

## ***Dwelling in the Word — A Missional Practice***

*Missional practices: cultivating new understandings, ways of being, and living Christ's mission.*

**Purpose:** To listen to God and to one another to hear and discover in new ways God's direction by reading scripture and posing questions. "Dwelling in the Word" is a missional practice based on our understanding that God continues to speak to us in the context of our day and calling. Listen for God's voice or sense God's presence in scripture to connect with God's mission in Christ. Listen to the voices of others about what God is doing in their lives. This practice is not about gaining information about scripture. Dwelling in the Word is about imagining how God is calling and sending us to *embody and live the concerns and passion of Christ* in our communities and the world.

### **Steps:**

Pre-select a scripture passage **and** form a question(s)\* for reflection to explore and discover where God is leading you.

Gather in the spirit of fellowship taking time to pray for one another.

Provide a copy of the scripture passage and the questions to allow participants to hear and read them for reflection (see page three for an illustration of a selected scripture and questions).

The person designated to lead:

- Asks participants to listen for or sense a particular word, phrase or image in the scripture passage that they feel led to explore or wonder about.
- Reads the scripture passage and provides a moment of silence for reflection.
- Asks participants to share reflections on what aspect of the scripture they were drawn to explore or wonder about.
- Before reading the scripture a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, asks participants to reflect on a specific question(s) that focuses their attention.
- Reads the passage a second time; pauses for silence; and asks people to share their responses to the question(s).
- Offers prayer to conclude the time in this missional practice or to transition to another activity.

### **Tips for the Process:**

Be patient. Take time for being with and deepening relationships with one another. Listen to, affirm, and encourage one another. Be open and allow moments of silence for the reading of scripture to transform our understanding and our way of being and doing. Do not let this

become an intellectual exercise which will limit the transformative impact of this practice. If someone wishes to remain silent, that is acceptable. It is important to remember that the reflections are to be personal and not become an exercise in biblical interpretation. Like any practice, this will take time to fully understand.