

What is a Healthy Church Member
Week 1 Study Guide

1) Read Psalm 119:97-104.

- a) What is the psalmist's attitude toward God's Word? Was this attitude automatic, natural, or did the psalmist do something to develop this attitude?

- b) What is the impact of the Word on the psalmist? Is this impact prior to, subsequent to, or simultaneous with the attitude towards the Word discussed in part a?

- c) At the time the psalm was written, there were only a handful of copies of the Word in existence. Very few Israelites would ever read any lengthy section of the Word themselves; instead, they heard it read, heard it preached, heard it explained. With that in mind, what would loving God's law mean in that culture? How would that love manifest itself?

- d) What are the implications for how we respond to the public reading of the Scripture and the preaching of the Word? How can you live out such a love for the Word through listening?

2) Now read the Introduction and Chapter 1 of *What is a Healthy Church Member*. Define expositional listening, and then list the five benefits Thabiti notes. Have you experienced these benefits, at DGCC or elsewhere? Describe what that looked like.

3) A friend tells you, “When I listen to a sermon, I’m always looking for the practical advice about how to live my life. That’s the main thing I need to hear.” How do you respond?

4) Consider Thabiti’s use of 1 Corinthians 1:10 on p 21-22. Summarize the contrast he draws between two ways of listening to the preached Word. How does that unity come about, practically? Which comments in his next section on cultivating expositional listening are relevant to this growth of unity?

5) How will you strengthen the way you listen to sermons? Is one of Thabiti’s six practical ideas particularly needed in your life? Do you have other suggestions for how you personally or we as a church body can develop expositional listening?