

Group Listening Prayer Process

- **Explore and Clarify**
 - Decide on what issue or topic you want to listen for in prayer (for teams, focus on a team issue; for random groups, focus on an individual in the group).
 - Ask any clarifying questions based on what is needed before going to prayer.
- **Prepare**
 - Take time in quiet first, to let go of any distractions, clutter.
 - It may be helpful to include a time of confession and “cleansing” if appropriate. Think of this as removing obstacles.
- **Listen**
 - In prayer, goal is not to “tell” God about the situation, but to affirm that God already knows about it and become aware of God’s communication.
 - Listening to God in prayer involves the same principles as individually. Look for scripture, for general truths, for pictures, etc.
 - Be free to pray in any style or form that helps you to listen (think: active/passive? body posture? journaling? drawing? nature? etc)
 - Be open to God speaking in any way (see handout: *Ways God Speaks*). Don’t filter now. Let the group do that later.
 - Make any notes that will help (journaling, drawing, taking a picture...)
- **Share and Discern**
 - Each person share what they sensed from God in prayer. (a scripture, an image, a specific word, etc.)
 - Observation & Feedback – What did you notice about what was shared?
 - any patterns?
 - any ways this resonates with something God has done or said previously?
 - does this align with scripture, core purposes, etc?
 - anything unusual to note?
 - c. Group discerns “What is God saying?”
 - based on observations, what does the group sense God is saying? or *not* saying?
 - work towards unified agreement.
 - clarify the word as best you are able.
 - If nothing is clear, group can decide either to pray some more, or to stop at this point. There is no need to force the issue here, rather to be open to whatever happens and accept that.
- **Conclude**
 - Decide on next steps to take based on what has happened in prayer.
 - Part of final discernment will be in the implementation.
 - Pray for ongoing listening and guidance as you go.