

Faith Sharing/Discussion Questions

Listening to God's Word

By Alice Camille

These faith sharing/discussion questions accompany *Listening to God's Word* by Alice Camille. Ms. Camille is an author, religious educator, and parish retreat leader. She received her Master of Divinity degree from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, where she also served as adjunct faculty in ministry formation, preaching and proclamation. She has worked in parishes and campus ministry, supervised a shelter program for homeless women, and been active in ecumenical settings. Her writing has earned numerous awards from the Catholic Press Association, the Associated Church Press, and the interfaith Religion Communicators Council. In this book she leads the reader through a reflective journey through the Bible.

AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

- What is my experience of reading the Bible? (Page 13)

CHAPTER ONE—GOD

- What is my image of God? What shapes this image? (Page 23)
- What is my experience of God's beauty? (Page 24)
- How do I recognize God in my life? What signs do I look for to find God? (Page 28)
- What does the saying "God is an earthquake, not an uncle" mean to me? Which of these images is closest to my understanding of God? (Page 29)
- How has the word of God been a "guiding light" in my life? (Page 33)

CHAPTER TWO—WORLD

- In what ways do I participate in God's act of creation? (Page 46)
- How does the Bible help me to recognize the destructiveness of sin in the world? (Pages 47–51)
- How frequently do my preconceived notions of God prevent me from understanding the goodness that God offers to me? (Page 56)
- What examples do I see or experience that reveal God's love in the world? (Page 59)

CHAPTER THREE—STORY

- What form of writing do I prefer? Where would I expect to find this type of writing in the Bible? (Page 62)
- What does it mean to say that the Bible is not historically accurate? In what ways can something be true, but not factual? (Page 63)
- What does the author mean when she says that the Bible is not primarily about the past? How can the Bible be about the present and future? (Page 64)
- What do I share with the people of the Bible? What can I learn from them? (Page 67)
- Why is it important that God chose to "pitch his tent" among us? What does this tell us about God and God's love for us? (Page 73)

CHAPTER FOUR—CRISIS

- What keeps me from recognizing and responding to the truth? (Page 86)
- What is the role of prophecy? How do I live prophetically? (Page 92)
- What “wisdom” do I find in the “Wisdom” books? (Page 100)
- What have I learned so far about how the Bible was formed? What does this mean to me? How does this change my understanding of the Bible? (Page 102)

CHAPTER FIVE—TIME

- What does it mean to say that God is ageless? (Page 106)
- What does the author mean when she writes that God is like a child: “amazed, amused, enthusiastic, and hopeful in every hour”? How does this reflect my understanding and image of God? (Page 106)
- Think about a time when things were not as they seemed. What seemed to be happening? What was happening? What did I learn from this experience about God and how God works? (Page 108)
- In what ways do I celebrate God’s love through “holy” days and hours? (Page 109)
- Why is there “no time to waste” when it comes to the kingdom of God? (Page 113)
- What are my thoughts about the afterlife? How have these thoughts changed over the years? (Page 113)
- How is the Eucharist more than a “memorial meal” for me? In what ways is God made present to me through “sacred remembrance”? How can reading the Bible be a sacred remembrance for me? (Page 115)
- When have I experienced Jesus in others? What prevents me from seeing him in others more often? What can I do to overcome that obstacle to grace? (Page 117)