

Dwelling in the Word

Dwelling in the Word is a simple practice of listening to scripture and one another in community. It draws on ancient traditions of the church.

Step 1: Read

- a. Ask for a volunteer to read the passage aloud. As the text is being read, invite people to be open to the Spirit through these questions:
 - *Where is your imagination caught? Are there words or phrases that grasp you?*
 - *Or Is there a question that you might want to ask a biblical scholar about the text?*
- b. Pause for a moment of silent reflection.

Step 2: Listen to One Another

- a. Find a partner, preferable a reasonably friendly-looking stranger.
- b. Each person has 2-3 minutes to share what she or he heard or wondered about in the text. The focus of attention here is to listen attentively to the other.
- c. After 2-3 minutes, switch around and listen to the other person.

Step 3: Listen Together

- a. After four of five minutes, come back together as a group.
- b. Invite people to share what they heard their *partner* saying (not their own questions or thoughts!). This is actually much harder than we might first imagine.
- c. End in prayer.

Luke 10:1-12

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹²I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

Dwelling in the World

Dwelling in the World is a simple practice of reflecting on God's movement in our daily lives in conversation with a partner.

Step 1: Reflect (several minutes in silence)

Reflect back on the previous week. When was there a time when you had an opportunity to share God's peace with someone? This could be a friend, stranger, colleague, neighbor, or family member.

Go back imaginatively into that encounter. What might God have been up to there?

If you were to reconnect with that person, what might God want to do?

Step 3: Share and Listen

Find a partner (preferably a reasonably friendly looking stranger!) and spend several minutes sharing your story and reflections.

Step 3: Regather and Listen

Those who feel so led may share their stories/wonderings/reflections with the larger group. Or, with permission from your partner, you may share your partner's story or highlights from it.