

## LIVING LOCAL JOINING GOD

Saturday, February 17, 2018

PURPOSE: To take our “listening stories” and turn them into “action experiments.”

10:00 a.m. Dwelling in the Word: Acts 16

10:30 a.m. Sharing Our Listening Stories

- A. Meeting in our Guiding Teams, we’ll use the questions below to raise up one or two stories to share with the larger group.
  - a. You’ve been invited to reflect on our work and bring to the meeting today *one listening experience/story* from the past several months. Reflecting on your story, share within your Guiding Team:
    - i. What did you learn from the person you listened to/about yourself?
    - ii. Where do you think God might be nudging you to some actions?
  - b. As the stories are shared, capture the themes, ideas, specifics on the newsprint
- B. After listening to each team member’s story, decide which story you would like to share with the whole gathering, and using a second sheet of newsprint, sketch out the learnings and include:
  - a. What have we learned as a Guiding Team?
  - b. What surprises us as a Guiding Team?
  - c. Where is God nudging us or what is God inviting us, as a Guiding Team, to pay attention to?
- C. Each team will share its story with the other Guiding Teams (stories are placed on newsprint around the room)

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Process: How do we reflect on our stories and, taking what we’ve learned, turn the “story” into an experiment?

1:30 p.m. Guiding Teams work in groups to frame a tentative experiment, which they will do over the next five weeks

2:00 p.m. Each Guiding Team shares its experiment and receives a brief response from the larger group in regard to clarifying questions

2:50 p.m. Next Steps and Closing

3:00 p.m. Adjournment

## Dwelling in the Word

### Acts 16:6-15

<sup>6</sup> Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

<sup>11</sup> From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. <sup>12</sup> From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. <sup>15</sup> When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

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?

## Developing a Simple Experiment

The first steps are listening through Dwelling in the Word and sharing listening stories.

**Purpose:** Design a simple experiment, grounded in our listening story, that helps us listen and dwell more deeply with people rather than being focused on “helping” or “meeting needs”.

1. As we look at the listening story we want to engage together, what are some simple **actions** we might want to take over the next 5 weeks?
  
2. Based on this list, look at connections, common ideas or actions and name together one action we want to begin with.
  
3. What do we imagine we might **learn** as a result of this action?
  
4. What are our **steps**?
  - ....
  - ....
  - ....
  - ....
  - ....
  
5. Who will do what, when and where?

6. What is our **feedback** method? (How will we collect information on what we have done?)

7. The timeline to complete this experiment is not more than 5 weeks. The following maps out our actions to get us to our 5-week completion date.

Timeline	Activities
Week 1	
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	
Week 5	