



Dwelling in the Word

**PARTNERSHIP FOR
MISSIONAL CHURCH**

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Dwelling in the Word is a way of listening communally to Scripture that is rooted in the church's tradition; it bears some resemblance to Lectio Divina, but is different in that we pay attention to other people's voices as we listen together. Dwelling is used within the Partnership for Missional Church process, which some churches across the Diocese are currently undertaking. How we Dwell is deceptively simple. It is focused on hearing God speak through the Scriptures and each other, by God's Spirit. Those who use this practice regularly have often found it profoundly helpful.

How we Dwell in the Word

- Listen carefully as the passage is read. Notice where your attention is drawn to a word or a phrase where your mind lingers
- Find a person you do not know, or know less well, a 'reasonably friendly-looking stranger'.
- Listen to that person without interrupting as he or she tells you what they heard in the passage. They may mention something they'd never heard before, something odd, something comforting, or something about which they'd like to find out more.
- Listen well, because your job will be to report to the rest of the group what your partner has said, not what you yourself said. Some people even take notes to help them focus and remember.
- The person leading Dwelling will let you know how long you have to talk and listen to each other. It can help to keep an eye on the clock so that both of you get a chance to be heard!

A Prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,
we thank you for one another
and for gathering us together today.
As we seek to follow you,
help us to hear you now
through one another
and through your Holy Word.
In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

John 4: 7-15

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Dwelling in the Word can be a great way to start a PCC or other church meeting, or to use as an alternative in the sermon slot.

Partnership for Missional Church

is a three year process from Church Mission Society that gives churches a framework and resources to help them listen attentively to God and their community and decide what God might be calling them to be and do.

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