

Dwelling in the Word- Process

- 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 will be exploring verses from Acts 10:1-8 and 9-16 through two different voices and translations.

There are three questions that guide our listening during Dwelling in the Word.

(Have these written on newsprint and read through twice)

1. What caught your attention?
2. What questions would you want to ask? (What wonderings do you have?)
3. What might God be saying to you and to us as we listen to this text today?

The process of dwelling in a particular Scripture text is as follows:

- Read the text, slowly
- Allow for silence and spend time marking words or phrases that caught your attention
- Read again
- Spend time in silence reflecting on the three questions
- Reflect together

Before you begin, you'll want to find two volunteers with different voices to read the text out loud. When you're ready to read the text, pray and invite God to speak to the group through the text that you are about to read. Then, have the first volunteer read the text in its entirety out loud to the team. Allow some silence for reflection and invite the group to mark words or phrases that caught their attention. After the second reading, in silence, invite the participants to consider the three questions.

After the second period of silence, go through each question one at a time and capture people's answers. You might even choose someone to record some of the things people say on newsprint in order to create a visual of the whole group's dwelling insights. Don't feel the pressure to answer questions or to explain away anything that anybody said. The point is to hear everyone's voice and to allow everyone to speak and say, "here's what we think God might be saying to us in the course of this dwelling."

The Courageous Conversations writing team suggests that you to use the same scripture of Acts 10:9-16 and Acts 19-28. You may choose to read this scripture in its entirety at all sessions or use the first section for half the sessions and the second section for the other sessions. We encourage you to use more than one translation for the Dwelling in the Word process.

Acts 10:9-16, 19-28 New Revised Standard Version updated edition

⁹ About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while it was being prepared he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." ¹⁵ The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are searching for you. ²⁰ Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation, for I have sent them." ²¹ So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?" ²² They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish people, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." ²³ So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers and sisters from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ On Peter's arrival, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled, ²⁸ and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is improper for a Jew to associate with or to visit an outsider, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean."

Acts 10:9-16, 19-28 Common English Bible

⁹ At noon on the following day, as their journey brought them close to the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted to eat. While others were preparing the meal, he had a visionary experience. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened up and something like a large linen sheet being lowered to the earth by its four corners. ¹² Inside the sheet were all kinds of four-legged animals, reptiles, and wild birds. ¹³ A voice told him, "Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!" ¹⁴ Peter exclaimed, "Absolutely not, Lord! I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." ¹⁵ The voice spoke a second time, "Never consider unclean what God has made pure." ¹⁶ This happened three times, then the object was suddenly pulled back into heaven.

¹⁹ While Peter was brooding over the vision, the Spirit interrupted him, "Look! Three people are looking for you. ²⁰ Go downstairs. Don't ask questions; just go with them because I have sent them." ²¹ So Peter went downstairs and told them, "I'm the one you are looking for. Why have you come?" ²² They replied, "We've come on behalf of Cornelius, a centurion and righteous man, a God-worshipper who is well-respected by all Jewish people. A holy angel directed him to summon you to his house and to hear what you have to say." ²³ Peter invited them into the house as his guests. The next day he got up and went with them, together with some of the believers from Joppa. ²⁴ They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Anticipating their arrival, Cornelius had gathered his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in order to honor him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Get up! Like you, I'm just a human." ²⁷ As they continued to talk, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them, "You all realize that it is forbidden for a Jew to associate or visit with outsiders. However, God has shown me that I should never call a person impure or unclean."