

## **Devotions**

# JANUARY

## *The miracle and ministry of listening*

This year our focus is on listening—on learning to listen to God and to each other. We believe that God invites us to listen to Him and, as we do, we experience His goodness. We also believe that we are called to extend the gift of listening well to each other. Helping one another feel heard and understood, valued and appreciated. We recognize that listening is a way that we love each other well but also gain understanding to strengthen our work. Today, as we begin our new theme we are going to look at a few foundational ideas.

### **God listens to us:**

1 Peter 3:12, Psalm 34:17, 1 John 5:14-15, Isaiah 65:24

- Take time to ponder the reality that God, who made the heavens and the earth LISTENS to you. How does the idea that God is listening to you change the way we think of prayer? What are some of the characteristics of God? As you pray, imagine approaching a God who is loving, powerful, faithful, kind, patient, etc.)

### **We are invited to listen to God:**

Read Isaiah 55:2-3, Jeremiah 33:3

- What do you think it means that our soul will live? That we will delight in rich food?
- What are some things that you hope we learn this year that will help you grow in your ability to listen? (LEADER PLEASE RECORD THE RESPONSES - NO NEED TO SAY WHO - SO WE CAN KEEP THEM IN MIND AS WE DEVELOP MATERIALS)



- What excites you about the topic of listening this year? What are some of the areas that you hope we explore when it comes to listening to each other? (LEADERS TAKE NOTES)