



Scripture and Dreams

Advent 2020 - Week 3

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church Steamboat Springs, CO

Scripture and Dreams: Worship

Evensong (Advent 1)

An Order for Evening Worship (Advent 2-4)

Lectionary – Year B

- **Advent 1:** Dream Type Overview – *Isaiah 64:1-9*;
I Corinthians 1:3-9; *Mark 13: 24-37*; Psalm 80
- **Advent 2:** Prophetic Dreams – *Isaiah 40:1-11*;
2 Peter 3:8-15a,18; *Mark 1:1-8*; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
- **Advent 3:** Predictive Dreams – *Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11*;
I Thess. 5:16-24; *John 1:6-8, 19-28*; Psalm 126 or
Canticle 15: Song of Mary
- **Advent 4:** Visitation and Revelatory Dreams –
2 Sam. 7:1-11,16; Rom.16:25-27; *Luke 1:26-38*; Psalm 8:1-4,19-26



Scripture: Theological Reflection

- Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11;
I Thess. 5:16-24; *John 1:6-8, 19-28*;
Psalm 126 or Canticle 15: Song of Mary
- Context: Historical and Cultural
- Reflection: Faith Listening

Reflection: Faith Listening

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Read, Mark and Inwardly Digest Scripture to Discern God's Presence

Awaken to God's Life -- **Read** Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11

Bless God's Name – **Mark** the passage by circling all the verbs/actions, Start at the bottom and mark from right to left. Take a piece of paper and make 2 columns

Verb/Action _____ God's Name _____

1. List all the verbs in the left column.
2. Convert each verb/action into a Name of God in the right column. Go becomes The One Who Goes ... Am becomes The Great I AM. Freely brainstorm to discover Who God is.

Celebrate God's Presence – **Inwardly Digest** by creating a Blessing Litany and saying a Breath Prayer.

Blessing Litany: For each Name you wrote down, say out loud to yourself, "Blessed are you LORD God, _____(Name)"

Breath Prayer: Choose the One Name that captures your imagination and allows you to breathe a sigh of relief. Let this be your Breath Prayer ... A Prayer of Adoration. Inhale to "Blessed are you LORD God" and exhale to "_____." Repeat this 3 times out loud and 3 times silently. Finish by saying, "May it be so ... Amen!"

Reflection: What are your discoveries about this passage ... about God's relationship with you? What difference does Faith Listening make in reading Scripture?



Scripture and Dreams: Description

- ▶ This four-week Bible Study will explore dreams in Scripture.
- ▶ Our weekly gathering is integrated with the 5 pm worship and will engage specifically the lectionary scriptures of the Sundays in Advent.
- ▶ Participants will unpack a personal and communal reality of what Elihu says to Job. *“For God speaks in one way, and in two...in a dream, in a vision of the night...”* Job 33:14-15.



Scripture and Dreams: Objectives

Upon completion of this interactive study, participants will be able to

- Identify 6 types of dreams found in Scripture
- Understand dreams as a symbolic representation and communication from God
- Apply Faith Listening as a practical way to discern God's Presence as revealed in a Dream

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Scripture and Dreams: 6 Types

1. *Prophetic*
2. *Predictive*
3. *Visitation*
4. *Revelatory*
5. *Interpretative*
6. *Integrative*



Scripture and Dreams: Predictive

A predictive dream may *point to* something in the future or to someone beyond our human experience. It provides a warning or gives a new direction.

- ▶ Jacob came to a certain place and stayed the night. He dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top approaching heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it.” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” [Genesis 28:12-15](#)

Scripture and Dreams: Predictive

- ▶ [Daniel 2:28](#) "However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed.
- ▶ [Daniel 4:5](#) "I saw a dream and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.
- ▶ [Matthew 2:12-13](#) And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."
- ▶ [Matthew 27:19](#) While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him."
- ▶ [Acts 9:10-11](#) Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,
- ▶ [Acts 16:9](#) A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."
- ▶ [Acts 18:9](#) And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent;

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Scripture and Dreams: Predictive

- ▶ For example, Frank, a 37-year old man was diagnosed with kidney failure. He had been sick for over a year and had tried a variety of traditional and non-traditional treatments. During this time, Frank was filled with anxiety about his future and those of his family. He and his wife had one child and another on the way. One night he had a dream:
 - “I saw myself lying on a dirt floor in Africa. It was dark and nothing was familiar. There was a woman sitting beside me, chanting and spreading ointment on my body. A tingling sensation came over me and I was healed.”
- ▶ Prior to his diagnosis, Frank was instrumental in establishing a non-profit to support a Church ministry in Africa. During one of his trips to Africa, elders of the Church prayed for his healing. A year after his dream, he received a kidney transplant and is living a robust life in Church ministry with his wife and two children.



Dream Discovery Exercise

Supplies: 4 pieces of paper or a journal and colorful pens, crayons, chalk, markers, etc.

1. Recall the Dream

- Write down your dream on a blank piece of paper.
- Draw out your dream on the back. (Optional)

2. Describe your Dream

- What type of dream is it?
- People: **Who** is in it?
- Objects: **What** is in it?
- Time: **When** did it occur?
- Place: **Where** did it take place?
- Action: **How** did it happen?

Dream Discovery Exercise continued

3. Create a Blessing Litany. Become a translator. Practice Faith Listening.

- Take a separate piece of paper and make four columns. (See worksheet)
- List the who, what, when, where and how of your dream.
- Assign meaning based on the value or character each represents to you.
 - Who: Grandmother → perseverance ... steadfastness
 - Where: 2050 S Irving → growing-up home ... safety
- Identify a Name of God suggested for each one. Naming a person or place based on Who God is and What God is doing is a common practice found in Scripture. For example, Hagar is seen by God in the wilderness of Beersheba. God hears her cries and opens her eyes. Hagar names God as El Roi ... The One Who Sees. Gen 21:14-20 .
- Sometimes one Name may lead you to another name. For example, growing-up: The One Who Grows ... The Grower ... The Harvester; Safety: The Safe One ... The Anchor ... The Ground of Being.
- Say your Blessing Litany out loud. For each name, inhale and say, "Blessed Are You LORD God, exhale and say the name _____."



Dream Discovery Exercise continued

4. **Choose a Breath Prayer** from your Blessing Litany.

- Enter into God's Presence.
- Pick one Name that captures your imagination ... one you like and gives you a sense of relief. _____ (name)
- Inhale to "Blessed are you Lord God" ... exhale to "the _____(name)"
- Repeat it out-loud 3 times and silently 3 times. Finish by saying, "May it be so ... Amen!"

5. **Reflect on how God is speaking** to you through your dream.

- What are your discoveries about your dream ... about God's relationship with you?
- What difference does Faith Listening when you process your dream through the lens of Faith

Dream Discovery Worksheet

Elements	Dream Recall	Value/Characteristic	God's Name Blessed are You, LORD GOD
Who: People			
Who			
Who			
What: Objects			
What			
What			
When: Time			
When			
Where: Place			
Where			
Where			
How: Action			
How			
How			

Small Group Break-Out Session



Share Discoveries



Closing Prayer





Those Who Dream: Joy

Sow Joy

By Sarah Are sanctifiedart.org

If I wanted to sow joy,
I wouldn't use words.
I would turn the music all the way up,
And push the table against the wall,
Until we had room to dance.
I would roll the windows down
And drive you out of town,
Until fresh air filled your lungs.
I would squeeze your hand
And look you in the eye,
So that you would know you are not
alone.
I'd lay down the picnic blanket and
we'd look at the stars,
So that nothing could separate you
from God's great beauty.

I'd open my door, like Elizabeth did
for Mary.
I'd tell you to stay as long as you'd
like.
Make yourself at home. What's mine
is yours.
And maybe we'd sing. And maybe
we'd laugh.
And maybe it would be enough to
be in the presence of God and
each other.
If I wanted to sow joy, that's what I'd
do.
So sing me your song. We've got
dancing to get to..



Advent 1: Homework

Practice Faith Listening

- Explore your dream
 - Write out your dream (and illustrate it)
 - Assign value/character to the Who, What, When, Where, How
 - Create a Blessing Litany
 - Say your Breath Prayer
 - Reflect on your discoveries
- Read Scripture.
 - Reflect upon a passage using Faith Listening
 - Make a note about Who God and What God is doing.



Presenters

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