

Dwelling in the Word 2026



Luke 11: 1-13
NRSV

A Prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,
Though our destination is not yet clear,
May we trust in Your graceful promises;
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,
May we be rooted in Your loving regard;
Though our attention is inclined to wander,
May we hear the things You are saying;
Though we often neglect Your influence,
May we be convicted of Your power to change,
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

At the end:

Loving God,
We thank you that we are able to listen to you
Through scripture and each other.
Help us to hold your words in our hearts.
We ask you to bless us
In all that we are, and say, and do.
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



¹He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' ²He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

⁵And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." ⁷And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

Luke 11: 1-13

Dwelling in the Word is grounded in the ancient practice of Lectio Divina: we hear a passage and, guided by the Holy Spirit, see where our attention is drawn. The differences with Dwelling are; that we listen to, and then share, what has struck someone else in the passage, and that we remain with the passage over a year. This is just one approach to engaging with scripture, but experience has shown that it can be profoundly helpful in building us up as Christian community. We invite you to join others across the diocese in dwelling in this passage in 2026.

Guidance for leading Dwelling in the Word

- Begin with prayer (e.g. the one on this sheet).
- Ideally find two different people to read the passage.
- Tell people what they are doing *before* they hear the passage - often people need reassurance that this is not a test of Bible knowledge but just seeing where their attention is drawn.
- After the passage being read twice slowly, remind people what they are doing and send them into pairs - ideally a 'friendly-looking stranger' but possibly just the person they are next to.
- They share in their pairs what they noticed. Each person should speak without being interrupted and both need time to speak. They will be reporting back what their partner said, not what they noticed. It's not a memory test, so notes are fine!
- After pairs, depending on your group size, you can get people to feed back in fours or to the whole group.
- Finish either with a prayer or some reflection on the practice.