

Lord, Show Us the Way Dwelling in the Word

About 'Dwelling in the Word'

Dwelling in the Word is a way of asking God to guide and inform us through prayerful reflection on Holy Scripture. It can be used at the beginning of meetings. It can also be used as a basic structure for a Bible Study and Prayer Meeting.

How to Use 'Dwelling in the Word'

At a Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Step One:

Before you start, ask two people to help you. Give them the Scripture passage in advance and ask them to be ready to read it aloud to the group. (You may find the 10 Top Tips leaflet on reading Scripture helpful with this.)

Step Two:

When you have gathered as a group, welcome everyone and wait for silence. When you are ready to start, ask your first helper to read the passage out loud. Ask the group to spend some minutes in silence, reflecting on what words or passages have 'leapt out' for them during this first reading.

Step Three:

Ask your second helper to read the passage out loud a second time. Now ask the group to spend some minutes discussing their reactions with their neighbour.

Step Four:

As a whole group, consider the questions provided with the passage and any other thoughts that emerge from the discussion.

Step Five:

At the end, read the passage one last time yourself. Say the 'Prayer for Guidance':

Heavenly Father,
we pray for your guidance.
Help us to see clearly the path you have prepared for us.
Give us a godly ambition
and confident faith in your power to transform lives.
Lord, show us the way.
We ask in Jesus' name and for his sake.
Amen

At the Start of a Meeting

As above but omitting step four.

Feedback your reflections

We would be very grateful if you would record the group's reflections and feedback the results of the reflections using the feedback methods on the 'Lord, Show Us the Way' webpage once they are available on the Diocese of Lincoln website.

**DWELLING IN THE WORD PASSAGES
BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE**

The Sending of the Seventy

The Bible Passage

LUKE 10:1-12

After 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. He 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. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace to this house!” And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain 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. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.” But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, “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.” I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.’

Questions for Reflection

- Is what Jesus asks of the Seventy easy?
- What does the phrase “The Kingdom of God has come near you” mean? For the Seventy? For us today?
- What is Jesus sending us to do? As a local church? As a Local Mission Partnership? As a Diocese?

The Works of the Flesh and the Fruit of the Spirit

The Bible Passage

GALATIANS 5:16-26

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Questions for Reflection

- How well does the list of “the fruit of the Spirit” describe us? As a local church? As a Local Mission Partnership? As a Diocese?
- What does the phrase “live by the Spirit” mean in practice? What must we *do*?
- Are any of “the works of the flesh” a particular problem in our local church? How can we, with God’s help, set them aside?

Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

The Bible Passage

PROVERBS 3:1-12

My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;
for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them round your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
So you will find favour and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
It will be a healing for your flesh
and a refreshment for your body.

Honour the LORD with your substance
and with the first fruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

My child, do not despise the LORD'S discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the LORD reproves the one he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Questions for Reflection

- Day by day, do we prefer to rely on our own insight, or trust in God?
- What does the phrase "The LORD reproves the one he loves" mean?
- What practical things can we do to put our trust in God's wisdom and guidance? As a local church? As a Local Mission Partnership? As a Diocese?

A Lamp to Our Feet and a Light to Our Path

The Bible Passage

PSALM 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.
I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me your ordinances.
I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.
The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.
Your decrees are my heritage for ever;
they are the joy of my heart.
I incline my heart to perform your statutes
for ever, to the end.

Questions for Reflection

- The image of a “lamp to my feet” hints at a journey, possibly in the dark. Does that resonate with your experience of the life of faith?
- What does the phrase “Your decrees are my heritage for ever” mean?
- What practical steps can we take to allow the light of God’s word to guide us into the future? As a local church? As a Local Mission Partnership? As a Diocese?