



DWELLING IN THE WORD

A devotional resource for committees & teams

Isaiah 55:9-12 (NRSV)

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

1 Corinthians 1:26-30 (NRSV)

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

James 3:17-18 (NRSV)

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

- 1. Provide pencils/pens and a copy** of this handout to each team member.
- 2. Read aloud a Scripture passage** from the suggestions to the left. Invite listeners to **circle words or phrases** that they notice as the Scripture is read.
- 3. Allow a few moments** of silence for quiet reflection. Then, **share** your observations with each other.
- 4. If time,** invite those present to **respond** to one or more of these questions:

- * What background information (cultural, political, social) would be helpful to know? What makes me curious?
- * What are the themes or settings of this passage that most intrigue me?
- * What demands (or threats) do I hear in this passage? What promises?
- * What is God up to in this Scripture reading? What is God up to among us?

- 5. Pause for prayer,** giving thanks for God's word shared here today.

What other theme would you like to consider?

Which Scripture verses could you read?

What questions might you ask?

