

Listening for Spiritual Hunger

I. Beginning with Our Own Faith Story

- Question 1: Can you remember a time when you felt God was real and active in your life?
- Question 2: Has there ever been a time when you doubted God's existence or His love for you?

II. The Reality of a Mixed-Faith World

- Most of us have family, friends, or coworkers who are not Christian
- Confusion around what "being Christian" even means
- Why fear, confusion, and bad examples make faith conversations hard

III. Rethinking Evangelism

- Evangelism shaped by pressure, performance, or fear is ineffective
- Passion without relationship does not lead to discipleship
- Faith-sharing requires care, patience, and presence

IV. Recognizing Spiritual Hunger

- The cookie illustration: truth matters, but timing and care matter too
- People reveal hunger through pain, questions, loneliness, or searching
- Simple invitations can matter deeply when hunger is present

V. Biblical Models of Meeting People Where They Are

- Paul becoming "all things to all people" (1 Corinthians 9)
- Jesus and the woman at the well: starting with everyday needs (John 4)
- Faith shared relationally, contextually, and personally

VI. Sharing Our Story with Humility

- Sharing moments when God felt real
- Sharing doubts honestly when belief is questioned
- Faith conversations grow naturally through trust and openness

VII. Living It Out

- Faith-sharing doesn't need to be scary or forced
- Listen for hunger, then offer a simple invitation
- Trust God to work through care-filled relationships

Reflection Questions

Personal Reflection

1. When have you experienced a time when God felt especially alive or active in your life?
2. What doubts or struggles with faith have shaped you the most?
3. How comfortable are you sharing both your faith *and* your doubts with others?

Understanding Evangelism

4. What images or experiences have shaped how you think about evangelism?
5. In what ways might fear or pressure keep you from talking about faith naturally?

Recognizing Spiritual Hunger

6. What are some signs that someone might be spiritually “hungry”?
7. Who in your life might currently be expressing hunger through questions, pain, or searching?

Biblical Reflection

8. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. How does Paul model a relational approach to faith-sharing?
9. Read John 4:1-15. What does it mean to “meet people where they are” in your own context?

Living It Out

10. What is one simple invitation you could offer this week—to lunch, to church, or to talk?
11. How can you practice listening more carefully for spiritual hunger in everyday conversations?
12. What would it look like to trust God with the outcome rather than feeling responsible for results?