

Dwelling in the Word – Psalm 27

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? ♦
The Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
came upon me to eat up my flesh, ♦
they stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though a host encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid, ♦
and though there rise up war against me,
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord
and that alone I seek: ♦
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
- 5 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord ♦
and to seek his will in his temple.
- 6 For in the day of trouble
he shall hide me in his shelter; ♦
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me
and set me high upon a rock.
- 7 And now shall he lift up my head ♦
above my enemies round about me;
- 8 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation
with great gladness; ♦
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 9 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; ♦
have mercy upon me and answer me.
- 10 My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' ♦
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
- 11 Hide not your face from me, ♦
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.
- 12 You have been my helper; ♦
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 13 Though my father and my mother forsake me, ♦
the Lord will take me up.
- 14 Teach me your way, O Lord; ♦
lead me on a level path,
because of those who lie in wait for me.
- 15 Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, ♦
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and those who breathe out violence.
- 16 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord ♦
in the land of the living.
- 17 Wait for the Lord;
be strong and he shall comfort your heart; ♦
wait patiently for the Lord.

How to dwell in the Word

Dwelling in the Word is a process that many people in the Diocese of Oxford are using to listen to scripture, to each other and to God. It's not about sharing information or seeking scholarly answers or even the right answers to the issues raised in the text, but it is about listening each other into free speech and discerning what God is up to amongst us.

Have copies of this sheet available at every meeting so that the Psalm overleaf can be read by different people each time you meet. You should set aside, without apology, at least 20 minutes for this activity. Dwelling in the Word is far from magical or formulaic; it won't solve all the problems or answer all the questions, difficulties and issues your group, council or committee has to address. However, over time, this discipline forms a community of the Holy Spirit, where the Spirit is as welcome and expected a presence as anyone else there.

- Start with prayer inviting the Spirit to guide your attending to the Word of God.
- When everyone is ready, begin with one person reading the passage out loud to the group.
- Now let some silence unfold as people let the words have their impact. Notice where your attention lingers. This might be a word or a phrase.
- Ask a second person to read the passage out loud once more.
- Each person in the group finds someone they know less well and listens to that person as they describe what they heard in the passage. What captured their imagination in the passage and what would they like to find out more about? Each person should listen well as they will be asked to report back to the rest of the group (or another pairing if you're a large group) what their partner said.

- What have you heard that might be significant? Discuss as a group what God might be up to in the passage for your group on that day. It can be helpful for the facilitator to make a brief note of what she or he hears from the group and to capture that in a short prayer at the end.
- Finally, let people know that as your conversation on other matters continues, anyone at any time may call for the Gospel and the group will return to the passage.

God of gentleness and love
Draw near to us as we draw near to you
Dwell in every heart and conversation
Fashion in us the likeness of your Son,
Jesus Christ.

Help us to discern together all that you
are calling us to be
And all that you are calling us to do.

Assist us, by your Spirit, to become a
more contemplative,
more compassionate and more
courageous Church
For the building of your kingdom and
the glory of your Son.

Amen

Dwelling in the Word is not the only way to study scripture, but if you'd like to find out more visit oxford.anglican.org/dwelling

Dwelling in the Word. So that the Word begins to dwell in you.



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