

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“Communication” 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:7

Dave Shirley

MAIN IDEA

Paul had a special relationship with those early believers who were in the churches he helped start. The passion and love he had for their well being and that they maintain a strong connection together, were main themes in his second letter to them. Over and over he implores them to keep their hearts open to each other. All the efforts and tribulations were worth it if it meant staying connected. Paul was a passionate person, sold-out and committed to whatever he believed in. Before Christ, he persecuted hard, after Christ, he loved even harder. What an amazing testimony of the redemptive work of God. When we surrender to the Lord, He takes our own personality, character traits, and life experiences and transforms them for His purposes. The message this week is a reminder of those areas we need to keep open to Christ. Being able to feel, listen, speak and meet with others as God leads, reflects the openness of Jesus who took his direction from His Father. If we do the same, we can expect the Spirit of God to enhance and bless our relationships and regularly place in front of us opportunities to love others.

SCRIPTURAL INSIGHT

Paul desired transparency and commitment in his relationship with the believers in Corinth. While willing to pour out his whole heart to them, but was concerned that they weren't reciprocating. He writes in [6:11](#), *We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. Now in return for the same, you also be open.* Paul was pleading for this church to examine their loves and interests. No one is interested in a relationship where the other party has a wandering eye. Just like in marriage, a promise is empty if the heart is divided. God desires the same kind of relationship and commitment from us in pledging His love towards us. Have we given Him our whole heart?

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together [2 Corinthians 6:11-7:7](#) and discuss below those areas Christians can reflect God by staying open in heart, ear, mouth and schedule.

KEY VERSES

[2 Corinthians 6:11-13](#) *We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.* (NIV)

- *What does it mean to have an open heart? This is a figure of speech, so how does intuition, conscience, thoughts, the will, or emotion play in your relationship with God? What does it mean to have an open heart with non-believers? How does one have a relationship/friendship with a non-believer without compromise? Discuss how an open-*

heart is imperative within relationships inside the church? What are the good or bad consequences of a faith community when they do or don't do this?

• Describe how you feel when someone listens and takes you seriously? One might first think of the mouth when it comes to evangelism. *How does listening play a role in sharing your faith with others? Why/how does it enhance the opportunity? What are some areas in the church where believers could listen better? How does this transform the church?*

PRAYER

During your prayer time in group, try giving a significant portion to corporately waiting and listening to God. The Scripture readings and discussions have most likely stirred a lot of thoughts and ideas. As the Psalmist wrote, *May my meditation be sweet to Him, I will be glad in the LORD.* Take time to let the promises of God envelope all of the complexities we get pushed into everyday.

APPLICATION & PRACTICE

Keeping an open schedule does not mean succumbing to chaos, but it does mean sometimes starting relationships we had not foreseen. Jesus forged a new way of thinking about God when he said, [*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. \(Jn 15:15\)*](#) As you think about sharing your faith, or helping someone at church, try building friendships first and let the scheduling reflect how God has led.

RESOURCES

[*The Listening Life: Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction.* Adam McHugh. Downers Grove: IVP, 2015.](#)

