



**SPACE STATION -
ALPHA**

AGOPPY TRACKING
#342

Preparing Students

First, prayerfully review the Space Station – Alpha purposes (on page 1 of series resource #340). Commit your heart and soul to them. The Salvation plan on the back cover is a crucial heart-felt tool to know.

Agoppy Tracking – Ready Room

AGOPPY TRACKING (AT) is the Learning to really Listen, segment of the Space Station – Alpha series.

The power in effective prayer is in LISTening to God speak to your heart – not LISTing for God, the things you think you need or want.

DUCK! and don't delay!!

Military basic training teaches everything from tying your shoe laces, to shooting a gun. But the overall lesson trio is, listen to your leader, trust your life to him, and obey immediately.

On the battlefield, unity teamwork is critical and split-second delay can be deadly.

Space Station astronauts are traveling just over 17,000 miles per hour. When they are outside the space station, one side of their space suit is 275 degrees hotter than the side facing away from the sun. Space scientists are finding that six months or more in space, damages the eyes that cannot be corrected with glasses etc. In many ways, space is a treacherous place to live and work.

All of these effects on astronauts are monitored, listened to, every moment that each man or woman are in space.

Listening, is one of our first skills we use, even before we take our first breath, at birth. We hear our mother's voice, her heartbeat, and even the words and music she listens to. Some Christian parents to be, regularly read aloud, scripture to the yet-unborn- baby. God the Holy Spirit is able to begin building Christian character even before birth.

A Different Kind of Listening, Needed

So much of the listening we adults do with youth, immediately genders bullets or commands, filled with '*shame-on-you's* and '*I told you so!*'s With these 'recoil' replies, we adults very soon, a wall preventing meaningful communication is built, that is very hard to remove. Sadly, we adults have forgotten that we made the same foolish self-serving choices when we were young.

Within all this, the youth, are smart enough to realize it is less painful just to communicate with their immature Facebook friends, and add more bricks to that wall of no communication with those who lead them.

To break down that wall preventing true communication, a few steps are important:

1. Listen to God's Word as you read [NO! Feed!] on it, often.
2. Then, in quiet, bow in prayer. But only listening to God's Word (The Holy Spirit) speaking to your heart. As mentioned in the LAUNCH module #341, read the words of Job, as though they were spoken as a teenager. (Job rhymes with 'robe'.) Most often, they are the words the

- boys or girls are actually thinking. (ex. Job 19:7-10).
3. While dismantling a computer box, really listen to the young person, without criticism. Invite them to continue and assure them of confidentiality. Also, make most of your comments about the computer and its cold lack of feeling.
 4. Don't out-dress the cadets.
 5. Have lots of happy kid pictures and posters on the walls, with good lighting.
 6. Leading from behind; make suggestive questions without eye contact. Use the student's names (better, nicknames).
 7. If stories are included, keep them short, lively, and ask questions as you go.

Where's Your Head?!

To promote 2-way communication, use chairs only occasionally – work on the floor. Get down with them. Don't stand while the youth are sitting.

Adult's heads higher than cadet's heads says, “I'm your leader (and lawgiver).” “I have all the answers, and I don't need or want your ideas and opinions.”

Tracking – Operations

As you lead, be constantly mindful that you are communicating, not to ears, but hearts, hopes, and broken dreams. Include part of the Gospel throughout your group time. Pray the Gospel to them, also. Be familiar with the Disclaimer, Rights, and Protection guidelines in the series guidelines in book #340. Neglecting these, can open the door to Satan's destruction.

Try as best as you can, to use metaphor objects the youth would be familiar with, or even own.

1. Our first time in Tracking – Operations – group, we learned the difference between clock-wise and counter-clock-wise. We drove the truth home by removing and installing screws in a pair of old junk computers.

1. (Caution – we only used the main 'box' of



the computer called the “CPU”. We showed the cadets some of the sharp sheet metal edges, and cautioned them not to touch their face, because the CPUs were gleaned from the trash.

2. Manual screwdrivers should always be pointed AWAY from the face. This is DEFINITELY not a time for horse play.
 3. To emphasize the difficulties astronauts have with screws and small hardware, we had the cadet carry a small screw wearing work gloves, as though they were space suit gloves. On their hands and knees they had to crawl under tables and around chairs, without dropping the screw. This becomes competition that is part of boy's personalities.
2. Next group time, we formed two astronaut 'crews' and removed several cable types from the CPUs. Without being technical, we discussed some reasons why the cables looked different. A principle to learn from the cables, is that little cables are just as important as large ones. They all have to work together. We continued this 'unity' 'teamwork' theme with each cadet. Some had skills others didn't have. Some knew more about this, while another knew more about that. God has given each a talent; a purpose for that talent. Most often these skills are meant to uplift another cadet or Christian. God has given each of us 'braggin-bones'. But they are meant to brag about Him, not ourselves. 'Diversity of talents' scriptures are in 1st Corinthians 12, where diversity meets up

with unity, glorifying God.

3. Another group time, covers moderation. It's the discovery of God's good gifts to us as we slow down and look for His wonders. Using a cordless drill, we tried our hand at seeing how slow we could make the drill turn, without stopping. The astronauts that repaired the Hubble Telescope had to do everything in slow motion, even though they were traveling 17,000 mph in orbit.

Youth today are caught up in a stampede, not knowing where it's all going to lead. Show the students the word SELAH in the Bible. Ps 32:7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. Ps 62:8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah. SELAH means to pause and 'retaste' what has come before. Look at the words in front of SELAH. What do they teach you?

Doing 'just enough to get by' can KILL YOU!!

The 'night' before the real ISS astronauts are going to do an EVA repair outside the the space station, they have to sleep in the airlock in their space suits. The reason is that the 'air pressure' inside the suits is maintained at one-third the pressure inside the station and also the pressure we breath here on Earth. The reduced air pressure in the suits makes it a little easier to bend arms legs and fingers inside the suit. That one-third pressure is the same pressure the climbers experience at the top of Mt. Everest.

Ok. so when the astronaut wakes up and goes outside, his very life depends on that space suit maintaining its pressure to keep him or her alive. Some EVAs last 6 or 8 eight hours.

We all know what boiling water on the stove looks like, with all the little bubbles escaping out of the water into the air. Well, suppose back on Earth, the person that sewed your space suit together, had one of those. "no big deal, I'll just do good enough to get by," days, like you and I sometimes have. "No sense in working harder than I need to. Besides I'm saving my energy for the soccer match tonight." So maybe, you might have on the very space suit that

was made by that person, and their “Not my very best” efforts.

So you make your way outside the space station and your poorly made suit splits open and that one-third air pressure escapes in a flash. Your body instantly suffers Ebullism. That means because your body now has no air pressure protection, the fluids in you body boils just like that pan of water on the stove. There is no way you can get back into the safe air pressure of the airlock before you're dead.

Tell me, what would go through your mind, if you were that person that made that defective space suit, and not have done your best? It really is true, the lives of others depend on every young person doing their best, always.

An even better example of doing your best, happened on the Cross of Calvary. Heaven gave its best Sacrifice for your sin and mine, in the Person of Jesus Christ. More than that, is He gave His best by giving His life and shed blood (actually, according to prophecy.) The lesson of the Cross to every young person and those who lead them, is written in John 15:13: *13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

The bottom line here, is that we are expected to give our best to others – but more importantly, we are to give our best to God. That means, we are to recognize we are a sinner and in need of a sacrifice to pay for our sins. We are to recognize that Jesus Christ is the best sacrifice; the ONLY sacrifice sufficient to satisfy God. That's called redemption. We then, in prayer admit we are a sinner and we invite Him into our heart and accept His saving power, that lasts for an Eternity. There is greater detail on the back cover of this booklet.

Additional resources are found in:

SpaceAge Clubhouse, book 1 #303

SpaceAge Clubhouse, book 2 #304

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