



Wondering about the Church A 10- 15 Minute Discussion

This session has been adapted from the 2016 Practice Discipleship Curriculum on *Wonder*. The full session can be downloaded at www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship or www.practicediscipleship.org

SESSION DESCRIPTION

We were born for this. This is our watch as leaders and we want more than survival for our congregations and especially for the children, youth, and families we serve. We are called to lead the Christian movement forward in our own feeble little way—even if we are struggling to find the path ourselves. We can't focus on everything so we are compelled to set priorities.

We are part of a long line of faithful servants who were often as unsure of themselves as we are. We are thinking about Abram and Sarai, Moses, Elizabeth and Mary, Peter and Paul, you get the drift. It may feel audacious to compare ourselves to these saints of the faith, yet we are convinced that on their watch, they had their own doubts and fears. We can courageously say that when we read scripture, we see that God's people have often felt uncertain as they followed God into the future. The first step they each took was to listen. We can do this!

BIBLICAL FOCUS

Acts 10 – Peter's Vision

DISCUSSION PLAN

We are leading at a time in the church where there's a lot of change so it's important to ask ourselves what's in the way of our leadership.

- What is stopping you from growing as a leader in the church?

We can't focus on everything, but we can do something. We can pay attention and listen to God in prayer and scripture, in each other (the congregation), and in the people in our neighborhood.

- What does it mean for us to deeply and intentionally listen to God in this way?

Listening to God in scripture and prayer, in the congregation, and in the neighborhood provides three great listenings that open up new possibilities for joining in God's mission.

NOW WHAT?

Throughout scripture, God moves people of faith from the familiar to the unfamiliar. Think about your own congregation. Use these questions for some honest conversation:

1. If your congregation disappeared tomorrow, what would the neighborhood miss?
2. Why does your congregation exist?

PRAYER

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



This curriculum was developed for the Practice Discipleship Initiative and modified by the Northeastern MN Synod Practice Discipleship team. Practice Discipleship is a ministry of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network in close partnership with the ELCA and its synods. It is funded by the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA as an extension of the ministry of the ELCA Youth Gathering. Permission is given to use these resources in your local context, so long as no organization or individual profits from the use of these materials. For more information please visit www.practicediscipleship.org.