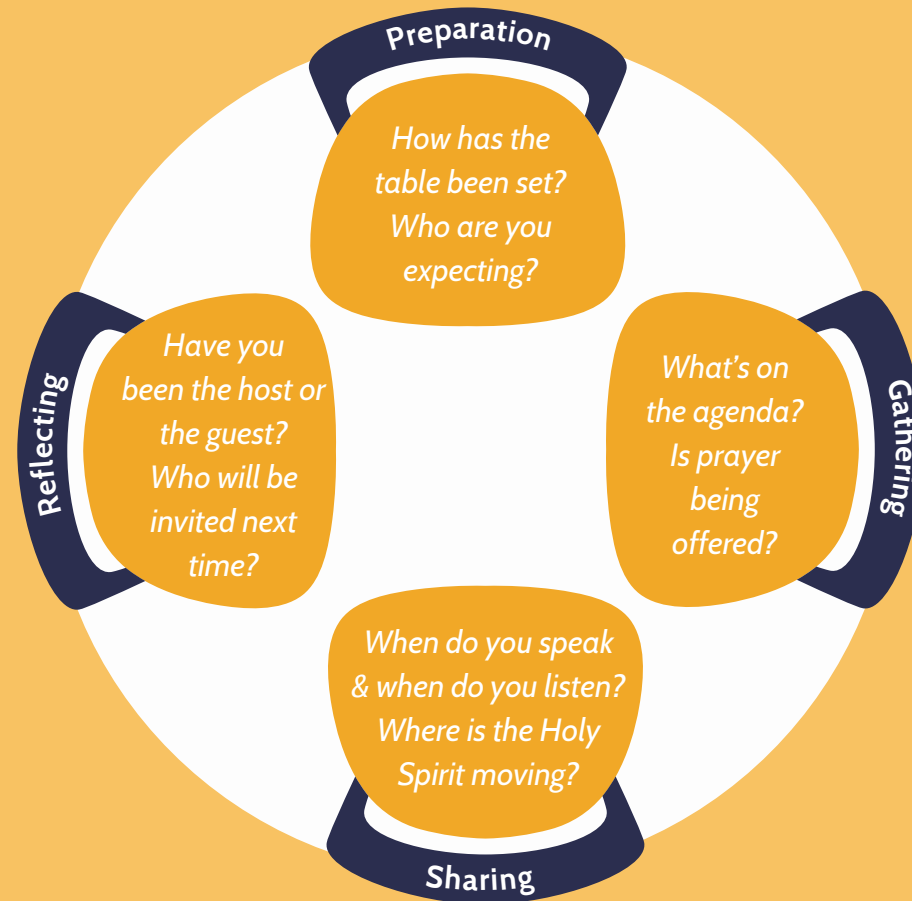




Making Room Around Tables



This prayer exercise is inspired by the poem In Search of a Round Table by Chuck Lathrop



Attending to God in our Scriptures

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

This collect or gathering prayer includes five verbs that exhort us to attend to God in the scriptures we hear and speak whether we are in service, at home, or journeying. They are not passive words, each one has a discernible activity that can enable us to look for God's working through God's word:



Hear

What do we notice in the text when we hear a Bible passage read aloud?



Read

What do we notice in the text when we read a Bible passage repeatedly?



Mark

How might we 'make a mark' of what the passage is underlining in our lives?



Learn

We might memorise a meaningful passage or ask God for the space to talk about it.



Digest

What verses have taken deep roots in us? How might other verses join them?



Attending to God in each Place

The Benedicite

All of creation's primary task is praise of the Lord, not serving the interests of human creatures. As human creatures, it's our job to attend to and amplify that praise rather than get in its way. Our tradition offers this in the form of a said or sung prayer, of which there are longer and briefer versions. It might help us attend to God in a greater range of places or enable us to add our own venues in which God's blessing is discerned.

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you heavens: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all people on earth: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

O people of God bless the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit:

Bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart;

Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

The Song of the Three 35–37, 60–65



Visio Divina Attending to the Divine

What do you see?
When you look again what do you notice?
What feelings or memories do you notice?
What do you think God is telling you in this?

*Collect for the Year of Seeking:
Almighty God, in your Son, Jesus Christ, you meet us and
call us to seek your kingdom above all else: grant that
by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may be sustained
and strengthened in our common task of seeking your
will and your way; through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Attending to God in the Neighbourhood

By going out and walking round our places we can become more aware of the people and the issues that surround us. Our “Year of Seeking” invites us to attend to where God might be working.

You can do this in pairs or as a small group on a ‘dedicated walk’ or you can do it as you go about your daily life.

Please do be aware of your own safety as you do this and don’t go anywhere where you don’t feel comfortable.

Please jot down a few things you notice:



Signs of
Change?



Signs of
Hope?



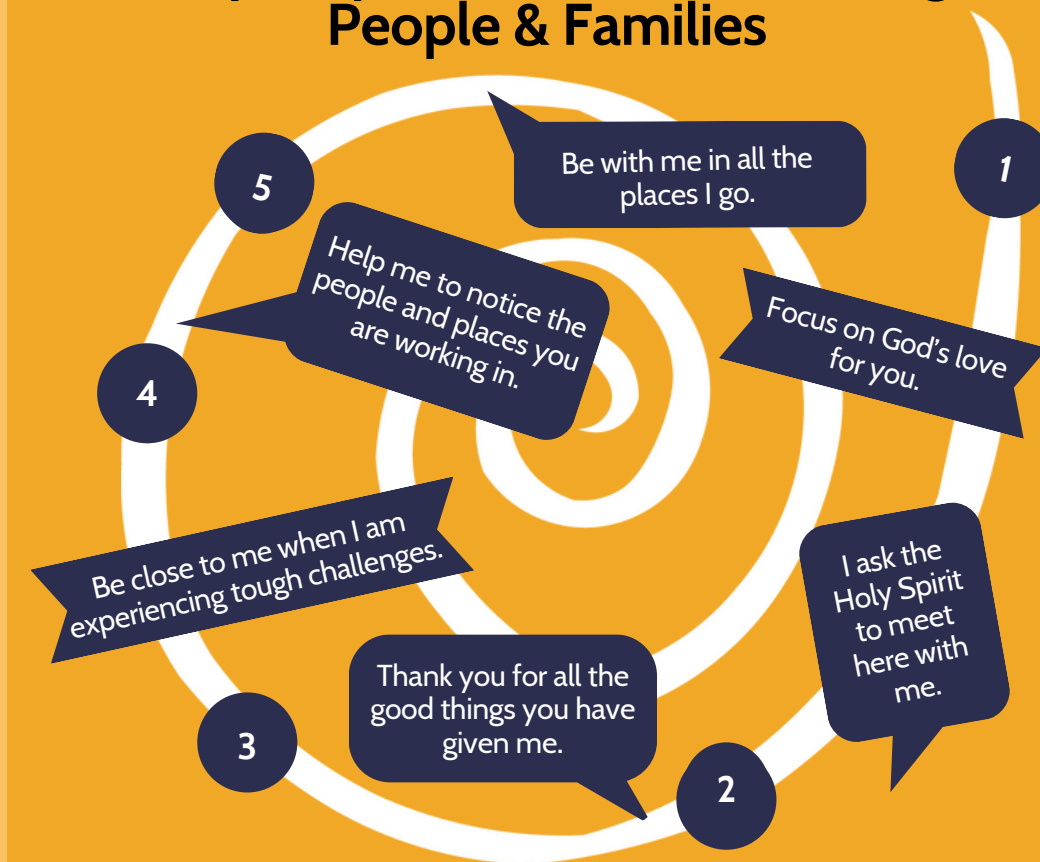
Signs of
Faith?



Signs of
Need?



Prayer Spiral for Children, Young People & Families



Find somewhere you are comfortable, a sofa, cushions on the floor, a walk outside. Start at 1 by turning your focus on to God. Work round the spiral. Try to spend a few minutes on each point to give you time to notice where God is and to listen to his voice. If you’d like to share your thoughts about how you’ve experienced God through this reflection, do that with someone you trust.

 Seeking