

Script for leading Dwelling in the Word

Note: the words in italics are instructions for you.

Leader introduces Dwelling by saying:

- *Dwelling in the Word* is a simple practice that is rooted in the traditions of the church.
- It is a way of listening to God in Scripture that shapes our imagination. When we dwell in the same scripture repeatedly over a significant period of time, the text begins to live in us as we live in the text.
- This is not a bible study. All that's required is the scripture, questions for reflection and a willingness to share your experience with others.
- Today, we dwell in Luke 10:1-12 from the Common English Bible. This text is about mission, describing Jesus sending 70 ordinary people to all the towns and villages where he himself intended to go.

Leader continues and offers instructions to the group:

Leader says:

- We need two readers, one male and one female.
- After the first reader reads the scripture all the way through, we will pause and I will remind you of the questions.
- After the second reader completes the reading, I will invite you to find a reasonably friendly stranger, pair up, and share for three minutes each something from those questions.
- Your goal is to listen attentively to what your partner is saying, so that you can share it with the larger group. You may want to take notes.

Signal the first reader to begin reading.

After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest. ³ Go! Be warned, though, that I'm sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Carry no wallet, no bag, and no sandals. Don't even greet anyone along the way. ⁵ Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'May peace be on this house.' ⁶ If anyone there shares God's peace, then your peace will rest on that person. If not, your blessing will return to you. ⁷ Remain in this house, eating and drinking whatever they set before you, for workers deserve their pay. Don't move from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a city and its people welcome you, eat what they set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, 'God's kingdom has come upon you.' ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a city and the people don't welcome you, go out into the streets and say, ¹¹ 'As a complaint against you, we brush off the dust of your city that has collected on our feet. But know this: God's kingdom has come to you.' ¹² I assure you that Sodom will be better off on Judgment Day than that city.

After the first reader finishes pause for a minute, then remind them of the questions in this way:

Leader says:

As you reflect on the reading...

Where did your imagination stop?

Are there words, phrases, ideas that grasp you?

How do you think the Spirit of God might be nudging you?

Ask the second reader to read the text all the way through.

After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest. ³ Go! Be warned, though, that I'm sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Carry no wallet, no bag, and no sandals. Don't even greet anyone along the way. ⁵ Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'May peace be on this house.' ⁶ If anyone there shares God's peace, then your peace will rest on that person. If not, your blessing will return to you. ⁷ Remain in this house, eating and drinking whatever they set before you, for workers deserve their pay. Don't move from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a city and its people welcome you, eat what they set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, 'God's kingdom has come upon you.' ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a city and the people don't welcome you, go out into the streets and say, ¹¹ 'As a complaint against you, we brush off the dust of your city that has collected on our feet. But know this: God's kingdom has come to you.' ¹² I assure you that Sodom will be better off on Judgment Day than that city.

After the second reader finishes, pause for a minute.

Leader says:

Find a reasonably friendly stranger and share for three minutes each your responses to the questions.

Watch time and after three minutes tell them to allow the other person to share.

Call them back after six or so minutes and ask for volunteers to introduce their partner and share what their partner said.

After an allotted time, close the Dwelling exercise in this way:

- Thank you for engaging in this ancient practice. Dwelling helps us re-enter the biblical narrative.
- As we practice Dwelling, we also practice listening deeply to God and to each other.
- As a group engages in Dwelling together, it can form a shared sense of the challenges facing us and shape our imagination.