

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

“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 1st

Saturday, September 28th