



DWELLING IN THE WORD

*This process has been developed by Church Innovations
(www.churchinnovations.org) as a practice of missional churches.
We use it today to help us listen to one another and to God.*

We invite the Holy Spirit in prayer to open our ears, hearts and minds. **We listen** to the passage read out loud and notice where our attention is drawn – a verse, phrase or single word. **We then remain in silence** for a minute or two, staying with the place in the passage that stood out for us.

Luke 10:1–12

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.

⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ 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. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But 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.’ ¹² I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.”

- 1** We each find a person in the group whom we might call “a reasonably friendly-looking stranger”.
- 2** We listen to that person as he or she says what they heard in the passage in a particular verse, phrase or even single word. They may mention something they’d never heard before, something odd or something comforting, or something about which they’d like to ask a Bible scholar.
- 3** Listen well, because your job will be to report to the rest of the group (in fours, sixes or the whole group) what your partner has said, not what you yourself said. Some people even take notes to help them focus and remember. You introduce your partner by name to the group and share what you heard them say, each one takes their turn when they are ready to speak.
- 4** If there is time a conversation develops around what God is saying to us today from the themes arising in the whole group.