

## Dwelling in the Word

Dwelling in the Word is an ancient way of reading the Scripture and discerning God's voice as a group. It is a way of spiritually submitting to the text as one of the ways 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.

1. We will begin with a prayer, inviting the Spirit to guide our attending to the Word of God.
2. We will turn to the scripture passage (below), beginning with one person reading this passage aloud to the group. We will allow some silence to unfold as people let the words have their impact, and then a second person will read the text.
3. Next, we will listen to one another:
  - Find a person in the group you know least well (we call this person a “reasonably friendly-looking stranger”).
  - Listen that person into free speech as he or she tells you what they heard in the passage, answering one of three questions:
    - What captured your imagination?
    - What question does this text raise for you?
    - What do you think God is saying to you/us in this passage?You don't have to answer all three questions.
  - 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. Note-taking is OK.
4. Then, we share in a group, reporting what your partner shared with you. Ask, “What might God might be up to in the passage for us today?”

Acts 16:6-15. [Paul and his companions] went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.