

1. What's the best gift you've ever been given, and what made it land: the thing itself, or what it cost the person who gave it?

2. Josh opened with the thought, "If they're the problem, there's nothing I can do." Where do you most often catch yourself thinking that: at home, at work, or with extended family?

3. Read James 1:19–20. Which of the three is hardest for you: quick to listen, slow to speak, or slow to anger? What does it look like when you get it wrong?

4. Research suggests we listen worst to the people we're closest to, because we assume we already know what they'll say. Who in your life gets your half-attention? What would full attention cost you this week?

5. Read Matthew 7:3–5. Jesus doesn't say the speck isn't there. Why do you think he insists on the order: my beam first, then their speck?

6. We tend to explain our own failures by our circumstances and other people's failures by their character. Think of a current tension. How would the story change if you gave them the explanation you give yourself?

7. Lincoln wrote to Grant, "You were right, and I was wrong." Josh's version was three sentences: "I snapped at you. That was hurtful. I'm sorry." What makes an apology like that so hard to say without adding "but"?

8. Read James 3:9–10. How does remembering that a person is made in God's image differ from simply trying to "look for the good" in them? Why does that difference matter when they haven't changed?

9. Disappointment says "you let me down." Contempt says "you're beneath me." Is there a relationship where you've drifted from the first to the second? What would it take to move back?

10. Each gift has a cost: my full attention costs me the last word, my ownership costs me my excuses, and the way I see them costs me my conditions. Which one are you ready to open this week, and with whom? What's the first small step?