



Conversations about the People in Your Neighborhood

Dwelling in the Word

Instructions

Distribute Bibles or the words to Luke 10: 25 -37.

The leader reads the scripture to the group.

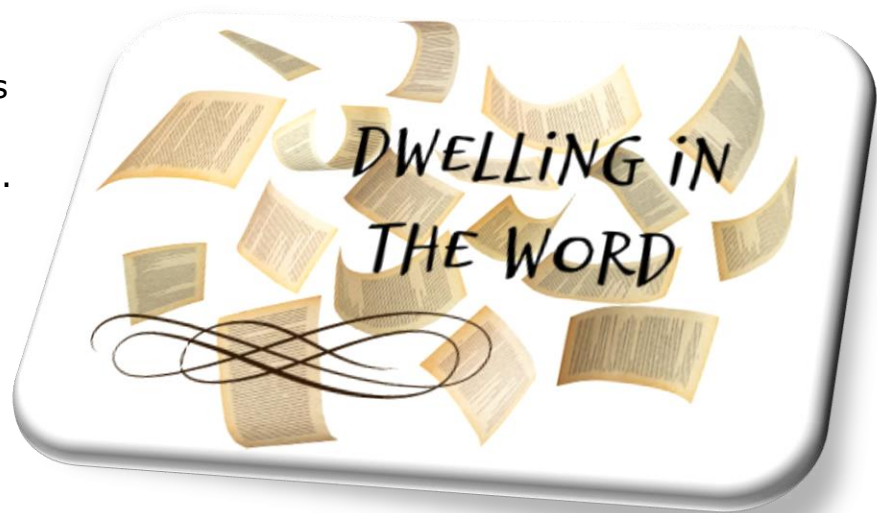
Allow some silence to unfold after the reading.

After the brief silence, each person finds a reasonably friendly-looking stranger to share what they heard and to listen to what the other person heard. Begin by asking the stranger to share what picture or question popped up or where their imagination was caught as the passage was read. Each takes time to listen to one another well enough to report what the other has said. Make sure to exchange names and something about oneself, so that each can introduce the other during the reporting.

The pairs return to the larger group and introduce their partners and share what they heard from each other.

The leader makes sure that everyone has been introduced and has shared what was heard and spoken.

The leader may summarize what was heard by the group after all have shared.



The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Who is My Neighbor?

Purpose: Provide opportunity for conversations between the session and other church leaders about findings and discoveries from their MissionInsite Executive Insite Report.

Possible Outcomes

- Evaluating ministries and programs to sync them with the MissionInsite report.
- Ability to answer the question – “ Who is my neighbor?”
- Planning an engagement/mission with one of the populations not represented in your congregation but is strongly represented in your community area.

How do we receive our MissionInsite Demographic Report ?

Contact Steve Shussett (steves@highlandspresbytery.org) with the following information:

- The address of your church and the radius that you would like to demographics to cover.

OR

- A google map with an area marked that you would like to have covered for your demographics.

Who is My Neighbor?

Understanding the demographics of the community or neighborhood is important to understanding the congregation's story.

Does the congregation reflect the neighborhood or community in which the church lives?

How has the community changed over the years and has the congregation adapted to those changes?

Where is God calling the congregation into ministry in our neighborhood or community.

Who is My Neighbor invites sessions and other congregational leadership into a conversation about where God is calling the congregation in mission and ministry and to whom.



How to use this process?

Each Insite category has questions and conversation for the session, church leadership or small groups to engage in conversation and to record their discoveries. The group can do all the categories at a one-time event (2 plus hours) or break it into smaller groupings as conversation/discussion time before a session or deacon meeting. It can also be used as a 3, 4 or 5 part series.

3 Part conversation

- Insite Conversation on #s 1 – 9 & #11
- Insite Conversation on # 10
- Insite Conversation on # 12

4 Part Conversation

- Insite Conversation on #s 1 – 7
- Insite Conversation on #s 8,9 & 11
- Insite Conversation on # 10
- Insite Conversation on # 12

5 Part Conversation

- Insite Conversation on #s 1 -4
- Insite Conversation on #s 5 -7
- Insite Conversation on #s 8,9 & 11
- Insite Conversation on # 10
- Insite Conversation on # 12

The PDF version of the MissionInsite and other accompanying documents should be distributed to participants prior to the conversation in order for them to review the information.

Insite Conversation # 1: Population & Household Trends

Population and Household Trends Discussion

Review the information for this section

Questions: Is the population in your study area increasing or decreasing? Whether it is stable or changing, what impact does this have on your ministry decisions?

For additional insight on population change, divide the Percent Change by the number of years to find the Annualized Percent Change. For example, if the projected population change is 7.8% over the next five years, divide 7.8 (the projected % change) by 5 (the number of years projected) or 1.5% change per year.

How does this compare with the Annualized Percent Change for your congregation over the same intervals? What does this say about your ministry?

Is the population per household increasing or decreasing? As households change, how does that affect the ministry needs of the area?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 2: Racial-Ethnic Trends

Racial-Ethnic Trends Discussion

Review the information for this section.

Questions: What does the racial/ethnic distribution of your study area suggest to you?

Does the information suggest the need for additional current year detail for the Asian and/or Hispanic/Latino groups?

Consider the percentage change of the racial ethnic group that reflects your congregation, as a component of the percent change for the overall population for your area. How might this affect your future mission plans?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 3: Age Trends

Age Trends Discussion

Review the information for this section.

Discussion Questions:

Which phase of life segment(s) is/are the largest and/or growing in your study area?

How does your current missional emphasis connect with each group? How does the average age of the people attending worship in your congregation compare with the report area?

Which phase of life segment is smallest or declining? How does this affect your current and future mission priorities? What kind of opportunity does each category suggest such as Before Formal Schooling?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 4: School Aged Children Trends

School Aged Children Discussions

Review the information for this section.

Discussion Questions:

How might these trends impact your various School Age ministries? What are the trends for each of the three individual categories?

Are your current children and youth ministries designed to reach and impact these population groups?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 5: Household & Family Income

Household and Family Income Trends Discussion Review the information for this section.

Discussion Questions:

What is the economic environment of the report area? What does it suggest regarding the economic resources available for ministry needs?

Does your giving trends match the economic resources for the population?

How does the median income by Race and Ethnicity impact potential mission?

Which family income categories are projected to grow fastest or decrease the fastest over the next 5 years? How do you perceive this affecting family ministry plans for the future?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 6 Households and Children

Households and Children Discussion

Review the information for this section.

Discussion Questions:

Is your report area stable or are there changes taking place in the structure of households with children?

Does this information confirm or change your understanding of household structure with children in this area?

What ministry issues are associated with each group?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 7: Marital Status Trends

Marital Status Trends Discussion

Review the information for this section.

Discussion Questions:

What percentage of the adult (15+) population is present in each of the 5 categories? Are there surprises in the number of persons in any of the groups?

How do the ministry efforts of your church correspond to each of the groups? Does this information suggest any new opportunities?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation #8 : Adult Educational Attainment

Adult Educational Attainment Trends Discussion ***Review the information for this section.***

Discussion Questions:

What is the message of educational attainment for your church?
Which groups are represented in your congregation? What can you learn from this information to strengthen your ministry in this area?

How may educational attainment affect worship or educational ministries in your church?

How can this information assist leadership to minister in this area?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 9 Population by Employment

Population by Employment Discussion
Review the information for this section.

Discussion Questions:

Which occupations are prevalent in your area? How are these groups represented in your congregation?

How might leaders from each of these occupations strengthen your ministry?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 10 MOSAIC Segments

Mosaic Segments Discussion

The Mosaic Reports can be found

<https://help.acst.com/en/missioninsite/guides/the-missionimpact-guide>

Download your top 3 to 7 Mosaic for your discussion

Distribute the reports to the participants prior to discussion.

Review the information for this section.

Discussion Questions:

What are the top MOSAIC household types in the report area?

Beginning with the largest type, how many types are present to represent 75% of the households? Is this your ministry target? Is your ministry targeting a group or groups that are not in the majority?

How does the index identify the unique household characteristics of this area? See the MOSAIC Type guide for descriptions of each type.

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 11 Generations Trends

Generations discussion

Review the information for this section.

Discussion Questions:

Describe the generational presence in your area. Are there one or more significant generations present?

What beliefs, behaviors and attitudes shape their world view?

How might these generational characteristics influence their perception of the church and its mission?

Do your ministries match the generational population in your area?

Discoveries:

Insite Conversation # 12 Religious Program

Distribute the report for Religious Program or Ministry Preferences.

Review the information for this section.

Discussion Questions:

How do you see the programs or activities scoring Modestly Important or Very Important shaping future ministries?

What would it mean if a program or activity scored well above or below the national average for that variable?

For example: What impact would a higher-than-average score for "Daycare/After School Programs" mean to ministry planning?

Discoveries:

What did we learn Conversation?

After you have discussed the demographics take time to brainstorm or engage in conversations about “what did we learn overall?”

Possible Questions:

What did we learn?

Who are the possible neighbors we can engage with in conversation? How would we do that? What do we need to do to prepare and meet these neighbors?

What are some ideas or events where we can reach out to our neighbors? What ministries do we already have that would better connect to our neighbors? What ministries could we start or explore that would reach our neighbors?

What are ways we can say yes to these ideas?

Brainstorm:

If we could do one new thing to connect with our neighbors would be that “one thing”?

What are ways you can make the one thing happen?

