



Scripture and Dreams

Advent 2020 - Week 4

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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: 2 Sam. 7:1-11,16; Rom.16:25-27;
Luke 1:26-38; Psalm 8:1-4, 19-26
- 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; John 1:6-8, 19-28; I Thess. 5:16-24

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

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark blue vertical bar on the far left. A black arrow points to the right from the top of this bar. Several thin, light blue lines curve upwards and to the right from the bottom of the vertical bar, overlapping the list of dream types.

Scripture and Dreams: 6 Types

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

Scripture and Dreams: Visitation

- ▶ **A visitation dream** is a *vision* that occurs while asleep or awake. It is experienced as a glandular, visceral or tangible reaction embodied in physical and emotional reality. It leaves an impression and the mind wonders if it is real or not. Only as life unfolds does the dreamer realize that the dream was real.
- ▶ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David...Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people? It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

[1 Kings 3:4-15](#)

Scripture and Dreams: Visitation

- ▶ [Genesis 32:23-32:26](#) **Jacob wrestles with the Angel**
- ▶ [Genesis 46:2](#) God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am."
- ▶ [Exodus 3:2-3](#) The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."
- ▶ [Job 4:13-16](#) "Amid disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, Dread came upon me, and trembling, And made all my bones shake." Then a spirit passed by my face; the hair of my flesh bristled up.
- ▶ Luke 24 1-51 Road to Emmaus
- ▶ [2 Corinthians 12:1-4](#) Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows.
- ▶ [Acts 10:3](#) About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!"

Scripture and Dreams: Visitation

- Gertrude, a 71-year old woman, recalls a dream that is alive today as it was 63 years ago when at the age of 8 she heard her aunt say, “Your father is dead!” Gertrude replied, “No, he is not dead. He is alive!” Several days later she fell asleep and dreamed. “I sensed a strange presence hovering over me. Suddenly, a bright light opened my eyes. I was transported to the river, accompanied by this angelic creature. Although everything inside of me wanted to cross over the river, I was not allowed to cross over. There, standing on the river bank, I saw my daddy going about his business with others on the other side of the river. Although he had died a few days earlier, I knew in a flash that he was alive and well. He, like the others, were tasked with a purpose and absorbed in their mission.”



Scripture and Dreams: Revelatory

- ▶ **A revelatory dream** is an *ecstatic expression* or a mental sight in which something new is being revealed. Perhaps, it is a new understanding of God in picture form or auditory form such as an oracle, a divine utterance of words. It reveals God's character or nature.
- ▶ "After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.'" [Genesis 15:1](#)



Scripture and Dreams: Revelatory

- ▶ [Isaiah 6:1-8](#) In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of Hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory."
- ▶ [Daniel 2:19](#) Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;
- ▶ [Acts 7:30-32](#) "After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning thorn bush." When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look more closely, there came the voice of the Lord: 'I AM the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.' Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look.
- ▶ [Acts 9:3-6](#) As he was traveling, it happened that he (Saul) was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."



Scripture and Dreams: Revelatory

- I was wrestling with a woman in a vast expanse of space. I saw myself duty bound to live out my role as a good wife and mother, but I was exhausted. I felt vocationally bound to live out my vow as an elder, but I was a failure. The woman pinned me to the ground and I looked up. There, above me, I saw a figure clothed in radiant white, saying in a loud voice “Well done, good and faithful servant!”



Dream Discovery Exercise

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

1. Recall the Dream

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

2. Look at the Dream

- Ask yourself, "What do I need?"
- Ask yourself, "What would I add to this dream to make it different?"
- Ask yourself, "What is most important to me?"
 - Note: If you say, "I don't know!" Then ask yourself, "What do I know?"

Dream Discovery Exercise continued

3. **Create a Blessing Litany.** Become a film editor. Practice Faith Listening.

- Take a separate piece of paper and make three columns. (See worksheet)
- List your needs, differences and what is important.
- Identify a Name of God suggested for each one. Remember:
 - God supplies our every need. If the need is protection, God is the Protector.
 - God makes the difference. If the difference is power, God is the Powerful One.
 - God is what is important. If the importance is safety, God is the Safe One.
- Options
 - If you react emotionally to you dream in fear/terror, then God is the Fearful One; in anger, then God is the Angry One.
 - If you react mentally and say, "This makes no sense." Then, God is the Sensible One
- 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

Question:	Dream Reflective Answer	God's Name Blessed are You, LORD GOD
What do I need?		
Need		
Need		
Need		
What would I add to make it different?		
Difference		
Difference		
Difference		
What is most important to me?		
Important		
Important		
Important		

Small Group Break-Out Session



Share Discoveries



Closing Prayer





Those Who Dream: Are Not Alone

Not Alone *Luke 1:26-45*

By Sarah Are sanctifiedart.org

He never said to me, "I feel so alone,"
But I could tell every time we talked on the
phone.
For you can hear loneliness move through the
line.
It sounds like quiet and feels like tired.
But I never brought it up.
I pretended we were fine,
Passing stories like chess pieces
Until he'd resign.
And as I look back, if I could do it again,
I'd get on a plane and say to him—
You are made from nothing but love,
Inside and out, you are more than enough.
And if I could build you a home out of beautiful
things,
I'd write all day and sing and pray.
But I cannot build your home,
Or make you love your own.
All I can do,
Is open my door and turn on the light,
So if you walk by you might stop inside.

And if you did, there you would find
The light is on.
The table is set.
The music is loud.
The bed is soft.
The food is warm.
What's mine is yours.
For no amount of space or time,
Or grief or doubt,
Or pain can subside
The fact that I am by your side.
Love and I will always abide.
I learned that from God.
I learned that from you.
Love doesn't go away.
I'm here to stay.
So like Mary and Elizabeth,
This door is open.
You didn't have to say you were lonely.
I could hear it in your voice.

Christmas Eve: We are those who Dream To Carry a Dream

Luke 2:1-20

By Sarah Are sanctifiedart.org

To carry a dream
Is to walk at night,
Or to walk by light,
But with a pebble in your shoe.
To carry a dream is to
Wake at night
To wake and blink twice,
In case you see something new.
To carry a dream
Is to plant trees in old age,
To be a part of a church,
That is human and frayed.
To carry a dream is foolish and wild.
It's the faith of a child,
Wishing on stars.

But to carry a dream is also hopeful
and wise,
The faith of our elders,
Saying God will provide.
So may we walk
Until we see the light.
May the pebble in our shoe
Remind us why we fight.
May they say
We are foolish and unwise,
And may we continue to dream;
May hope keep us alive.



Advent 4: Homework

Practice Faith Listening

- Explore your dream
 - Draw out your dream
 - Reflect on your dream. Ask yourself
 - What is my need?
 - What would I add to make a difference?
 - What is important to me?
 - 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.



Scripture and Dreams: Evaluation

Are you able to

1. Identify 6 types of dreams found in Scripture? ___ Yes ___ No
2. Understand dreams as a symbolic representation and communication from God? ___ Yes ___ No
3. Apply Faith Listening as a practical way to discern God's Presence as revealed in a Dream? ___ Yes ___ No



Presenters

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