



## THE LIVING SENT PODCAST: SHOW NOTES

EPISODE: **009**

TITLE: **4 Listening Cues that Will Change Your Next Conversation**

*When it comes to sharing your faith or asking someone else about theirs, have you ever experienced what I call a “missed opportunity?” You know, those moments that you keep replaying in your mind as you think back over your conversation? Maybe the other person made a passing comment and you just let it slide by. Maybe it was a moment of awkward silence, and you really didn’t know what to say. Or perhaps you just wished you had asked a different question. We all know that we should be better listeners. But exactly what should we be listening for?*

### **What is a listening cue?**

- *a spoken signal that helps you be more connected, engaged, and relatable in conversation*

The listening cues Justin shared in this episode are based on the four movements in the story of the gospel. Here is a brief recap of what he shared:

1. **Creation:** In the beginning of the Bible, God chose to create all things, including humanity. He created man and woman in a special way—in his own image (Gen. 1:26-28). He placed them in a beautiful garden where they experienced perfect relationships with creation, one another, and God himself. It was utter paradise.
2. **Fall:** As the story of the Bible unfolds, the first humans (Adam and Eve) chose to rebel against God’s command (Gen. 2:16). They decided to live their own way instead of God’s (Gen. 3:6). The Bible calls this sin. After Adam and Eve rebelled against God, their perfect relationships with creation, one another, and God himself had been fractured. As time went on, sin spread to all people (Gen. 5:5-6), and all the generations that followed lived in a sin-fractured and broken world, choosing their own way instead of God’s way.
3. **Redemption:** In God’s great mercy and love, he initiated a rescue mission. The Old Testament chronicles how this rescue mission unfolds. And throughout the OT, God is promising his chosen people, the Jews, that one day soon, he would send the Messiah, that is Jesus Christ, who would ultimately complete this mission and rescue humanity.



Jesus was crucified on humanity's behalf, taking in his own body the punishment for sin that humanity really deserved. Here's where this gets good for you: God accepted Jesus's sacrifice in place of yours, and by believing in him (John 3:16) you can once again be at peace with God and live according to his ways and under his rule- God is bringing all things back to the way they originally were.

4. **Restoration:** Jesus promised that one day soon he would return to earth to bring all of this to its complete fullness. At that time, he will restore everything to the way it was intended to be—a world with no more evil, sin, or rebellion. A world with no more sickness, pain, or death. It will be utter paradise, just like it was in the beginning.

#### The Four Listening Cues:

##### 1. Beginnings:

- a. Just as the story of the Bible starts with **creation**, every person's life story has a **beginning**.
  - i. Remember, a person's life is full of different "beginnings." What kinds of "beginnings" have you experienced in life and how have they shaped you?"
  - ii. This listening cue answers the question, "*How did I get here?*"

##### 2. Brokenness:

- a. Just as the story of the Bible speaks about the **Fall**, every person has experienced **brokenness**.
  - i. Brokenness is often one of the strongest connection points between people. How have past pains, sufferings, and hurts, influenced who you are today?
  - ii. This listening cue answers the question, "*Why are things this way?*"

##### 3. Betterment:

- a. Just as the story of the Bible anticipates **redemption**, every person is pursuing **betterment** in some measure.
  - i. Every person is pursuing betterment in some measure. To what or to whom do you like when you think about the solution to life's problems?
  - ii. This listening cue answers the question, "*What can make life better?*"



**4. Blessings:**

- a. Just as the story of the Bible longs for **restoration**, every person hopes for future **blessings**.
- b. Everyone has a pictured of an ideal future. What does yours look like?
  - i. This listening cue answers the question, “*What will life be like when all is well?*”

Here is a helpful chart that show how the story of the gospel, the listening cues, and the questions they answer all relate:

<b>The Story of the Gospel</b>	<b>The Story of Our Lives</b>	<b>Answers the Question</b>
<i>Creation</i>	<i>Beginnings</i>	<i>How did I get here?</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Brokenness</i>	<i>Why are things this way?</i>
<i>Redemption</i>	<i>Betterment</i>	<i>What can make life better?</i>
<i>Restoration</i>	<i>Blessings</i>	<i>What will life be like when all is well?</i>

*And this really is what Living SENT is all about- this is what talking with others about Jesus is all about. The gospel is the true story and offers answers to these fundamental questions everyone is asking. Becoming fluent in the story of the gospel can help you speak truth into people’s lives, producing ongoing gospel conversations, open doors for talking with others about Jesus.*

**I’d love to hear from you this week. Reach out to me at [justinwester.com/connect](http://justinwester.com/connect). Remember, you don’t *have* to Live SENT, you get to. See you next episode.**

*Justin*