

DWELL IN THE WORD

PAUL'S FIRST SERMON

ACTS 13:13-52

This spiritual practice is characterized by reading Scripture together, asking questions, and listening to the answers of others. Inside spiritual practices as a group, no one individual gets to be the authority. We honor the indwelling Holy Spirit at work in the heart of our group members and allow the questions and thoughts that arise from God to have jurisdiction over the moment.

STEP ONE

Select one person to read Acts 13:13-52. During this reading you will be looking to answer one of the following two questions:

- What may someone who is far from God ask about this passage?
- What would you tell 'the you' from 10 years ago about this passage?

Read through the passage and then allow a minute or two for everyone to jot down or think about these two questions.

STEP TWO

Split your group up into pairs. This could be with the person next to them, with their spouse, or any other creative way your group can imagine. The goal is for it to be two individuals sharing together. Once you have split up you will each take a turn sharing your answers without being interrupted and listening without interrupting. Here is a format to help:

- Decide who will share first and who will listen first
- Set a timer for 2 minutes.
- Share your answers to the question uninterrupted
- When the timer goes off, switch

STEP THREE

Come back together as a big group. Each person will now take a turn sharing a summary of what their partner said. It may be tempting to help your partner remember correctly what you said. It could also be tempting to add meaning to what you heard your partner say. This may feel uncomfortable or intimidating, just do your best.

NEXT

Process this experience as a group. Are there ways God is trying to activate you or your group? The "Activated" Group Process questions on the next page may be a helpful guide as your group engages with this material and with God.