be bridges. A sandcastle will be built.

Big city. Busy streets. Rumbling traffic.

A man is in his office. At his desk he shuffles papers into stacks and delegates assignments. He cradles the phone on his shoulder and punches the keyboard with his fingers. Numbers are juggled and contracts are signed and much to the delight of the man, a profit is made.

All his life he will work. Formulating the plans. Forecasting the fu-

ture. Annuities will be sentries. Capital gains will be bridges. An empire will be built.

Two builders of two castles. They have much in common. They shape granules into grandeurs. They see nothing and make something. They are diligent and determined. And for both the tide will rise and the end will come.

Sandcastles, page 3

God Speaks

In 1998, an anonymous client gave the Smith Advertising Agency in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, \$150,000 to create an advertising campaign to reach people who used to be faithful to a religion but had drifted away. The result was a humorous, thought-provoking, nondenominational series of quotes from God, run on billboards. The campaign called "God Speaks" began running in September 1998, and the billboards were scheduled to be up for three months.

The campaign created such a positive response that the Outdoor Advertising Association of America picked it as its public-service campaign for the year and began run-

ning it in two hundred cities nation wide. The billboards have been featured on the *Today* show, *ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*, and CNN and covered by more than two thousand newspapers and countless local radio and television stations.

Throughout the Campaign more than one hundred lines were created and eighteen of those were chosen to run as ads in Fort Lauderdale. Due to the campaigns great success, Charles Robb decided to include all of the over one hundred lines in a book conveniently titled, "God Speaks." Each week a new quote from the book will be included in this section.

I'm a really good listener
— God

JULY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Upcoming Events

- * July 25—
Devo @ Church Building
- * July 26—
TTYL
- * July 27—
\$2 Tuesday @ Colorado Canyon (4:00-6:00)
- * July 28—
Early Birds (6:00-7:00)
- * July 30—
Astros Game (See Matt to Sign Up)
- * July 31—
Area Wide Youth Singing @ Kountze Church of Christ (6:00-8:00 p.m.)

If A Dog Were Your Teacher

If a dog were your teacher, these are some of the lessons you might learn...

1. Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
2. When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
3. When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
4. Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
5. Avoid biting, when a simple growl will do.
6. Take naps and stretch before rising.
7. Be loyal.
8. On warm days stop to lie on your back on the grass.
9. If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
10. When someone is having a bad day be silentsit close by...and nuzzle them gently.



Twenty Dollars

A well known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked. "Who would like this \$20 bill?"

Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you - but first, let me do this."

He proceeded to crumple the 20 dollar note up. He then asked. "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air.

"Well," he replied, "what if I do this?" He dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked

it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?"

Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless; but no matter what happened or what will hap-

pen, you will never lose your value.

Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who love you. The worth of our lives comes, not in what we do or who we know, but by ...WHO WE ARE.

You are special - don't ever forget it."

"We feel as though we are worthless; but...you will never lose your value."

Sandcastles

Yet that is where the similarities cease. For the boy sees the end while the man ignores it. Watch the boy as the dusk approaches.

As the waves near, the wise child jumps to his feet and begins to clap. There is no sorrow. No fear. No regret. He knew this would happen. He is not surprised. And when the great breaker crashes into his castle and his master-



piece is sucked into the sea, he smiles. He smiles, picks up his tools, takes his father's hand, and goes home.

The grownup, however, is not so wise. As the wave of years collapses on his castle he is terrified. He hovers over the sandy monument to protect it. He blocks the waves from the walls he has made. Salt-water soaked and shivering he snarls at

the incoming tide.

"It's my castle," he defies.

The ocean need not respond. Both know to whom the sand belongs...

I don't know much about sandcastles. But children do. Watch them and learn. Go ahead and build, but build with a child's heart. When the sun sets and the tides take - applaud. Salute the process of life and go home.