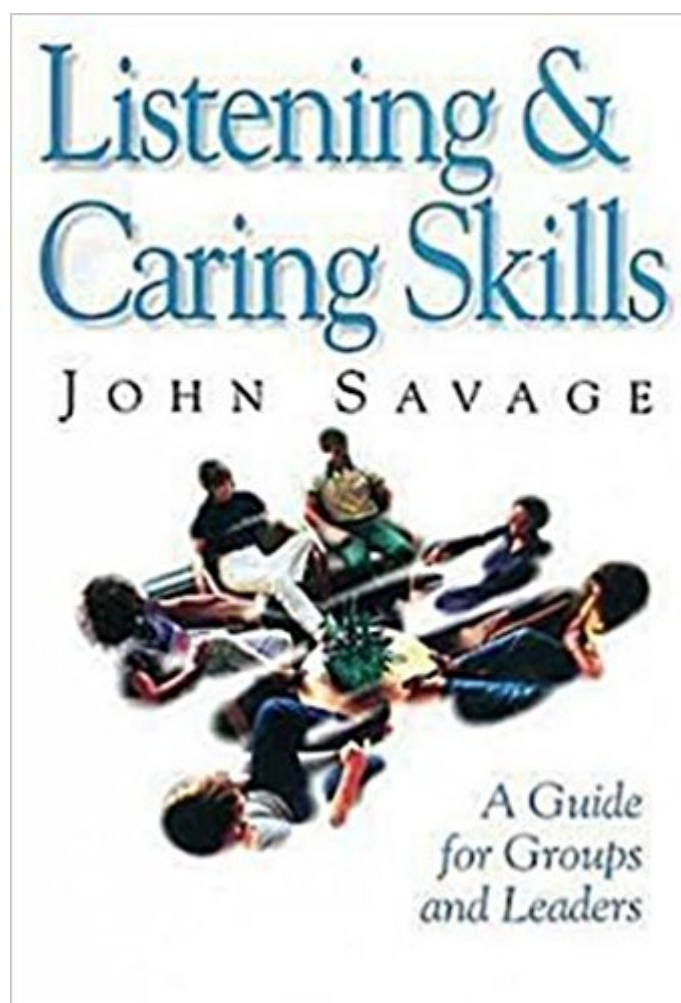




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Listening And Caring Skills In Ministry: A Guide For Groups And Leaders



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.

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Customer Reviews

The secret to leadership and transformation of a group, or of another person, is the quality of the relationship one person has with another. Thus the effective group leader or counselor will be the person who learns how to listen to other people. By studying and employing these listening skills, church leaders will engage others more compassionately, allowing them to feel that their needs are

being met. The 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 paraphrase, productive questions, perception check, expression of feelings and emotions, fogging, negative inquiry, behavior description, and story listening.

John Savage, an ordained United Methodist minister, is president of L.E.A.D. consultants in Ohio, a leadership, education, and development training firm with more than 2,400 trainers throughout 13 countries.

While most of the concepts presented in the material are nothing new, this is the only work I've found that teaches the use of these combined concepts, explaining them in a professional, yet concise and easy to understand format. I read the book in one sitting and was able to immediately use the 'Negative Inquiry' tool with my partner and I was astounded at how quickly and flawlessly it defused a communication that might have resulted in conflict and misunderstanding had I not used this tool. We've all heard about, and possibly studied the art of reading body language, tone, paraphrasing, etc., however, the author combines the use of these and other techniques to use in all areas of one's life. While the teaching provides wonderful tools to use in professional and/or ministry capacities, these tools can also be successfully applied to our personal lives. It will favorably change my communication style not just as a listener, but also as the speaker. One of the most profoundly useful lessons for me was the 'fogging' technique when responding to criticism. I have always struggled to accept criticism without becoming defensive. Developing the skill of 'fogging' will undoubtedly become a life long solution for me in this area. I can't imagine any reader would not benefit from cultivating the skills taught in this book.

I learned these skills in a listening seminar several years ago, but the book gave more detailed information. The book tells you what to listen for in someone's conversation to understand them better. It is also somewhat of a book on psychology in that it tells you about how people develop what the author calls "Life Commandments." These are ideas that a person lives by and can change

the course of their life. He tells how to find out what yours is and how to change it. The book's editing seemed to stop before the last two chapters. There were several missing periods, and a few obvious misspellings/typos in the Kindle edition. The book seemed to just stop abruptly. It didn't have a "wrap-up" chapter. Maybe I like to have things neatly tied up in a bow at the end. If the book is updated, hopefully, the typos/spelling errors can be corrected.

This book is short--a fast read--but there is so much information in it, I think it deserves multiple readings. It is a very practical guide to "listening and caring skills," which aren't quite as obvious as you might think. There is a lot to learn in this book, and it is a good choice for counselors, religious leaders, teachers, or even people who just want to learn more about compassionately communicating with and listening to others. I have applied many things I learned in this book in my everyday life.

The book itself is amazing for the knowledge it imparts. Savage teaches skills in a very easy to understand way. This is required reading for a graduate class I am enrolled in. This being said, the Kindle edition is FULL of errors. The letter l is replaced with the number 1 in multiple cases. Simple words such as "feeling" are missing letters. I highly recommend the book, but stay away from the Kindle Edition.

John Savage has studied not only the skills of listening but know how to teach them better than anyone I've known. Linguistic healing begins with listening. We are not taught to listen. Most conversations are a round robin of speaking one's piece. Listening is the clearest, cleanest form of loving. Savage's approach to communication is brilliant.

I was required to read this book as part of a pastoral training program and I'm glad I did. I walked away being able to use some of the skills outlined in the book immediately. Some of the other skills will take more practice but I would highly recommend this book to anyone wishing to communicate better with anyone else from an employer / employee, spouse, volunteers as well as people you may be responsible for counseling or at least, listening to. I will never look at communication the same way again as now, I am listening to the speaker more intently and not just to listen to the 'issue' they wish to discuss. I am listening to the style of their communication and how to bridge the styles if I am naturally another style. Also, it teaches how to use paraphrasing and the most significant aspect I learned directly from this book and had never heard before, was how to teach

my critics to help me do better in my weak areas. I will never look at criticism the same way again either; the book teaches how to not only handle it, but respond to it appropriately and actually, diffuse a potential argument. In summary, if you've never learned these skills, pick up this book.

For any one in a caretaker profession, from nursing aside to minister to physician, this is an important companion. Too many subsume the needful person's narrative to their own story, thereby negating much of the care they offer. There is a perfect companion to any of the excellent living human document books available. My favorite is "The Wounded Healer."

Very good book!!!!!!

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