#### WELCOME!

LEARNING COMMUNITY INITIATIVE TRAINING DAY MARCH 2019

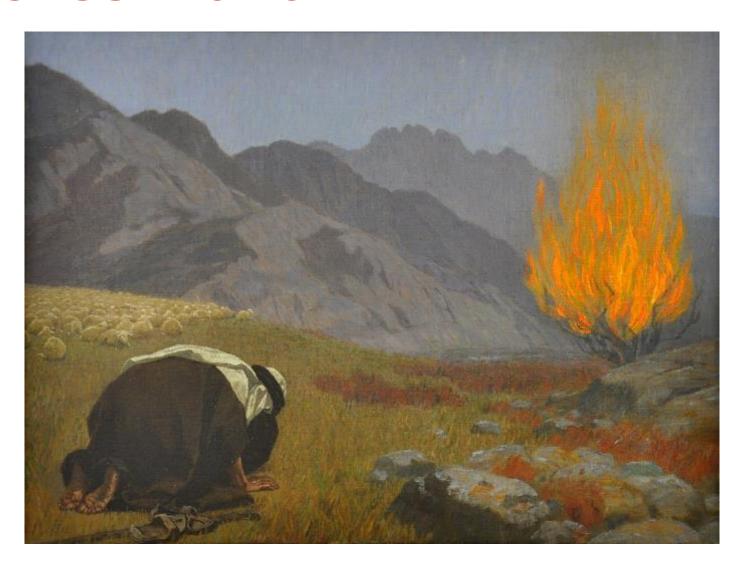
## INSIGHTFUL LEADERSHIP

BEGIN BY ASKING DIFFERENT QUESTIONS

FACILITATORS: DIOCESEAN COORDINATING TEAM

# LISTENING TO GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE

# DWELLING IN THE WORD EXODUS 2:23 – 3:12



#### **OVERVIEW**

Listen

•Try

Share

#### Listening as a Spiritual Practice

# Centering Prayer – A Spiritual Practice of Listening Within

- Sit Quietly
- Focus on Your Breath
- Say Your Prayer Word
- When Thoughts Come In
- Say your Prayer Word and Return to Center Letting the Thought Go
- Being Present with God

### ASKING GOD QUESTIONS

ASKING A
DIFFERENT
QUESTION:

WHAT
MIGHT
GOD BE UP
TO?



#### **EXAMPLES OF "GOD QUESTIONS"**

- What might God be up to?
- How is God already present (in the places you already live and spend time)?
- Where is there suffering (because we know God is there in Christ)?
- Where are people experiencing good news?
- Where is peace and reconciliation happening?
- Where are people being restored to right relationships?
- Where is the life giving energy that creates connections between people (because that's what the Holy Spirit does)?

#### WHAT MIGHT GOD BE UP TO?

And HOW CAN WE JOIN IN?

# LISTENING TO EACH OTHER'S STORIES

#### Listening to One Another's Stories

Share a story of a time when you were most spiritually engaged and energized in your experience of your local church.

- What was happening in your life during the time you felt most spiritually engaged?
- What energized you most during this time?
- How did the church play a role in this experience in your life?

### NAMING GOD'S ACTIVITY

#### Naming God's Activity

Take a few moments quietly to reflect on the story you shared. What might God have been up to in that experience? Jot down a few notes. (10 mins.)

- What do you think God might have been doing in this time in your life?
- Was God teaching you something?
- Was God reassuring or encouraging you?
- Was God challenging you? Inviting you into something?

## LISTENING PRACTICES

#### OARS: A Process for Active Listening

- O Observation and Open Ended Questions
- A Affirmation
- R Reflective Listening
- S Summarization

#### Listening Practices

We have three listening practices we'd like to invite you to participate in over the next three months.

- Listening to Scripture through Dwelling in the Word
- Listening to Your Neighborhood (God Sightings)
  - WHERE YOU LIVE, WHERE YOU WORK, WHERE YOU WORSHIP
- Listening to the Congregation (do what we just did with other people in your church)

#### Dwelling in the Word

- Learning to listen for God through Scripture together
- Getting comfortable naming what God might be saying

#### Dwelling in the Word

- Dwelling in the Word personally once per week
- Dwelling in the Word with your Guiding Team once per month
- Other examples include: committee meetings, choir, vestry, Bible study, book study

#### Listening to Your Neighborhood

What is my neighborhood?

- Where you work
  - Where you live
- Where you worship
  - Where you play

#### Listening to Your Neighborhood

Ways people experienced this in 2018





Listening to Your Neighborhood "Cod Sightings"

"God Sightings"







#### Listening to the Congregation

When have people in your parish felt most spiritually alive?

Here is a possible introduction to your conversation—"We are trying to learn about how people experience God in their everyday lives. So we're asking some people in our parish a few questions about their spiritual lives. Thanks for being willing to talk to me."

#### Listening to the Congregation

Reflect on a time when you would say you grew spiritually in a significant way.

- Describe what was happening in that period of your life.
- What was it about this time of your life that you think caused you to grow spiritually?
- Was there something during this time of your life that you think God was trying to teach you or show you?
- Where do you experience God's presence most often now? (i.e. in worship, in nature, in conversation with friends/family, in prayer, in Bible study, at yoga, etc.)

#### Listening to the Congregation

- Listen to 8-10 people in the congregation
- Get other people involved in doing the listening work, don't do it all as the Guiding Team
- Take notes on what people say
- Look for ways in which God is working in the lives of people in your parish
- Listening interviews with community leaders and neighbors

#### Going Deeper

- Dwelling in the Word: Invite other committees, teams, and groups to practice dwelling in.
- Walk: Invite a community leader to be your guide on a neighborhood walk.
- Listen to Others: Interview neighbors and community leaders using the instructions provided in Training Handout.

## YOUR ASSIGNMENT

#### Next 40 minutes

- Set dates to meet in March, April, and May. Include your coach.
- Brainstorm ways to spend time listening to scripture individually and together.
   Write down your plan. Use Exodus 2:23-3:2.
- Brainstorm ways to invite the Congregation to walk your neighborhood looking for "God Sightings" twice a month. Assign persons to take pictures, notes, and post pics to Facebook.
- Plan a way to interview persons in your congregation and/or your neighborhood using the instructions and questions provided in the resource packet.
- Optional: Is there a ministry that your team is passionate about that you could use these listening practices to deepen your understanding of that ministry area?

#### YOUR ASSIGNMENT

**GATHER** 

**DWELL** 

WALK

LISTEN TO OTHERS

# WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK TODAY?

#### **NEXT TRAININGS**

Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>