



Handout - 9/30/17



**Living Local: Joining God  
Diocese of Maine  
Saturday, September 30, 2017**

Gathering

Introductions

- Welcoming
- Framing the day – Guiding Teams/Clergy/Coaches

Dwelling in the Word together: Luke 10:1-12

Reporting:

- Diocesan Staff and TMN
- Guiding Teams
  - What have you been doing since we were last together?
  - What has gone well?
  - What has been challenging?

Break

Reflection:

- What are we hearing/learning?
- Naming where we are

Lunch

Next Steps

- Designing the GT work over the next several months – working listening questions
- Role of coaches/clergy over the next several months

**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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> '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.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

1. Where did your imagination stop?
2. Are there words, phrases, ideas that grasp you?
3. How do you think the Spirit of God might be nudging you?



## LISTENING TO PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

What is meant by neighborhood? Your neighborhood is where you go about most of your daily living. It would include places where you buy groceries, your local library, community centre and the street or complex where you live; places where you regularly come in contact with people who are part of the community that you call home.

In the course of everyday living, we often find ourselves in situations where there are natural opportunities to chat with the people we encounter. For example, perhaps you walk your children (or grandchildren) to school and spend time waiting outside the classroom for the children to be dismissed. Who else stands there with you? Do you wait for a bus to get you to work? Do you have a favorite coffee shop you visit often? What are some other conversation opportunities in your daily living?

Whatever this looks like for you, the intention is that you listen to people you may recognize from regular interaction but don't know as well as friends or family. As you meet people in your neighborhood, here are some questions you might ask:

- How long have you lived in the neighborhood?
- In the time you have lived here, what changes have you noticed?
- Can you tell me a story about the neighborhood that you think characterizes this area?

The goal of this activity is not simply to complete it. Instead, the purpose is for you to engage with others, without agenda, simply to learn a bit about who they are and what their perspectives might be of your neighborhood. Feel free to let the conversation go where it will but try your best to listen to what the other person is saying. You may want to make some notes afterwards as a way to capture what you have heard.

So, why are we doing this? We are doing this because the clues to where God might already be at work can be found in the people that we meet. In order to uncover those clues, we need to be paying attention to what God might be trying to say to us through the voices of others. Just as God can be revealed by listening to what another has to say through the practice of Dwelling in the Word, so, too, might God be revealed through listening to the voices of those we encounter in our daily living.