



Study Guide
for
**Synod of Alberta and the
Territories**
2018 Convention

**Mission Priorities
Videos**

We are promised that when two or three gather in his name, Jesus is in our midst (Matt 18:20). This guide is intended to begin conversations in groups of all sizes to hear our Synod's story and to search together to discern where the Spirit is leading God's people today.

The videos may be shared in a variety of ways in whole or in part; for example, prior to or after worship, as a small group study, or during council meetings. You are encouraged to adapt this guide to fit your local context.

Opening prayer might be your own, or using the following words:

Gracious God, we thank you for your gift of love in Christ Jesus. The hope and freedom we have in His life, death, resurrection and ascension astounds us, embraces us and compels us forward. Inspire our thoughts, open our eyes and ears to hear you as we celebrate your Holy Spirit at work in all the world. Amen.

Dwelling in the Word is a discernment practice for listening to God's voice through scripture and one another. In this practice everyone's voice is important and there are no right or wrong comments. The intent is not to "correctly interpret" the text but to listen for the movement of the Holy Spirit. This is a time to invite people to simply share what they heard

Spirit-Led Leadership

1. Opening Prayer
2. Dwelling in the Word (15 min) **Romans 12:4-11**

Introduce with “As you hear the Word the first time, listen for what surprises you and notice what catches your imagination.”

 - a) Have someone read the scripture passage.
 - b) Allow for a minute of silence.
 - c) Ask “What did you hear for the first time? What surprised you? What caught your imagination?”
 - d) Say “As you hear this text for the second time, listen to where and how the Holy Spirit leads.”
 - e) Have a different voice read the scripture passage.
 - f) Allow for a minute of silence.
 - g) Ask “In what ways does this reading reveal how the Holy Spirit impacts leadership?”
3. View video: Synod Mission Priority - Spirit-Led Leadership
4. Have a conversation together about the DVD you just viewed.
 - a) What did you hear for the first time?
 - b) What surprised you?
 - c) What caught your imagination?
5. Share your stories and insights.
 - a) *What might it look like for us to be aware of the work of the Holy Spirit?*
 - b) *Where have you seen God develop leaders?*
 - c) *Share about a time when you experienced God providing for the future.*
 - d) *Share a story of a time when gathering together encouraged you or inspired you to use your Spirit given gifts.*
 - e) *What might the Synod look like if we lead together with the gifts the Spirit has given?*
6. Close with The Lord’s Prayer.

Hope-filled Discipleship

1. Opening Prayer
2. Dwelling in the Word (15 mins) **Romans 5:1-5**

Introduce with “As you hear the Word the first time, listen for what surprises you and notice what catches your imagination.”

 - a) Have someone read the scripture passage. Allow for a minute of silence.
 - b) Ask “What did you hear for the first time? What surprised you? What caught your imagination?”
 - c) Say “As you hear this text for the second time, listen to where and how the Holy Spirit brings hope.”
 - d) Have a different voice read the scripture passage.
 - e) Allow for a minute of silence.
 - f) Ask “In what ways does this reading reveal how the Holy Spirit brings hope?”
3. View video: Synod Mission Priority - Hope-Filled Discipleship
4. Have a conversation together about the DVD you just viewed.
 - a) What did you hear for the first time?
 - b) What surprised you?
 - c) What caught your imagination?
5. Share your stories and insights.
 - a) *Share about a time when a follower of Jesus brought hope into your life.*
 - b) *Tell about a situation when you were encouraged to be who you really were.*
 - c) *Explain how being in a safe place has contributed to your faith formation.*
 - d) *What might the Synod look like as we join in God’s mission in the world with hope?*
6. Close with the Lord’s Prayer

Innovative Tradition

1. Opening Prayer
2. Dwelling in the Word (15 mins) **Isaiah 43: 18-21**
 - a) Have someone read the scripture passage.
 - b) Allow for a minute of silence.
 - c) Ask "What did you hear for the first time? What surprised you? What caught your imagination?"
 - d) Say "As you hear this text for the second time, listen to where and how the Holy Spirit brings change."
 - e) Have a different voice read the scripture passage.
 - f) Allow for a minute of silence.
 - g) Ask "In what ways does this reading reveal how the Holy Spirit transforms or brings change?"
3. View video: Synod Mission Priority - Innovative Tradition
4. Have a conversation together about the DVD you just viewed.
 - a) What did you hear for the first time?
 - b) What surprised you?
 - c) What caught your imagination?
5. Share your stories and insights..
 - a) *Share a story about how God's presence in your life together transforms the congregation.*
 - b) *How does God's relational nature impact what you do each day?*
 - c) *In what way is being God-centered different from being church-centered?*
 - d) *Tell about something innovative you have tried together as a ministry.*
 - e) *What might risking, experimenting and being innovative, as we join God's mission in the world, look like?*
6. Close with the Lord's Prayer

Collaborative Partnerships

1. Opening Prayer
2. Dwelling in the Word (15 mins) **Ephesians 4: 1-7**
 - a) Have someone read the scripture passage.
 - b) Allow for a minute of silence.
 - c) Ask “What did you hear for the first time? What surprised you? What caught your imagination?”
 - d) Say “As you hear this text for the second time, listen to where and how the Holy Spirit calls us to live.”
 - e) Have a different voice read the scripture passage.
 - f) Allow for a minute of silence.
 - g) Ask “In what ways does this reading reveal how the Holy Spirit calls us to live?”
3. View video: Synod Mission Priority - Collaborative Partnerships
4. Have a conversation together about the DVD you just viewed.
 - a) What did you hear for the first time?
 - b) What surprised you?
 - c) What caught your imagination?
5. Share your stories and insights.
 - a) *Share a story about being in a relationship where just being present was enough.*
 - b) *When have you been blessed by someone attending to you (listening, engaging, caring) or remembering you?*
 - c) *Share about what happened when you followed God's timing more than your own.*
 - d) *What have you noticed when your congregation or ministry has collaborated with the world (neighbourhood/community) around you?*
 - e) *What would the Synod look like as ‘us and them’ becomes ‘we’ in ministry and partnerships together?*
6. Close with the Lord's Prayer