



# Family Communication

Text 55444, type “Faith and Family” when prompted, enter email address for the Family Newsletter.

This information is taken from *Speaking the Truth in Love* chapter 15 - Small Groups

## Encouragement for the Speaker

Be faithful to what you know and have experienced. Represent yourself.

There is no need to sell your story or convince the listeners of its veracity.

“Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.” (think AA)

## Objective for the Listeners

Invest your time and energy to hear and understand the speaker. Hearing is different than listening. God has given the speaker a unique message. He is writing their story to transform them, edify us, and teach each of us more about himself.

## Temptations to Avoid

1. Checking your phone, rolling your eyes, taking deep breaths, checking the time
2. Interrupting and relating how you have experienced a similar situation
3. Jumping to conclusions, making assumptions, or judging
4. Giving advice, offering solutions, or sharing resources

## Good Neighbor Practices

1. Maintain eye contact while facing the speaker and project positive body language.
2. Explore key words or ask questions for clarification.  
“Could you amplify or explain what \_\_\_\_\_ means?”  
“What did you mean when you mentioned \_\_\_\_\_?”
3. When the speaker is winding down,  
“Is there is one more thing you would like to add?”
4. Thank them for sharing their story. Affirm them for their courage and honesty.

*Speaking the Truth* book, video, audio

<http://www.buildingfaithfamilies.org/speakingthetruth/>

A similar talk online: <http://www.buildingfaithfamilies.org/speakingthetruth/>

Podcasts, #14-16 <http://www.buildingfaithfamilies.org/podcasts/page/18/>

