

Dwelling in the Word

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

- What caught your attention?
- What question would you want to ask?
- What are we hearing in this text (where might the Spirit be nudging us?)

The process of Dwelling in the Word is as follows:

- Listen to the Word together
- Pray that God would speak to us.
- Read the text aloud, slowly.
- Allow for silence.
- Read the text aloud with a new voice.
- Allow for silence.

Listen to Someone Else

- Find one person you can share your thoughts about the text with, a “reasonably friendly looking stranger,” someone you maybe don’t know well.
- Spend 4-5 minutes each sharing about what caught your imagination, or a question you have, or what you think the Spirit might be saying.

Share in a Group

- Share in a group of 6-8 people what you heard your conversation partner say.

What might God be saying to us as a group? What are you hearing?

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Genesis 18: 1-8 (NIV)

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way – now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say." So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread." Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

Questions:

What catches your attention in this passage?

What questions does this passage create for you?

What do you think God might be saying to you as a group through this passage?