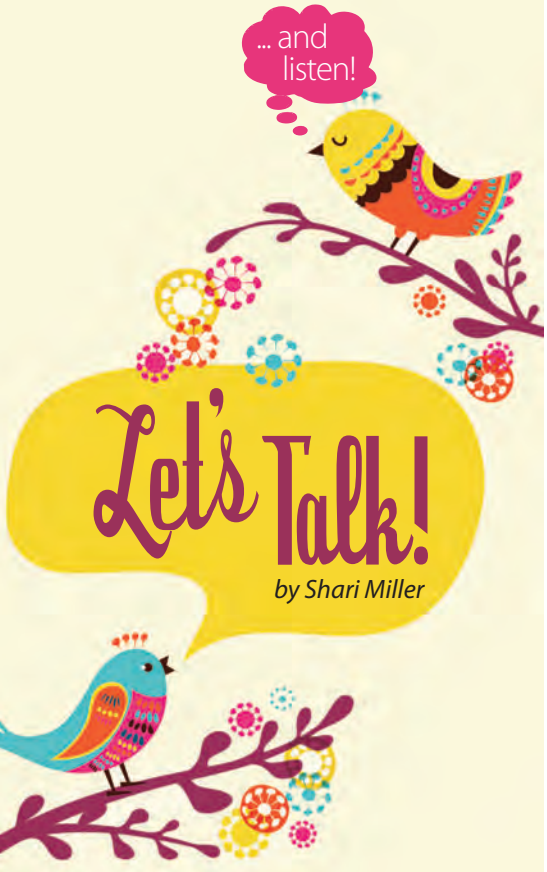


... and listen!



Let's Talk!

by Shari Miller

Communication involves speaking, listening, how something is said, and even our body language as we say it. Communication has the power to effect change in our lives. Communication can wound and heal, as well as build up or tear down. This Bible study will focus on God's communication to us, our communication with God, and our communication about God with others.

Leader's notes and Bible passages for this study available online or by calling the LWML office

If time is short, please omit the sections marked "If Time Permits." These sections could be done in private.



Discuss this quote: "You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life" (motivational speaker Zig Ziglar). Share with a partner or your small group a time in your life when this proved true.

Opening Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, we praise You, O Lord! We confess that our sins have separated us from You. We thank You that You saw our need for salvation and sent Your own Son — the Word made flesh — to be our Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Because He rose from the dead and lives eternally, we know that we, too, can look forward to eternal life in the glories of heaven. We thank You for giving us Your written Word that by the power of the Holy Spirit causes our faith to flourish. We are privileged to come as Your children in prayer, talking with You and knowing that You listen and answer. Please bless our study of Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

God's Communication to Us

Read **Psalm 119:103–107**. How does the Psalmist describe the words of the Lord?

What does Jeremiah call the words of God in **15:16a**?

The prophet Isaiah gives us even more insight into the words of our God. See **Isaiah 40:8** and **55:10–11**.

Read **Genesis 1:3**. Except for man and woman, how did God create the world and all that is in it?

In light of these passages, what adjectives would you use to describe the words of God?

What was God's word of command in **Genesis 2:15–17**?

How did Adam and Eve respond to this command (**Genesis 3:6**)?

As a result of sin, what was God's communication in **Exodus 20:1–17** and **Deuteronomy 6:1a, 5–7**?

What does God's lawful Word show us?

Read **Genesis 3:15**. What promise does God give in this passage?

How does God fulfill that promise in **John 1:1, 14**? What does God's promising [or Gospel] Word show us?

If time permits: Look at the following passages. What were some of God's Old Testament words of promise to His people? **Exodus 19:3b–6**; **Joshua 23:14**; **Psalms 18:30**; **Psalms 33:4**.

In **Matthew 4:4**, Jesus resisted temptation from Satan to turn rocks into bread by quoting **Deuteronomy 8:3** when He answered: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." **2 Timothy 3:14–17** and **Hebrews 4:12** tell us about the Word of God. List some of the characteristics mentioned in these verses.

What is the purpose of God's written Word according to **John 20:30–31**?

When we hear the inspired Word of God, the Holy Spirit engenders faith in us — the Word of God is our Lord talking to us! (See **Ephesians 1:13–14**.) Identify the tools that the Holy Spirit uses from the following passages:

Romans 10:17

Romans 6:4

Matthew 26:26–28

If time permits: What are some of God’s New Testament promises to His people in the following passages? (**Mark 13:30–31**; **John 3:34–36**; **John 5:24**; **John 6:68–69**)

Faith Talk

Share ways that you have used or can use God’s Word daily in your life.

Our Communication with God

We are privileged to approach our saving God in worship and prayer.

Our worship is all about God and what He has done for us by sending the Word made flesh — Jesus — to live a perfect life, suffer and die on the cross, and rise to everlasting life. Because He lives, we too will live in the glories of heaven. See **Psalm 100** for a sample song of worship and praise, and read it aloud.

God promises to hear every believer’s prayer and to answer for our good. The A.C.T.S. outline is always a good way to remember the basic elements of prayer. Read each corresponding Bible verse for an example of each.

Adoration: **Psalm 92:1–2** _____

Confession: **1 John 1:8–9** _____

Thanksgiving: **Ephesians 5:20** _____

Supplications: **1 Timothy 2:1** _____

If time permits: Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! (**Psalm 106:1**) This is a wonderful example of an opening adoration for prayer. On a separate sheet of paper, write down a prayer based on the A.C.T.S. outline.

Our Communication about God with Others

We have studied how God communicates with us and how we are privileged to communicate with God. Now let’s look at how we communicate about God with others. Read **Genesis 11:1–9**. What was the cause of God’s judgment? _____

What impact on communication does this account reveal? _____

Read **Acts 2:1–4**. In light of the Tower of Babel account, how does the Pentecost account show God’s fervent desire that the Good News about Jesus Christ spread throughout the world? _____

How does that evangelism happen in our world today? _____

In **Acts 17:6b**, the disciples of Jesus were identified as these men who have turned the world upside down. Quickly look up the following passages and their surrounding context from the book of Acts: **Acts 4:31**; **6:7**; **13:48–49**; **16:32**; **19:20**.

How did communication aid in the growth of the early church? _____

How did the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit, take advantage of every opportunity to spread the Good News? _____

Faith Talk

Talk about a time when you were privileged to share the Good News of salvation in Jesus. Share with a partner or in your group.

In addition to evangelism, what practical instructions regarding communication are given to us in the following passages, as we live together in the Christian community?

Ephesians 5:4–6 _____

Ephesians 6:17–20 _____

Philippians 2:14–16 _____

Colossians 3:12–17 _____

James 1:22–25 _____

If time permits: During this study, or on your own, look up the following accounts where God sought out His servants. How did they respond? Perhaps you can think of more.

Genesis 12:1–3: Abram/Abraham _____

1 Samuel 3:1–10: Samuel _____

Isaiah 6:8: Isaiah _____

Acts 26:12–18: Saul/Paul _____

Faith Walk

1. Thank God daily for His life-giving Word.
2. Resolve to read His Word daily and rejoice in the Savior’s grace.
3. By the power of the Spirit, share with at least one person the Good News of salvation in Jesus.
4. Praise and thank God for the hope of eternal life.
5. Pray daily for His guidance and strength in your life and in the lives of those you love.

Closing Prayer and Litany

Leader: Almighty God, We thank You for Your Word.

(Each participant offers thanks for God’s Word and its life-giving message. After all have offered petitions, close with this litany based on **Revelation 22:6–7, 20**.)

Leader: And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true.

All: And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

Leader: “And behold, I am coming soon.

All: Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Leader: He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Sing together “Thy Word Is a Lamp” (*Accompaniment for the Hymns* volume of *Lutheran Service Book* #973) or “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” (*LSB* #904; *LW* #202; *TLH* #16).

Shari Miller, wife of Rev. Larry and mother of Joshua and Johanna, is LWML Strategic Planning Facilitator on the Executive Committee and the past District President of the Montana District LWML. She lives in Helena, Montana, and has written numerous articles and studies for the LWML.