



Scripture and Dreams

Advent 2020 – Week 1

Dr. Jo Anne Grace © and The Rev. Catie Greene

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

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Scripture: Theological Reflection

- Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-19, Mark 13:24-37
- 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 64:1-19

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: **The Wisdom of Elihu**

Job 33

The Mystery of God's Presence in Dreams during Apocalyptic Times

- ▶ Elihu stands on the very premise that “The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty has given me life.” (Job 33:4)
- ▶ Elihu reminds us that “God is greater than any mortal. Why do you contend against God saying, “God will answer none of my words?” (Job 33:12c-13)
- ▶ Elihu knows that God speaks in one way, and in two (Job 33:14) ... in a dream, in a vision of the night (Job 33:15) ... and with pain ...” (Job 33:19)
- ▶ Elihu points to the reality that through dreams we can be reconciled to God and returned to God's saving embrace. For it is God *who* “opens our ears, turns us from our despair and saves us from the Pit.” (Job 33:16-18)

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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



Scripture and Dreams: Supplies

- Bible

Go to <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org>

- Book of Common Prayer.

Go to <https://www.bcponline.org/>

Click on Daily Office ...

Click on An Order of Evening for Worship

- Sketch Pad or 8x10 White and black paper

- Supplies: colorful crayons, pens, markers, chalk



Scripture and Dreams: Assumptions

- Dreams encourage us to experience a deeper connection with God. Some provide direction and guidance. Others confirm a call or mission in the world.
- Each type of dream contains within it the reality that God is speaking. God speaks through dreams in the night upon our beds or by day in our active imagination.
- Faith Listening is a key to unlock the mystery of God's Presence and call to action.
- Dreams come to us in familiar form We dream in what is familiar to us based on our human experience. A person, object, place or action in a dream may be simply a literal representation, allowing you to process your daily life. Or, they may be a symbolic representation of a deeper connection with and communication from God informed by Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.
- It is through dreams that the core of our being responds to the love of God working deep within us to bring about reconciliation and healing.



Scripture and Dreams: 6 Types

Dreams come in one of six forms: *revelatory, visitation, prophetic, predictive, interpretative or integrative*.

1. **An *integrative dream*** takes fragments from every day events or activities and puzzles them into a whole picture. It process information from a person's daily life so as to give clarity and to find meaning.
2. **An *interpretive dream*** assigns meaning to people, places or things based on a symbolic understanding. It looks at the dream from three perspectives: as a projection of the self, as a perception of an other and as a representation of a common topic.
3. **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.



Scripture and Dreams: 6 Types continued

- 4. A prophetic dream** calls a people or a person into a right relationship with God. It recognizes that a covenant has been broken or that idols are being worshiped. It points to the fact that the people have gone astray and sets the crooked path straight.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.

Dream Discovery Exercise

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

1. Represent Your Dream on a piece of blank paper ... This is kindergarten drawing 101.
2. Name Your Dream and Write a Once Upon a Time Story on another piece of paper.
 - Turn your paper around. Look at your drawing from all four angles/perspectives.
 - Choose the one that you like the most. Write your story from this view.
3. Practice Faith Listening © Jo Anne Grace, Ph.D.
 - Edit your story by circling all the verbs/actions, starting from the bottom moving from right to left.
 - Make two columns on a piece of paper.
 1. List your verbs/actions in the left column.
 2. Convert each action/word (doing) into a Name of God (Being) in the right column.
action: feel ... Name: The Feeler; action: goes ... Name: The Goer or the One who Goes
 - Create a Blessing Litany. Say out loud for each Name "Blessed Are You LORD God, _____."
 - Choose a Breath Prayer by picking one Name that captures your imagination ... one you like and gives you a sense of relief.
 1. Inhale to "Blessed are you Lord God" ... exhale to "the _____(name)"
 2. Repeat it out-loud 3 times and silently 3 times. Finish by saying, "May it be so ... Amen!"
4. Reflection: 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

Small Group Break-Out Session



Share Discoveries



Closing Prayer





Those Who Dream: Hope

All in All

By Sarah Are sanctifiedart.org

It takes strength to dream.
I imagine it's that same strength that
leads people to say, "I love you" first,
Those three vulnerable words,
Wrapped in heart strings,
Whispered,
Because what could be is too good to
keep quiet about.
It takes strength to choose joy.
It takes strength to push the covers
Off our weary bodies morning after
morning, To plant weary feet on solid
ground, And look for signs of beauty.
It takes strength to remember that we
are not alone,

But the story starts with bone of bone
and flesh of flesh.
That feels like so long ago.
Oh yes,
It takes strength to dream.
I imagine that's why many choose not
to, For it would be far easier to simply
sleep.
But there are always those who dream,
Those who are up at night picturing
what could be,
Because this world is too good not to.
So we say, "I love you."
We push the covers off.
We find solid ground.
We look for beauty.
And we dream.
We dare to dream.



Advent 1: Homework

Practice Faith Listening

- Explore your dream from all four perspectives.
 - Name your picture
 - Write a Once Upon a Time Story
 - Edit by circling all the verbs (action words)
 - 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

► Dr. Jo Anne Grace

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