

## Dwelling in the Word – How To

*Dwelling in the Word* is a simple exercise that is rooted in the traditions of the church. It is a practice in which all the people of God can participate. It helps to cultivate and nourish a community rooted in listening to God and each other through Scripture.

### 1. Read

- a. Ask for two volunteers (male and female) to each read the passage aloud
- b. Invite people to be open to the Spirit through these questions:
  - i. *Where do you find yourself stopping or being caught in this text?*
  - ii. *How was your imagination engaged by this text—words, phrases, or ideas?*
  - iii. *In what ways might the Spirit of God might be speaking to you, to us, to our congregation?*
- c. First reader shares the text, followed by a brief time of silence
- d. Read the questions again
- e. Second reader shares the text, followed by a longer period of silence

### 2. Listen

- a. Find a partner. Where possible, consider someone you might not usually spend time with or do not know. Sit in a comfortable place together where you can hear one another.
- b. Each person has several minutes to respond to the questions. You may want to ask a question or two in order to understand what your partner is saying and take notes to capture his/her reflections. The focus of attention here is to listen attentively to the other.
- c. After several minutes, switch roles with the other person listening.

### 3. Listen Together

- a. After about ten minutes, reconvene as a whole 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! Rather than listen closely, the temptation is to anticipate what the other will say or jump in and share one's own thoughts.
- c. Wonder together as a group if there might be any specific ways the Spirit was speaking to us through the text.

## Dwelling in the Word Resources—The Text

### Text (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. He 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. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace to this house!” And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain 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. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.” But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, “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.” I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

### Questions:

- a. Where did you find yourself stopping or being caught in this text?
- b. How was your imagination engaged by this text—words, phrases, or ideas?
- c. Where might the Spirit of God be speaking to you, to us, to our congregation?