

Leadership at Advent

A note about Bible Study, research has shown that teams/committees that begin in prayer and Bible Study finish their work faster and work more efficiently than teams/committees that don't. No I did not make this up; ask Nathan Dungan.

Pick a passage, read aloud to group (see list on flip side)

Ask the following questions:

- What is God up to in this passage?
- What do you hear God saying to you?
- What do you hear God saying to us?
- What questions do you have? (collect them and then email to pastors, vicar or AFD – Becky. You can have your own version of Stump the Staff)

Allow 15 minutes of discussion

Close with a prayer:

Living God,

You are with always. Be with us tonight as we plan the work we would do for you. Guide us so that our plans are Your plans. Strengthen us so that we may complete our work. Hold us in your care all the days of our life. Amen

You may also take some time to ask for any prayer concerns that your team may have – personal or team related. At the end of the meeting you could end in prayer. Praying for the work done and to be done and for all the concerns you have gathered. If you would like group support add *Lord in your mercy* after each petition. If you pause long enough, someone will say, *Hear our prayer* (or you can just tell the team in advance what you'd like them to answer).

Loving God,

We give you thanks for the time we have spent together and for the work we have done. We come before you with our needs and our concerns: (insert concerns here). We pray for these things, those needs that are silent in our heart and anything else you feel that we need. Be with us as we leave tonight and hold us in your care all the days of our life. Amen

[A word about prayer – it is a conversation with God. As you read the prayers I wrote, you will notice that it obviously doesn't have to be fancy. As you pray, remember that you are speaking with God, not making a speech in front of a crowd. God doesn't care what you say so much as that you say it. God wants to be a part of your team. Invite God in... see what happens]

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Possible Passages

Joshua 24:15 – As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

Micah 6:6-8 – What does the Lord require?

Luke 10:1-16 – mission of the 70

Acts 2:43-47 – life among the believers

Acts 3:1-10 – Peter heals a crippled beggar

Acts 6:1-7 – First church committee

Acts 8:26-40 – Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 16:11-15 – Conversion of Lydia

Ephesians 3:14-21 – Paul's prayer for the reader(s)

Ephesians 4:1-16 – The Unity of the body of Christ and the gifts of the spirit

Ephesians 6:10-20 – The Armor of God

Philippians 2:1-11 – Imitating the humility of Christ

Need some help preparing?

If you have one of the learning strengths (from Living your Strengths) and want to do a little research – check out:

- Enter the Bible www.entertheBible.org this site by Luther Seminary has a plethora of interesting Bible information

Want to print out the passage so you don't need a Bible?

- www.oremus.org This Bible Browser has different versions and a pretty good search engine

Want a basic Study Bible that has enough interesting articles and helpful notes that by reading it you'll sound pretty smart?

- the *Lutheran Study Bible* available in the office –we can even order them in bulk and save you \$\$\$. It's also available at www.augsburgfortress.org

[One final note: only 6-9% of currently living Lutherans are studying the Bible. You are not alone if you feel like you “don't know enough”. Fortunately, God does know enough and God can use you as a Bible study leader in spite (or because of) your lack of expertise.]