# CDM Kampung-ku Connection
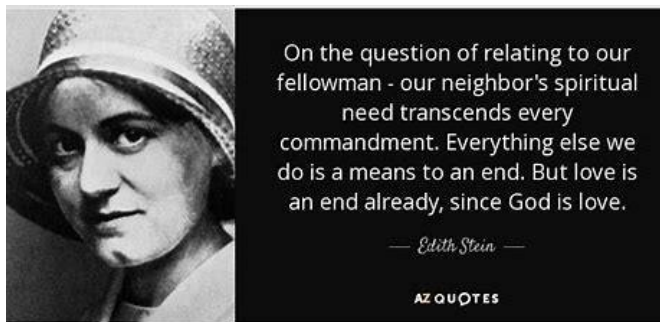
**Listening in Mercy**

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**Opening Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank you for being gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. We enter your gates with thanksgiving today and we enter your courts with praise. Father, as we gather for this sharing, we ask you to reset our agendas, re-calibrate our intentions and refocus our hearts as we sit in Your presence. Lift our eyes to seek your peace first as we surrender all our needs to you. Give us renewed strength and godly courage to obey you without question. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus…Amen!



On the question of relating to our fellowman - our neighbor's spiritual need transcends every commandment. Everything else we do is a means to an end. But love is an end already, since God is love.

— Edith Stein —

AZ QUOTES

St. Teresa Benedicta's (Edith Stein) quote is something to ponder because it includes the two Greatest Commandments of God;

- ◆ **Loving God**
- ◆ **Loving our neighbour**



The first duty of love is to listen.

Paul Tillich

Being a good listener to others is an excellent way to attend to another's spiritual need. God is love. When we take the time to attend to the needs of those placed in our path, we are loving them. As simple as this sounds, it is profound. It is not always easy to exercise virtue in this way, but through the gift of the Holy Spirit, it can be accomplished.

**God's Word**

**Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; (James 1:19)**



**Reflect**

Peter, the sole bread winner in his family lost his job during the pandemic. He tried his best to feed his family with his limited savings and the goodwill of some close friends but there were nights that his wife and little children had to go to bed hungry. He gratefully accepted a job offer recently as a delivery man which required him to work odd hours.

One day as Peter was making a delivery in a mall, he bumped into David, a friend from church who inquired about his well-being since he hadn't seen Peter in church. As he started to relate his story, David stopped him midway. "Listen my friend, a lot of people are suffering now. Just a small bit of advice to you - make an effort to place God first, then everything else will fall into place."
Peter tried to intercept and explain what had happened to him but to no avail. His righteous friend continued, " No matter what your circumstances are, if you can find the time to come to the mall, you have to find time to come to church!"

With that, David left a bewildered, very hurt and confused Peter watching him leave to continue his shopping with his heavily laden bags.

**Key understanding to listening -**

➢ Discuss how the following **actions** and its **effects** relate to the story above
➢ How differently would you have handled the situation?

| | OUR ACTIONS | ITS EFFECTS |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Attentive listening** to what the person is saying | It shows God's mercy towards others and may lead to comfort and healing |
| 2 | **Allowing their story to unfold** at their own pace | It affirms their dignity and value |
| 3 | Our **silence**, gives them the opportunity to speak | Much of the time people are looking for a "listening ear", not for advice |
| 4 | Responding and reacting to their story in a **non-judgemental** way | It shows unconditional love for that person and a richer understanding of God's unconditional love for us |

**Find your own Calcutta**

Every individual and experience in life are varied. In our quest to show mercy to the world, we draw our hearts to God. God will act in the silence as we attempt to help another person through listening . This is God working through us. The end result will be that we become less selfish and more giving to others in our lives. St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, knew the art of giving mercy to the suffering and the lost through sacrifice. She quoted the following on "finding your own Calcutta" wherever you are in life:

> *"Stay where you are. Find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering, the lonely right there where you are – in your own homes and in your own families, in your workplaces, and in your schools. You can find Calcutta all over the world if you have the eyes to see. Everywhere, wherever you go, you will find people who are unwanted, unloved, uncared for, just rejected by society – completely forgotten, completely left alone."*



God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer.

— Mother Teresa —

AZ QUOTES

Mercy Activities - 5 simple acts of mercy to slip into your daily life

1. **Forgive yourself** - we're more likely to forgive others if we can forgive ourselves.

2. **Forgive somebody else** - if love is an act of the will, let forgiveness be also an act of the will

3. **Talk to a stranger** - mercy starts with us, with the one person we show mercy to. What is stopping us from saying, " hi " or a friendly smile to someone in church, in the mall, hospital etc

4. **Unplug** - switch off that TV or the phone - your undivided attention to your loved one is an act of mercy and maybe just what they need

5. **Be kind on purpose** -  seeing your actions in kindness and service can lead others to do the same anywhere even on social media

# Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank you for allowing us to gather and share this moment in your name. We pray that we will continue to learn and understand the words that you have sown within our hearts today. Care for these words, protect them and help them to take root. In time, help your words grow and blossom into wonderful things.

We have breathed in the wonder of your love and the amazement of your kingdom. We pray that we will continue to grow in our love for you through each day We thank you for always walking with us. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

## Hymn - To God be the Glory

https://youtu.be/a2EaA7E0aXk

To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.
Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Refrain