

Dwelling in Scripture Together as a Diocesan Household

2021-2022

You are invited to join together with the whole diocesan household to dwell in scripture together this year. We have selected a text for each season and ask that every meeting or other gathering in the diocese begin with either Dwelling in the Word or Gospel-Based Discipleship using the text for that season.

As we move through this year of dwelling in scripture together, may God form us more fully into the image of God's son Jesus, so that everything we do together might point to God's dream of Beloved Community, and so that we might witness boldly that there is no greater force for change and healing in the heavens or earth than the fountain of God's endless love.

Dwelling in the Word Instructions

Listen and Reflect

1. One person reads the entire passage appointed for the current season out loud.
2. Ask people to be open to the Spirit through these questions:
Where was your imagination sparked in this text?
What word or phrase leapt out?
Is there something you'd like to ask a biblical scholar about?
3. Another person reads the passage aloud again.
4. Invite people to ponder the questions. Take 3 - 5 minutes for quiet reflection.
5. Pair off with a reasonably friendly stranger in the room. Introduce yourselves, and share: What did you hear God saying to you?
6. Invite people to regather and to share with the broader group what they heard their partner say. (This is the hard part! And this is where we build our capacity for listening.)

Adapted from: Dwelling in the Word

Gospel-Based Discipleship Instructions

1. One person reads the entire passage appointed for the current season out loud. Consider and discuss the question: *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out to you?*
2. Read the passage again. Consider and discuss the question: *What is Jesus/the passage saying to you?*
3. Read the passage a third time. Consider and discuss the question: *What is Jesus/the passage calling you to do?*

Adapted from: A Disciple's Prayer Book

Dwelling in Scripture Texts

2021-2022

Late Pentecost 2021

John 15: 1-11

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

Advent

Matthew 4:17-22

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Epiphany

Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Lent

Isaiah 58:6-12

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator[a] shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Easter

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Pentecost

John 15:12-17

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”