



Dwelling in the Word 2022

Philippians 4:4-13
NRSV

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Dwelling in the Word is grounded in the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*: we hear a passage and, guided by the Holy Spirit, see where our attention is drawn. The differences with Dwelling are that we also listen to what has struck others in the passage and that we are encouraged to remain with the same passage over a year. With so much scripture to explore and learn from, this can see a strange idea, but experience shows us that it can be a profound experience, which helps build us up as Christian community. We invite you to join others across the diocese in Dwelling in the passage in 2022.

Guidance for leading Dwelling in the Word

- Begin with the prayer on the back of the leaflet.
- Ideally find two different people to read the passage.
- Tell people what they are doing *before* they hear the passage — often people need reassurance that this is not a test of Bible knowledge but just seeing where their attention is drawn.
- After the passage has been read twice slowly, remind people what they are doing and send them into pairs— ideally a ‘friendly-looking stranger’ but possibly just the person they are next to.
- They share in their pairs what they noticed. Each person should speak without being interrupted and both need time to speak. They will be reporting back what their partner said, not what they noticed. It is not a memory test, so notes are fine!
- After pairs, depending on your group size, you can get people to feed back in fours or to the whole group.
- Finish either with a prayer or some reflection on the practice.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:4-13

A Prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,
Though our destination is not yet clear,
May we trust in Your graceful promises;
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,
May we be rooted in Your loving regard;
Though our attention is inclined to wander,
May we hear the things You are saying;
Though we often neglect Your influence,
May we be convicted of Your power to change,
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

At the end:

Loving God,
We thank you that we are able to listen to you
Through scripture and each other.
Help us to hold your words in our hearts.
We ask you to bless us
In all that we are, and say, and do.
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Dwelling in the Word can be a good way to start a PCC, Synod or other church meeting. It can also work in the sermon slot.

www.bathandwells.org/dwelling

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