

Adventures in Renewal

Listen. Learn. Be Transformed.



Greater Milwaukee Synod

Dwelling in the Word

Dwelling in the Word is an ancient way of reading the Scripture.

It is a way of spiritually submitting to the text as one way God speaks to us, with a willingness to be shaped by what God might want to say through the Scripture.

In this way, we are being interpreted by the text together as we listen to it.

Three questions guide our listening:

1. What do you notice in this passage? / What caught your attention?
2. What questions does this passage create for you?
(Not to answer; just to name)
3. What might the Spirit be nudging us to consider through this passage?

The process of dwelling in a particular text is as follows.

It is often helpful to give each participant a copy of the scripture, and a pen/pencil.

Listen to the Word

1. Pray that God would speak to us.
2. Have one voice read the text, slowly enough that folks can follow.
3. Hold a time of silence. *(Maybe set a time for 2-3 minutes).*
4. Have a second voice read the passage again.
5. Again, hold a time of silence. *(Maybe set a time for 2-3 minutes).*

Listen to Someone Else

6. Find one person you can share your thoughts about the text with, a “reasonably friendly looking stranger,” or someone you don’t know well.
7. Spend 5 minutes each sharing your responses to the discussion questions.

Share with the Group

8. Share with the group what you heard your partner* say. *(*This is key!)*
If in a large group, you could share at tables first.
9. Group discussion: **What might God be saying to us as a group?**
10. Group discussion: **What did we notice about this time of sharing?**

Dwelling in the Word



Acts 16:6-15

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. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 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.

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

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. 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. 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.

Questions:

What do you notice in this passage? What caught your attention?

What questions does this passage create for you?

(Just name them, don't seek immediate answers!)

What might the Spirit be nudging us to consider through this passage?