

Adventures in Renewal

Listen. Learn. Be Transformed.



Greater Milwaukee Synod

Naming God's Activity

The "Verbs" Exercise

This simple exercise can help the members of your church begin to name where they are seeing God in the world, in each other, and in the stories they share.

Materials Needed:

1. A chalkboard, whiteboard, easel or large sticky notes (so call can see)
2. Markers

Step 1: Introduce the exercise this way:

"We are going to try to come up with as many verbs as we can that describe what God does in the scriptures!"

Step 2: Ask the group to think of their favorite or most well-known Bible stories.

For each one, help them name (and then write on the board) verbs *in "-ing" form*.

Examples:

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|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. "Adam & Eve" | Write down "creating" | (God was creating...) |
| | Write down "breathing" | (God breathed into them...) |
| | Write down "giving a partner" | (God gave them to each other) |
| b. "The Exodus" | Write down "saving" | (God saved them from Egypt) |
| | Write down "leading" | (God was leading them...) |
| c. "Lazarus" | Write down "weeping" | (Jesus wept with them...) |
| | Write down "raising up" | (Jesus raised Lazarus...) |

Notes:

- Once a few people speak up, the group will get into it!
- Help them name as many different verbs as they can (multiple from one story is fine!)
- Some Bible stories are hard stories and yield hard verbs (ex: "judging")
Don't shy away from them. Write them on the board, too.
- Keep going until you have a LOT of verbs up on the board/paper.
- This exercise is particularly helpful to do right before the "Listening to One Another's Stories" exercise, as it helps us begin to think about what God *might* have been doing in the stories we share, and in the stories we hear from others.
- This is helpful as we practice naming "what God might be nudging us to consider."

Step 3: Leave this paper up for discussion(s) of "what God might be doing" in our lives, or in the community. Take pictures of this so you can keep referring back to it later.