

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

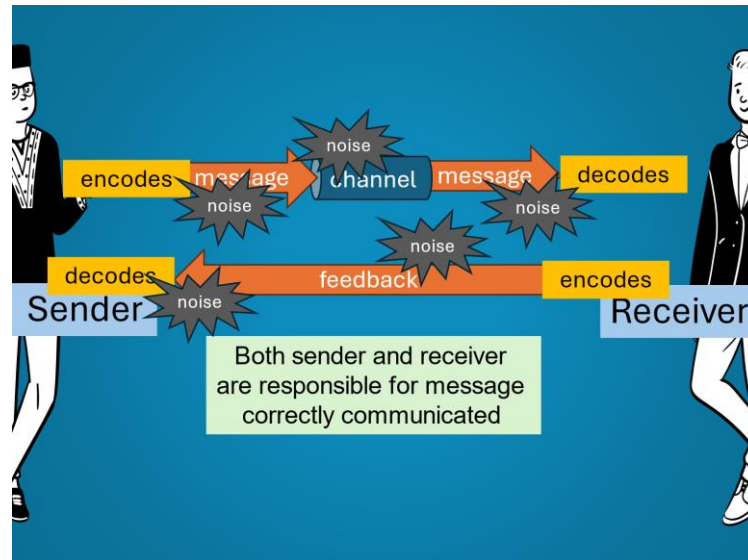
1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

HOUSEKEEPING:

- ➔ There are major, significant things afoot in the Unseen – MAJOR! **PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!**
- ➔ Review S.O.A.P. template for Bible time

COMMUNICATION MODEL



INTRO:

Think ... of a time when you experienced being truly loved... valued... heard. What made it so?

... of a time when you tried to do so for someone and it went sideways. What made it so?

What might happen if we all became effective in personal communication, emotionally secure in Christ and fearless in living His purposes?? WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!??

What topics, questions, challenges, issues, etc about personal communication to address in this series?

Getting intentional about “TALKING in step” with Jesus

James 1:19–20 (ESV) ¹⁹Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

1. Talking in Step is OTHER-CENTERED.

Philippians 2:1–8 (ESV) (pew Bible page 981)

- ➔ *Other-centered effective personal communication is high level Christ-following loving people!!*
- ➔ Living “other-centered” means starting with others rather than ourselves - **where they are; in their shoes;** reaching into their worlds to **make them feel heard and loved as Jesus did.**
- ➔ God commands us to do so in all facets of life, including personal communication.
Luke 6:31 (ESV) And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

➔ Problem: Our default is to be blindly stuck in our own perspective even when we *think* we are not.

QUESTION – looking at the model, where do people often fail in communication?

2. Other-centered communication is only possible when emotionally secure in Christ.

QUESTION: from your experience and observations, why is this true?

➔ Emotional security: when our IDENTITY, worth, value, purpose is in Christ rather than ourselves or others so that we are living in freedom and confident our lives are in God's hands.

That shift grows as our intimacy and alignment with Christ increases which results in

- ✓ freedom from triggers, entanglements, being threatened, fear, etc.
- ✓ live to please God rather than self or people
- ✓ clarity and Spirit control so we don't get rattled in "danger"
- ✓ others...

➔ Being other-centered is only possible as God's Spirit loves through us.

A transformed soul is the root; other-centered loving actions is the fruit

➔ How do we see it in Jesus' words and actions?

Matthew 15:1–20 (ESV) (pew Bible page 820)

It is hard self-denial, surrender and obedience to love as Christ loves us in personal communication

Takeaways...