

Dwelling in the Word

Luke 10:1-12

Write your thoughts and reflections, or the thoughts and reflections of your partner, here.

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹²I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

HERE ARE THE STEPS for Dwelling in the Word:

1. Start with a prayer, inviting the Spirit to guide your attending to the Word of God.
2. Turn to Luke 10:1-12. Later you may choose your own passage, a story related to the story of the group's work. But start with Luke 10:1-12, because it works for many people all over the world – it is a good starting place. Have Bibles or copies of the passage available. Set aside without apology at least 20 minutes for this activity.
3. Begin with one person reading this passage aloud to the group. Then allow some silence to unfold as people let the words have their impact.
4. Next, instruct folks in this way:
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.

Listen that person into one of two questions:

- 1) What captured your imagination? or
- 2) What question would you like to ask a Biblical scholar?

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.

5. Then, turn folks loose with their partners for 6-10 minutes. Notice how they pay attention to one another. When you draw them back together, ask for them to tell what they learned from their partners.
6. Then, wrestle together as a group. Ask, “What might God be up to in the passage for us today?”

Let people know that, as your conversation on other matters continues, anyone at any time may call for the Gospel, and the group will return to the passage once again.

Taylor Ellison, Pat and Keifert, Patrick, 2011. *Dwelling in the Word: a pocket handbook*, St Paul MN, Church Innovations, pp 7-8