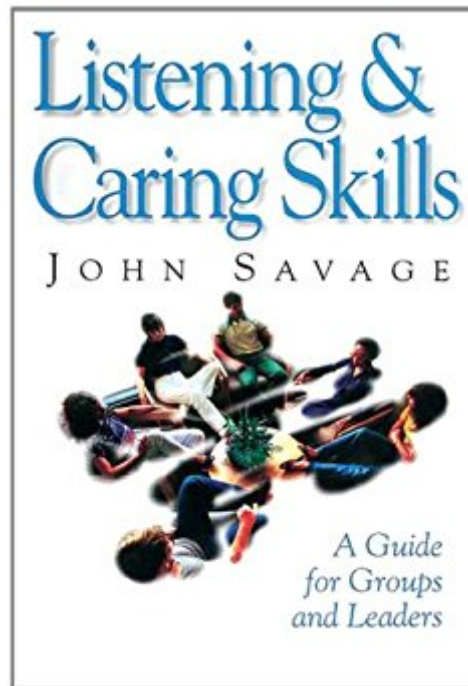


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# Listening & Caring Skills: A Guide For Groups And Leaders



## Synopsis

The secret to leadership and transformation of a group--or of another person--is the quality of the relationship one person has with another. The effective group leader or counselor will be the person who learns how to listen to other people. By studying and employing listening skills, church leaders will engage others more compassionately, allowing them to feel that their needs are being met. These skills can be used with persons who are terminally ill, inactive at church, going through a divorce, in a family with a severely ill person, unemployed, seeking a new church, grieving, traumatized by catastrophe, going through teenage adolescence, in marriage counseling, or leading a ministry team. John Savage offers eleven specific and teachable listening skills for improving relationships among those who do ministry in small-group settings or when offering counsel to others. The skills are taught through oral exercises and unfailingly helpful examples from actual congregational situations. The skills include paraphrasing, productive questions, perception check, expression of feelings and emotions, fogging, negative inquiry, behavior description, and story listening.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In general, research showed that (besides reading, writing, and speaking) listening is used the most on daily communication. But even though most of us spend the majority of our day listening, it is the communication activity that receives the least instruction in school, seminary, or at university.

Listening not only communicates importance and respect it is also a very important skill for pastoral caregivers. JOHN SAVAGE's book *Listening & Caring Skills* demonstrates that listening and other caring skills can be learned and they can be perfected. JOHN SAVAGE's book is divided into three main parts: (1) "Basic listening skills for ministry", (2) "Hearing the story", and (3) "Advanced listening skills for ministry". After studying the eleven chapters of the book I come to the result that I benefit mostly from the first two parts of the book. Part three includes issues for future or more advanced learning experiences. Trough studying JOHN SAVAGE's book I learned about the gap that might be created in interpersonal communications and how this cap can be closed. I learned the skills of paraphrasing, asking productive questions, and how to make a perception check. In general, I have to be careful not to enter a conversation with preconceived ideas about the other person or his topic of discussion. Once I have a preconceived idea in mind, it's almost impossible to hear what the other person is really saying, because my preconceptions act as a filter, and I might only hear what supports my preconceptions. My developments in these areas are shown in my verbatim, verbatim alternative, and case study. I also became more and more aware of my own feelings and emotions. I understood the nature of emotions and how better to manage them.

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