

## Lord of the Rings: Getting Them to Listen

### 1. You will be heard if you [pick the right time to speak](#).

 Proverbs 25:11 (NCV) “The right word spoken at the right time is as beautiful as gold apples in a silver bowl.”

 Ecclesiastes 3:1–7 (NIV) “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: <sup>2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, <sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, <sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, <sup>5</sup> a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, <sup>6</sup> a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, <sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak...”

### 2. You will be heard if you [plan what you are going to say](#).

 Proverbs 16:23 (GNB) “Intelligent people think before they speak; what they say is then more persuasive.”

 Nehemiah 2:1–5, 8 (NIV) “In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before; <sup>2</sup> so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid, <sup>3</sup> but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” <sup>4</sup> The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, <sup>5</sup> and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.” <sup>8</sup> ... And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests.”

### 3. You will be heard if you [begin with their needs](#).

 Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

### 4. You will be heard if you [get them to put down their phone](#).

 Proverbs 4:25 (NIV) “Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.”

 Proverbs 2:1–5 (NLT) “My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. <sup>2</sup> Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. <sup>3</sup> Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. <sup>4</sup> Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. <sup>5</sup> Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God.”

 James 1:19 (NLT) “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”

### 5. You will be heard if you [say it nicely](#).

 Proverbs 16:21 (GNB) “A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.”

### 6. You will be heard if you [keep your word](#).

 Isaiah 29:13 (NIV) “The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.”

**Digging Deeper:** Is communication a strength or a struggle in your marriage? Do you feel like you are being heard? Are you a good listener? Why do you think it is so hard to pay attention? Is there anything pressing that you need to say to someone? —Are you prepared? Have you prayed about it? Do you follow through on your promises? Do you keep your word?