

# Listening to One Another's Stories

*Pages 1-2 outline a simple 60-minute event that will more deeply connect people to God and to each other.*

Listening to each other is an essential practice for learning to ask different questions. As we learn to listen to each other well, we also increase our capacity to hear what God might be saying to us as well.

Think of a story...of a time when you either knew or felt that God was close to you. *(5 minutes...feel free to take notes below)*

*Questions to prompt your thinking:*

- What was happening in your life during this time?*
- What other people played a role in this experience?*

Now, pair up with someone and share your stories *(5 minutes each)*

*Important note: We will then share highlights from our partner's story (things that caught our attention) with the large group. So before you wrap up, make sure to check in with your partner to see if there are parts of their story they do not want repeated to the large group...this is absolutely fine.*

# Naming God's Activity Exercise

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.

*(5 minutes)*

- What do you think God might have been doing in this time in your life?
- In what way was God teaching you something?
- In what way was God reassuring or encouraging you?
- In what way was God challenging you or inviting you into something?

Pair back up and share what you think God might have been up to.

*(5 minutes each)*

Share at your table what you heard your partner say. *(15 minutes)*

We will take time to share as a large group some of what you heard at your tables. *(10 minutes)*

# Listen to Others

Assignment: Ask people in your congregation about when they have felt most spiritually alive. Write down some notes you can share with your team.

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 congregation a few questions about their spiritual lives. Thanks for being willing to talk to me.”*

**Reflect on a time in your life when you would say you grew spiritually. 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?**

**What do you think God might have been up to during this time in your life?**

*(Examples: Was God encouraging you, teaching you, leading you, comforting you, grounding you? What language would you use?)*

**Where do you experience God’s presence most often now?**